



VANIK COUNCIL

formerly The National Council of Vanik Associations (UK), established 1978
79 Headstone Gardens, Harrow HA2 6PJ, United Kingdom

www.vanikcouncil.uk

Live and Help to Live

Charity Number 1137083

**Minutes of the NCVA Council meeting held at 11:45 on
28th Jul 2019 at
NCVA office, 7 Arrowhead Parade,
79 Headstone Gardens, Harrow HA2 6PJ**

Present: Manharlal Mehta; Mahesh Gandhi; Shashi Shah; Anil Shah
Jaykumar Shah; Bharat Parekh; Vijay Sheth; Virendra Bakhai; Anil Parekh;
Prakash Mehta, Rajnikant Shah, Chandrakant Mehta, Tarak Gajjar, Ankita
Mehta, Manohar Jain, Smita Shah

Apologies: Yogesh Rayani; Raksha Shah, Ramesh Shah; Bharat Mehta;
Bhupendra Vasa; Renu Mehta; Kiran Mehta; Sudhaben Mandaviya;
Harkishan Mehta; Asha Mehta; Kirit Shah, Saroj Shah, Natubhai Shah,
Nemish Mehta, Jayman Mehta; Kirit Batavia; Saroj Varia,

1) Prayers/Welcomes

The meeting started at 11.45 with all present reciting the prayer.

All attendees were welcomed followed by introductions. In addition, new attendees who wish to participate/volunteer were given an insight into the activities carried out by Vanik Council including how members from various affiliated organisations represent into Vanik Council. Manharbhai provided further information on how the EC is formed.

2) Approval of Minutes of 27th Jan 2019

The minutes were approved and duly signed by the Chairman and General Secretary.

3) Matters Arising

None

4) Treasurers Report

As part of the event held on the 9th June, there were issues with providing refunds to attendees. Consideration to having tickets in three parts would have helped keep better records etc.

Jayeshbhai requested all individuals who claim expenses to produce receipts with their expense forms. This would ensure all records are kept upto date and ready for the auditors if requested.

Accounts for 2018 have now been submitted.

Jayeshbhai provided to those who attended their outstanding subscriptions. Outstanding subscriptions to

Chairman Mr. Manharlal L.Mehta
General Secretary Mr. Mahesh Gandhi
Regional Vice-Chairmen <i>North Region</i> Mr. Nehal Mehta
<i>Midlands</i> Mr. Rajnikant Shah
<i>Greater London</i> Mr. Vijay. Sheth
<i>South Region</i> Mr. Virendra Bakhai
Treasurer Mr. Jaykumar T. Shah
Deputy General Secretary Mr. Bharat H.Mehta
Executive Committee Members Mr. Kirit Batavia Mrs Bina Holden Mrs.Renu Mehta Mr. Bharat Parekh Mr. Ramesh J.Shah Mr. Shashi Shah Mr. Bhupen Vasa
Co-opted Mr. Chirag Bajaria Mr. Jayman Mehta
Webmaster Mr. Bhupen Vasa
Newsletter Editor Mr. Anil D. Parekh
Honorary Auditors P.S.J. Alexander & Co.

Affiliated Associations:

Aden Vanik Association UK, Digamber Jain Visa Mevada Association UK, Jain Sangh East London & Essex Bhagini, Jain Association of UK, Jain Network, Jain Samaj Europe, Jain Samaj Manchester, Jain Sangh Birmingham, JITO UK, Mahavir Foundation, Nari Vrund (South London) Navnat Bridge Club, Navnat Vanik Association of UK, Navnat Vadil Mandal, Navnat Vanik Bhagini Samaj, Navnat Youth Association, Oshwal Association of UK, Shree Jain Sangh East London & Essex, Shree Navyug Jain Pragati Mandal, Shree Sidhpuria Vanik Samal, Shrimali Soni Mandal London, Sorathia Vanik Association UK, SouthEast Jain Association, Vanik Association of UK, Vanik Samaj Coventry, Vanik Samaj of UK Brighton, Vanik Samaj Southampton, Veerayatan UK, Young Jains

other organisations will be posted.

