



# 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 2pm on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2020 via Zoom

### Present:

Manharlal Mehta, Purnima Mehta, Anup Mehta, Jayesh Shah, Bhupen Vasa, Dr Natubhai Shah, Harkishan Mehta, Anil Parekh, Renu Mehta, Kirit Shah, Paresh Mehta, Mahesh Gandhi, Virendra Bakhai, Nemish Mehta, Bharat Mehta, Jayman Mehta, Ramesh Shah, Chandrakant Mehta, Shashi Shah, Bachoolal Mehta, Saroj Varia, Kirit Batavia, Raksha Shah, Natubhai Mehta, Parkesh Parekh, Asha Mehta, Yogesh Rayani, Smita Shah, Dhiru Galani, Chhaya Shah, Nehal Mehta, Jashwant Doshi, Chandrakant Mehta, Sangeeta Bavisha.

Apologies: Daxa Virani, Prem Jain, Vijay Sheth, Dilip Mithani, Sudha Mandavia,

### 1) Prayers/Welcome

The meeting started at 2pm with Prayers.

Manharbhai Mehta welcomed all participants joining the meeting on Zoom.

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

The minutes were approved by Jayesh Shah and seconded by Virendra Bakhai. The minutes will be signed by the Chairman and General Secretary once the lockdown is lifted.

### 3) Matters arising

- Manharbhai requested organisations to take advantage of Vanik Council's presentations on health, organ donation, and speed dating which would prove beneficial to their members.

### 4) Secretary's report Purnima Mehta

- Fundamentals of Jainism Course on Zoom: involved with creating Excel spreadsheet of over 160 registrations, acknowledging and chasing for further information. Total so far was 160, UK -121; India – 34 and Kenya – 5.
- Donations by Vanik Council during COVID-19: £2000 UK £2000 for India - Suggestions on where to donate has been received and will be considered.
- Harkishanbhai contributed £100 to be added to Vanik Council donation.

#### **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

# VANIK COUNCIL

Live and help to live

---

## **Mahesh Gandh**

Following "information of interest to the community" was circulated to all members on the Vanik Council's database.

- Jainism course starting 20 May;
- JITO's market outlook in post COVID-19;
- support for kidney patients during COVID -19 period;
- News from Bob Blackman MP; Coronavirus guidance leaflet in Gujarati.

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

- Accounts for the year 2019 are ready and will be finalised post lockdown;
- Income was £36,871, Expenditure was £34,070 and income over expenditure was £2800.
- Subscription letters are ready to be sent out.

## **6) Organ Donation project**

- Work on supporting NHSBT with organ donation continues. 5 events were planned. Two were delivered in February but due to COVID-19 lockdown the following three planned presentations were postponed  
Jalsa Group at Navnat Centre  
Vadil Mandal at Navnat Centre  
Leicester Jain community at Jain Centre, Leicester
- Jain Network, Oswal Association and Veerayatan have received grants for Organ Donation Projects.

## **7) Website development**

- The current two separate websites will be amalgamated into one
- Testing is complete and issues resolved, final comments have been sent to the designers
- All affiliates to request their members to update the directory regularly

## **8) Vanik professional Group**

The group met on Zoom on Saturday 9 May.

- A questionnaire for members with the aim of including professional status in Vanik Directory has been drafted.
- Once finalised it will be sent to our members via a mailshot and through Vanik Voice.

## **9) Spiritual care**

- COVID-19 has posed difficulties in supporting people in hospitals, as NHS encouraging people to stay within the community rather than going into hospitals.
- Recording of data as 'Jain' is still an issue as chaplancy services have been limited due to COVID-19.
- Guidelines to support a Jain person in hospital (last moments of a Jain person in hospital) has been distributed to medical teams of doctors and nurses in hospital.
- Recently, Vanik Council supported Jain patients in Romford and Blackpool hospitals. Also, virtually assisted with 4 funeral rites.

***Befriending people in our community*** – A paper by Smita Shah is attached to these minutes for consideration.

***Leicester experience in Spiritual care*** – Work to load prayers on hospital IPADS is in progress on 4 levels – not well; last breath; passed away or funeral, at the crematorium or funeral services.

## **10) E-Newsletter**

- Not been able to issue newsletter for 5 months.
- Report of two events on organ donation will be included in the next newsletter.

# VANIK COUNCIL

Live and help to live

---

## 11) **Speed dating**

- There is considerably less take up by females. There needs to be a balance between males and females to deliver this event effectively.

