



# VANIK COUNCIL

formerly The National Council of Vanik Associations (UK), established 1978

[www.vanikcouncil.uk](http://www.vanikcouncil.uk)

Live and Help to Live

79 Headstone Gardens, Harrow HA2 6PJ, United Kingdom

Charity Number 1137083

**Minutes of the Vanik Council meeting held at 11:45 on  
1<sup>st</sup> March 2020 at  
Vanik Council office, 7 Arrowhead Parade,  
79 Headstone Gardens, Harrow HA2 6PJ**

**Present:** Manharlal Mehta, Mahesh Gandhi, Purnima Mehta, Amrut Shah, Virendra Bakhai, Harkishan Mehta, Nemish Mehta, Anup Mehta, Bharat Mehta, Jayman Mehta, Ramesh Shah, Chandrakant Mehta.

**Apologies:** Jaykumar Shah, Vijay Sheth, Shashi Shah, Anil Parekh, Dhiru Galani, Sangeeta Bavisha, Kirit Shah, Chaya Shah, Renu Mehta, Saroj Varia, Asha Mehta, Bina Holden, Kirit Batavia, Bachoolal Mehta, Jaswantra Doshi, Dilip Mithani, Bhupendra Vasa, Yogesh Rayani, Rajnikant Shah, Anil Shah, Subhash Bakhai, Paresh Pb Mehta Prakash Parekh, Urvi Bakhai Chirag Bajaria

## 1) **Prayers/Welcome**

The meeting started at 11.45 with all present reciting the prayer. All attendees were welcomed to the meeting.

Rushikesh Pandya Chief Development Officer for Project 'Life' in India and Life Global UK presented his case for donation towards 'changing a life' and 'refurbish dilapidated schools' in rural Gujrat. His presentation covered:

- Background to Project 'Life' – how it was set up, who is involved and the work it does.
- 1<sup>st</sup> video presentation on Blood Bank project.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> video presentation on Schools and Education.

The work of Project 'Life' was explained as follows:

- **Free-of-cost Blood** - sponsor free-of-cost blood to needy and ensure no lives are lost for need of blood.
- **Environment** – help the society go green
- **Thalassaemia Control and Prevention** – promote awareness and sponsor screening camp for Thalassaemia major children
- **Education** – sponsor or co-sponsor a school
- **Health & Wellness** – sponsor Yoga programmes, workshops/camps and lectures

### **Chairman**

Mr. Manharlal L Mehta

### **General Secretary**

Mrs. Purnima Mehta

### **Regional Vice-Chairmen**

*North Region*

Mr. Nehal Mehta

*Midlands*

Mr. Rajnikant Shah

*Greater London*

Mr. Vijay. Sheth

*South Region*

Mr. Virendra Bakhai

### **Treasurer**

Mr. Jaykumar T. Shah

### **Deputy General Secretary**

Mr. Anup Mehta

### **Executive Committee Members**

Mr Bharat H Mehta

Mr.Kirit Batavia

Mr.Mahesh Gandhi

Mr Natubhai Mehta

Mrs.Renuka Mehta

Mrs Saroj Varia

Mr. Shashi Shah

### **Co-opted**

Mr Dhiru Galani

Mr.Jayman Mehta

Mr.Ramesh J.Shah

### **IT Consultant**

Mr. Chirag Bajaria

### **Webmaster**

Mr. Bhupen Vasa

### **Newsletter Editor**

Mr. Anil D. Parekh

### **Honorary Auditors**

P.S.I. Alexander & Co.

### **Affiliated Associations:**

Aden Vanik Association UK, Digamber Jain Visa Mevada Association, East London & Essex Bhagini, Jain Association of UK, Jain Network, Jain Samaj Europe, Jain Samaj Manchester, Jain Sangh Birmingham, Mahavir Foundation, Nari Vrund 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, Shrimali Soni Mandal London, Sorathia Vanik Association, SouthEast Jain Association, Vanik Association of UK, Vanik Samaj Coventry, Vanik Samaj of UK Brighton, Vanik Samaj Southampton, Veerayatan UK, Young Jains

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- **Women Empowerment** – change the lives of widows and women from below poverty line families.

Rushikeshbhai invited the council members to visit Rajkot to see first-hand the work they do.

## 2) **Approval of the minutes of 20 Oct 2019**

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

## 3) **Matters arising**

- Search for new donor story. Anyone knowing of any family who has donated living organs or organs after death to bring it to the Chairman's attention.
- Need new donor photos for Gujarati leaflets.
- Manharbhai explained that the low attendance at the meeting today was due to JSG AGM and Mahavir Foundation function.

## 4) **Secretary's report**

- Involved with the update of our contact list by contacting council members by email and chasing for information. Updated list is now with Chairman to review.
- Compered organ donation event on 27 February at NVK. Arranged for 700 copies to be printed. Evaluate questionnaire collected from the event.
- Will be involved with future planned events.
- 2020 Executive Committee members to submit their e-photos to webmaster by 8 March for publication on Vanik Council website.

Mahesh Gandhi to continue with web blast duties. Following web blasts were circulated to all members on the Vanik Council database.