5) Secretary's Report

- Continued support to the projects undertaken on Organ Donation - meeting attendance, designing flyers etc.
- Preparation and coordination of event held at the Navnat Centre with regards to Organ Donation/Celebration.
- Designing and production of the souvenir for the Organ Donation event Providing comments and supporting production of on Videos/Leaflets generated on Organ Donation.
- Generation of article for Navnat Darpan following event held on at the Navnat Centre on the Designing tickets and production of tickets for the Organ Donation events.
- Website – Comments on the new website provided to the designers including more recent changes on announcements
- Supporting and assisting speed dating events
- Liaison with Lyons Club to obtain tickets for our members

Distribution of information that is useful to our community continues to be circulated to members when requested from affiliated organisations.

More recently the following has been circulated to all members in the Vanik Council database.

- Vanik Council Speed Dating – 19th May 2019
- London Assembly Health Committee BAME Donor Gala – 18th Mar 2019
- JITO UK event, 24 February 2019
- Vanik Council – Organ Donation – requests for Donors/Family Stories
- Jain Centre Leicester - Installation of Solar Panels
- OneJAIN on a petition for Inclusion of the JAIN RELIGION in the U.K. census.
- Vanik Council Speed Dating Event – Details of event
- Vanik Council UK invitation to all members - Sunday 9th June 2019.
- Invitations to VIPS, Chief Guests , Presidents, Secretaries – Organ Donation
- Organ Donation – Zee TV Video Clip
- SRMD London Spiritual Centre open house on 27th and 28th July
- Heena Modi discusses veganism and the Jain faith on BBC Radio 4
- Funeral details sent to members
- Sad Demise details sent to members

6) Vanik Professional Group

Discussions on resurrecting the Vanik Professional Group has taken place in previous meetings. However there has been no progress. Manharbhai gave a short summary on the background of the Vanik Professional Group for awareness to those who were not involved in the past.

In summary, the Vanik Professional Group was setup by NCVA(now Vanik Council) many years ago and was affiliated to NCVA(Vanik Council), however due to various reasons stopped operating. It was agreed that it would be useful resurrect this group with a defined set of aims and objectives. The aims and objectives however must consider the service it can provide to the community. The group also needs to be self-financing, following initial setup, costs using the budget that has been set aside.

VANIK COUNCIL

Live and help to live

Details of previous discussions on the purpose of this group are detailed below -

Objective:

Main objective of the group is to provide tools, platform, help and assistance to professionals and Business persons of Vanik Community to create or/and enhance knowledge of the professions or businesses.

How to achieve the Objective:

By organising seminars, talks and gathering for following matters.

- Health Awareness
- Financial Awareness
- Taxation Awareness
- Networking
- Business/professional support, guidance and mentoring
- Information Technology training
- Seminars and Mentoring for leadership and public speaking
- Political awareness/participation and help in getting in politics and further progression
- Immigration and Visa Guidance

Previously Dr Natubhai and Vijaybhai volunteered at previous meetings to be part of this committee. Unfortunately, due to key individuals' commitments to other projects (e.g. Living Organ Donation) it has not been possible to take this any further.

Anilbhai suggested that funds allocated for this project should be moved into the main fund. This has already been done as activities undertaken include elements of this project.

Further discussions took place to kick off this project. A new group has now been formed and will include Anilbhai Parekh, Vijaybhai Sheth, Tarakbhai Gajjar and Manoharbhai Jain. Anilbhai will take the lead on this project. Anyone else interested, should register their interest.

7) Speed Dating

- The last speed dating event was arranged on the 19th May 2019 and was very successful.
- The main issue has been getting enough girls to register for these events. All affiliated organisations have been asked to promote the next event.
- Anilbhai has asked for reports to be generated by the coordinator for inclusion into VV.
- The speed dating committee would like to ensure meetings are held in advance of the event so that any assistance, changes etc. can be discussed and addressed prior to the event. It is essential the coordinator engages with the committee throughout the period leading to the event.
- During the meeting a suggestion was made for the next event to be held in the South. This needs further consideration as the number of attendees would not be as high. It was suggested that the team from the South arrange this event with support from Vanik Council. Any event that is organised must be self-financing.