## 12) **Matrimonial Register**

- Presently, Vanik Council has 120 females and 130 males on the register.
- Jaymanbhai reiterated the need for support from affiliates to promote the Register.

## 13) **Area Chairmen's reports**

### **Summary from Vice Chair North – Nehal Mehta (Jain Samaj Manchester)**

- Set up a support group of volunteers to assist the elderly and vulnerable in and around Manchester with shopping and delivery service.
- Donations to NHS Charities in UK, Akshaya Patra in India
- Regular interactive Dharmic and social activities on a weekly basis – bingo, quiz, cookery demonstrations to keep members engaged during COVID -19.
- AGM postponed due to lock down.

### **Summary from Vice Chair London – Dr Natubhai Shah reported on behalf of Vijaybhai Sheth about Jain Network**

- Building work progressing well
- Organ donation grant secured
- Revived Jain Doctors and Dentists Association
- Attending 7 interfaith organisations via video conference
- Jain Network has organised virtual bhakti

### **Summary from Vice Chair South – Virendra Bakhai**

- Nothing to report.

## **Affiliates reports**

### **Shree Jain Sangh East London and Essex – Kirit Shah**

- AGM postponed due to COVID-19 lock down.
- Not many activities – organised online prayers and support for the relatives of recent deceased community members.
- Trying to organise technology to put in place for delivering Paruyshan on line.
- Jainshala continues on Zoom

### **Shree Jain Sangh East London and Essex Bhagini – Chhaya Shah**

- Not organising any activities due to COVID-19 lock down.
- AGM postponed due to COVID-19 lock down.

### **Summary from Jain Samaj Europe, Leicester– Smita Shah**

- Support group set up to assist elderly and vulnerable in the community.
- Bollyfit activities organised by Bhagini
- Funds collected have been donated in India
- Virtual Bhakti sessions continue.
- Pathasala continues every Sunday morning

### **Summary from Mahavir Foundation – Yogesh Rayani**

- Engaging our members and Jain Community on zoom by live discourses, bhakti, virtual puja.
- Volunteers Group set up to support the elderly and vulnerable in the community.
- Delivery of Oxygen monitors to the needy.

# VANIK COUNCIL

Live and help to live

---

## **Summary from Navnat Bridge Club - Anup Mehta**

- Bridge is being played on line everyday

## **Summary from Navnat Vanik Association- Jaswant Doshi**

- A wide range of weekly activities are delivered on Zoom.
- Support group set up to assist elderly and vulnerable in the community
- Donated to NHS trust in the UK and to charities in India.

## **Summary from Navnat Vadil Mandal – Natubhai Mehta**

- Regular NVM activities have been moved to Zoom
- New and variety of events have been delivered to members which has been appreciated.
- Regular Members contact is maintained by phone.
- Donations made to NHS Trust

## **Summary from JITO – Nemish Mehta**

- Raised £7000 to send to JITO Mumbai to support the migrants in Mumbai who were out of jobs because of COVID – 19.
- Arranged an event on Zoom with Ashok Shah about the Capital Markets and investment.
- Planning a meeting with Rajesh Aggarwal, Deputy Mayor for Business in London.
- Planning a meeting with Ameet Bakhai about post COVID 19.

## **Summary from NVBS – Renu Mehta**

- AGM and Triveni Sangam both have been postponed due to COVID-19.

## **Summary from Vanik Association South London**

- Tapped into all the religions activities of the affiliates
- Street helpers set up for every street
- Donations to St Georges hospital in process
- Vanik Prakash newsletter is on hold due to COVID -19

## **Summary from South East Jain Association – Prakash Parekh**

- Planned Mahavir Janma Kalayank was postponed
- Regular contact with members is maintained and supported
- Sharing information with members about affiliated organisations activities.

## **Summary from Southampton**

- Affiliated to the main Hindu temple in Southampton and currently using Zoom for activities during COVID-19

## **14) AOB**

- Chaya Shah suggested a co-ordinated approach on the various Zoom events to be circulated to the affiliates for wider circulation to members.
- Jaswant Doshi suggested all affiliate members to register on Navnat website and they will be added to the mailing list.
- Affiliates to provide up to date information of new appointees within their organisations.
- Increasing Vanik Council work – Dhuru Galani suggested a Brainstorming session to be arranged as a separate or within next meeting
- Chandrakant Mehta – how can we bring small organisations into activities of Vanik Council. Any small organisation who wants join VC can come to us and we will support them.

## **15) Date of the next meeting-Provisional**

Sunday 26 July on Zoom.