- Bhagini WEP event on 5 March 2020.
- A few sad demise details sent to members
- Vanik community organ donation plans

## 5) **Treasurer's report**

In Treasurer's absence, the Chairman informed that

- Vanik Council has recovered £1800 in Gift Aid.
- 2019 accounts are being prepared and will be submitted to our auditors.
- Rameshbhai would like sight of the list of affiliates membership fees paid.

Non-payment of membership fees was raised. Treasurer will chase affiliates for pending fees, in particular, South East Jain Association, JITO and others.

## 6) **Organ Donation project**

Two years ago, Vanik Council started with living organ donation and completed one year of organ donation after death. The success of the grand programme at Navnat Centre on 9 June 2019 meant that Vanik Council was asked by NHSBT to assist and advise other organisations and communities with their projects.

The following organisation submitted their application and have been successful.

- Jain Network
- Veerayaten
- Oshwal Association
- Vanik Council

Vanik Council will assist Brighton Samaj to promote organ donation event by sharing information and knowledge with them.

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## **Ongoing Projects**

Work on Gujarati leaflets is in its final stages. Vanik Council was consulted by NHSBT to translate their organ donation leaflets into Gujarati. Vanik Council is proud that the Photo of Late Mr Rohit Shah (after death organ donor) is used by NHSBT in all their bi-lingual leaflets translated in Indian languages.

## **Planned Presentations**

- 17 March 2020 to Jalsa Group at Navnat Centre
- 20 March 2020 to Vadil Mandal at Navnat Centre
- 22 March 2020 to Leicester Jain community at Jain Centre, Leicester

A presentation was proposed at Kadva Pattidar hall in London. This was acceptable but Vanik Council would not sponsor any food.

## **7) Website development**

This is in the final stage of the design. Awaiting feedback from views collected.

## **8) Expanding VC activities to benefit the community and the affiliated associations**

What more can Vanik Council do that will benefit both Jain and Vaishnav community. Vanik Council's newly developed website will be out soon.

- Under the new website, affiliates will be allocated a page to promote their own events.
- Affilites will have access to the new directory.

The following was suggested;

- Employ staff who can assist in certain activities to achieve targets. Activities such as speed dating and organ donation. This will help improve efficiency in achieving our targets and objectives. There is a need for a paid staff.
- Consideration to be given to involving youth by employing university student.
- Job description is already in existence as this issue has been discussed before but has not worked out. However, it will be given further consideration.

To reassess the need for paid staff leaders of sub-committees will devise a task list – who and what they will do and how the paid staff will make a difference. This will be discussed further at matters arising for next meeting.

It was also suggested that Vanik Council should raise its profile by keeping in regular touch with Local Councillors.

- By sharing information, inviting councillors to VC activities on a 3 monthly basis.
- Set up templates that affiliates send out to their councillors to share information. This will allow VC to expand awareness of VC work and activities while at the same time raise profile widely.

## **Requests for Funding**

Manharbhai informed the various requests of funding received.

- Funding for a blind girl
- Sponsor a cow
- Asian foundation for help
- Nitin Mehta for saving 80 Pigs
- Navnat Vanik Bhagini Samaj & Life Global UK in aid of Woman Empowerment

It was agreed to donate £1000 to Navnat Vanik Bhagini Samaj and Life Global UK in aid of their WEP programme at the event on 5/3/20. £200 to Nitin Mehta for saving 80 pigs from being slaughtered.

## **9) Vanik professional Group**

Anilbhai Parekh heads this group. Vanik Council's new website under development will contain profession details and we can share that information as we move forward with the website project.

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## 10) Spiritual care

- The project to provide a service (Vanik Befriending Volunteers Service - VBVS) to help people in their home for those unable to leave their home. Smita Shah of JSE Leicester is leading this and has developed a draft for further development. **See attachment.**
- Affiliates were encouraged to promote and support Chaplancy services as no affiliates have taken forward this service.

## 11) E-Newsletter

- Anilbhai Pareh, our editor is producing the next newsletter. He is seeking article. All organisations are requested to circulate Vanik Voice. when published, to their members.

## 12) Speed dating

- Speed Dating event was held on 23 February at Navnat Centre. This was a self-financing event-income £4200 and expenses of £4200.
- Because of considerably less take up by females the registration for males had to be closed early to maintain a balance.
- Crawley will be considered as a venue for our next Speed Dating event in November 2020. Rameshbhai and Virendrabhai to look into the logistics of such a location, venue and value for money aspect.
- We took this opportunity of gathering of young people to give a 10 minute presentation on New law for Organ Donation.

## 13) Matrimonial Register

Presently, Vanik Council has 90 females and 102 males on the register. This does not include those candidates who attended the February 2020 Speed Dating event. The register will be updated to include those who attended the recent Speed Dating event.

Jaymanbhai reiterated the need for support from affiliates to promote the Register.

A 'whats app' message, promoting this service, will be sent to South East Jain Association for circulation to their organisation.

## 14) Area Chairmen's reports

### Summary from Navnat

- Mahavir Janam Kalyank on 19 April 2020

### Summary from South East Jain Association

- Mahavir Janam Kalyank on 19 April 2020

## 15) AOB

None

## 16) Date of the next meeting

Sunday 17 May at Vanik Council office.