8) Matrimonial Register

No report available however the list has grown substantially due to auto registration from speed dating. The list is updated monthly on the website.

The attendees were asked to promote this service to their members.

Anilbhai asked that a report is produced for VV.

9) Spiritual Care and Community Care

Spiritual Care

- Manharbhai gave a summary on activities which Vanik Council undertakes on Spritual Care. This was for the benefit of the new attendees.
- Manharbhai has discussed and agreed with Barnet Hospital for a Jain Chaplin to attend. Another Chaplin has been identified to support this activity in Royal Free Hospital.
- Vanik council is in the process of providing a service to help people in their home for those who are unable to leave their house. A framework of this activity needs to be created. An individual from MIND has previously helped assisted with drafting key tasks that need to be undertaken. A team needs to be setup to define the process before engaging the volunteers. Manharbhai asked Smitaben to take the lead with support from Rajnibhai and Ankita. The team has been asked to define the framework/process which will be part of Vanik Council new project. Manharbhai will pass all the relevant information to Smitaben, Ankita and Rajnibhai.
- Funeral Services – Previously a number of individuals have shown interest. This includes individuals in Leicester and Manchester. Further discussions to be held with these individuals.
- Manharbhai has previously asked if attendees know of any volunteer who wish to be included to help with funeral rites.
- Previously Dr Natubhai indicated that grants are available to support patients at home if there are sufficient volunteers 'home champions'. This should be considered by the sub-committee
- Previously Chandrakantbhai mentioned that a ministry of loneliness has been formed. The new committee should give consideration to help our community.

10) New Project – Living Organ Donation

Vanik Council has been engaged on campaigning for organ donation since 2017. Summary detailed below.

Summary of 2017-2019 Project by Vanik Council

2017-2018 Summary

- The timeline below shows the number of events held and outcome from each event. Details below also include follow-up session for those who showed an interest following attendance at the events.

Summary of Targets v Actuals

		Target	Actual
2017-2018	Number of People Interested	10	96
	Number of People Assessed	5 to 6	4
	Number of People Suitable	1 or 2	2
	Number of Live Donation	2
2018-2019	Number of People Interested	45	138
	Number of People Assessed	7	5
	Number of People Suitable	2 or 3	1
	Number of Live Donation	1
	People offering live donation but recipients waiting for results of assessments	4

Organ Donation after death

Vanik Council, gathered community members at the Navnat Centre on 9th June to support the upcoming change in law on organ donation and honour members of our community who donated organs. Over 450 community members attended including Lord Jitesh Gadhia a passionate supporter of organ donation, Mayor, Councillor Nitinbhai Prekh recently appointed Mayor of Harrow, Kiritbhai Modi-Hon President of the National BAME Transplant Alliance and Chair of the Jain and Hindu Organ Donation Steering group (JHOD), Andrea Tofta Head of Organ Donation at NHS Blood and Transplant. The event included entertainment from a number of professional artists with dances that included performances in Kathak, Folk, Punjabi, and Bollywood .

As part of the event Vanik Council honoured four individuals who dedicate their time and effort and excel in providing service to our community. In addition, Vanik Council honoured individuals who have donated their organs transforming the recipient's life. Further Vanik Council honoured individuals who passed away but have helped many others and whose lives have been transformed.

At the event, 55 individuals had registered for organ donation after death. There may be others who may have registered online.

In addition to the event, a leaflet and Video has also been produced as part of this project . Manharbhai has asked all organisations to promote this video and distribute it at any event that occurs. Links below.

Video - <https://www.organdonation.nhs.uk/helping-you-to-decide/your-faith-and-beliefs/jainism/>

Leaflet - <https://nhsbtdeb.blob.core.windows.net/umbraco-assets-corp/16472/jain-initiative-organ-donation.pdf>

Future Projects

NHSBT is offering funding to organisations willing to raise awareness within their membership of the new organ donation law and increase organ donor registration

The organisations can

1. Apply for funding as an organisation. (if you wish, Vanik Council can guide you)
2. if you do not wish to apply but want your membership to benefit from the awareness events, contact Vanik Council to discuss.

NHSBT has arranged a free workshop to help with the funding application. This is on Wed 07/08/2019 10:00-15:00, at Holiday Inn Bloomsbury, Coram Street, London, WC1N 1HT

Email has been sent to all presidents giving details of registrations.

In addition, NHS has allocated funding to hospitals to promote the new law. Vanik Council will assist the hospitals in this promotion.

11) E-Newsletter and Website

Website

Vanik Directory - The developers have provided a version of the migrated Vanik Database. As far as the developers are concerned this is complete. Unfortunately, not all individuals have been able to provide comments back and hence the launch has been delayed.

Vanik Council is hoping to publish another directory. The last one was printed in 2014.

General website has been developed and feedback to the developers is required.

E-Newsletter(Vanik Voice)

- Next VV is imminent. Slightly delayed due to other priorities.
- All affiliated organisations were asked to provide details of events and articles for publication into the next issue of Vanik Voice.
- Manharbhai has requested all affiliated organisations to send Vanik Voice to their members as soon as they receive a copy. This can include report from events. Proforma could be developed which could be sent in advance of the VV publication
- All associations are also asked to ensure to VV is distributed to their members.
- Members were asked to provide feedback on the content of the VV with a view to improving the content.
- Give consideration to marketing and help engage with the youth. Smitaben/ Tarakbhai will provide suggestions.

12) 40th Year Celebration

The event at Navnat Centre on Organ Donation also included entertainment which included this celebration.

13) Area Chairmen's reports.

London Area Chair

VANIK COUNCIL

Live and help to live

Organ Donation – was a big success.

Paryushan tasks being arranged by all area organisations.

Summary of Jain Network

- Building work starting soon.
- Paryushan will occur in the same place. Demolish will occur subsequently.
- British Airways will now provide Jain food as a result of effort from Jain Network.

Summary from Navnat Vanik Association

- Paryushan Celebration – 27th Aug 2019
- Pritibhojan – 15th Sep 2019
- Navratri – 30th Sep 2019

Summary from DJVM

- Mahavir Jayanti, Paryushan dates to be planned

Summary South East Jain Association

- Annual general meeting in February 2019 in which new committee was formed. Maximum members attended the meeting.
- In March 2019 kidney disease awareness and organ donation awareness event hosted at Apple tree centre in Crawley. The event was held as joint efforts between Vanik Council , SEJA and Gurjar Hindu union . The event was a success with 240 people from different local communities attending the event.
- In April 2019 - celebrations of Mahavir Janma Kalynak at GHU mandir. The highlight of the event was a drama presentation by Mahavir Foundation children(aged 3 to 12 years) on life of Lord Mahavir
- August 18/2019 a summer picnic is arranged for the members and their families.
- August 26 to 2/19. Paruayshan celebrations. Evening pratikramans held at Bhagyshali residences.
- September 2/2019. Savantsary Pratikraman in a hired hall.
- September 5/2019 2 days coach trip to Antwerp Jain Temple as swamivatsalay get together. All organised by SEJA youth team
- October 2019 - Diwali celebrations. Plan to have evening boat trip on Thames river - open for family as well as near and dear friends.

Summary from Jain Samaj Europe

- Monthly satsang every month on first Sunday of the month which is attended by many devotees.
- On 1st and 2nd June we celebrated Kalyanak of Shantinath Bhagwan.
- On 14th July we celebrated 31st Dhaja Badli.
- For all the above occasions, all those who attended were served with lunch.
- We had shibir from Shree Rajchandra Mission Dharampur in the month of June as well in the evening for two days.

Vanik Samaj of Brighton

Details of how to use pending funds that are available have been passed to SEJA

VANIK COUNCIL

Live and help to live

14) AOB

Request all affiliated organisations to provide a summary report in advance of the Vanik Council meeting. This should include a summary of previous programmes and of events/programme taking place over the next few months.

Seek support paid staff to help with administration.

20) Date and Venue of Next Meeting

20 Oct 2019 at Vanik Council office