



# VANIK COUNCIL

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

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

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Charity Number 1137083

**Minutes of the Vanik Council meeting held at 11:45 on  
20th Oct 2019 at  
Vanik Council office, 7 Arrowhead Parade,  
79 Headstone Gardens, Harrow HA2 6PJ**

**Present:** Manharlal Mehta, Mahesh Gandhi, Anil Shah, Subhash Bakhai Jaykumar Shah, Bharat Parekh, Vijay Sheth, Kirit Batavia, Ramesh Shah Chandrakant Mehta, Bharat Mehta, Bhupendra Vasa, Natubhai Mehta, Renu Mehta, Asha Mehta, Natubhai Shah, Mahesh Shah, Bina Holden, Paresh Pb Mehta, Purnima Mehta, Anup Mehta, Dhiru Galani.

**Apologies:** Shashi Shah, Jagdish Shah, Rajnikant Shah, Jaswantra Doshi, Bachoolal Mehta, Saroj Varia, Smita Shah, Tarak Gajjar, Ankita Mehta, Chaya Shah, Anil Parekh, Virendra Bakhai; Prem Jain; Raksha Shah; Ramesh Shah; Harkishan Mehta, Jayman Mehta; Prakash Mehta; Manohar Jain, Chirag Bajaria, Dilip Mithani, Sudha Mandviya, Kirit Shah.

## 1) Prayers/Welcome

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

A prayer to remember Dilip Mehta, Vanik Councils first secretary was carried out. A letter will be sent to the family.

The committee congratulated Mr Manhar Mehta for being appointed as Honorary Patron of Navnat Vanik Association. Mr Manhar Mehta thanked Navnat Vanik Association for this honour.

## 2) Approval of Minutes of 28<sup>th</sup> Jul 2019

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

## 3) Matters Arising

None

## 4) Treasurers Report

Accounts for 2018 have been audited and signed accounts will be received next week.

Cash is currently held in deposit accounts – Baroda, SBI. Rates of current interest from other banks are 1.75% in SBI. Metro 1.95%. The cash is as a result of many

**Chairman**  
Mr. Manharlal L.Mehta

**General Secretary**  
Mr. Mahesh Gandhi

**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. 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

activities undertaken by Vanik Council.

Jayeshbhai will provide organisations on outstanding subscriptions.

## **5) Secretary's Report**

- Involved with the preparation of our submission to promote organ donation within our community. Awaiting decision. The project runs upto Mar 21.
- Website – Further comments on the new website have been provided to the developers of our website. These mainly relate to the 'Announcement' web page.
- Involved with generation of presentation to the Community Investment Scheme. The presentation outline activities undertaken on Organ Donation from 2017 to 2019 including what we have learnt from the project and conclusions reached.

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.

- Distribution of Vanik Voice Aug 2019.
- 'Help Veer' – Bone Marrow
- UK Jains to Create Ahimsa Peace Forest
- Funeral details sent to members
- Sad Demise details sent to members

Dhirubhai thanked Vanik Council for messages that were sent on their behalf.

## **6) Vanik Professional Group**

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.

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

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- 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

Following the last meeting, Anilbhai Parekh headed up this group and a number of meetings have since been held.

The group have discussed a number of topics , summarized below:

- Creation of a survey and seek feedback from members, giving them a list for them to rate their preference.
- Regular publication of Vanik Voice to include details from the Vanik Professional group.
- Tips & Preparation for Job Interviews
- Source current professionals to connect with younger people looking for Jobs
- Follow ethical practices in the challenges faced by professionals in their day to day activities
- Creation of a separate directory for professionals – criteria on the definition of a professional to be determined. It was noted that we already have a database for Vanik members which could be used for this purpose.
- Importance of Social Media, noting limitations of Whats app. Use of Telegram was proposed. Consideration should also be given to the use of Twitter and Facebook. Eligibility and administration procedure for all regulatory compliance would need to be in place at the outset.
- Hold seminars with experts from within and outside our community

Topics for Vanik Voice could include:

- Tips and preparation for job interview.
- Teambuilding and leadership
- Ethical challenges at work and business
- Time management.
- Identifying strengths and weaknesses
- Setting realistic goals
- Managing finances.
- Understanding Company cultures.

In summary the near term plan is to

1. Publicise in VV publication of a directory for Vanik Professionals.
2. Publish regular articles of interest to Professional members in VV and seek contribution from our members towards such articles.
3. Use our social contacts to create a pool of professional experts

Rameshbhai suggested an Awards Ceremony should be held to bring professionals together. Rameshbhai asked the committee to consider this in the future.

## **7) Speed Dating**

- Normally we have two events per year. However, it has not been possible to hold another one this year. The next event will be done in Feb next year.
- Rameshbhai reiterated the need for support from affiliated organisations to promote this event.

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- Consideration to different venues will be given to attract more candidates.
- The last speed dating event was arranged on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2019 and was very successful.
- Previously Anilbhai asked for reports to be generated by the coordinator for inclusion into VV.
- Vanik Council struggles to find out if candidates attending speed dating events are subsequently finding partners as a result of attending the event. Consideration should be given as part of the application process for individuals to be obligated to inform Vanik Council.
- The process of speed dating should be written down so anyone can pick it up. Rameshbhai will arrange with one or two committee members to write down the process/procedures.

## **8) Matrimonial Register**

Currently VANik Council has 95 males and 93 females on the list. This includes those candidates who attended the Speed Dating event and were offered one-year free subscription.

Members who have registered can obtain details of four candidates as any one time. Response to individuals asking for information is promptly responded.

Vanik Council hopes to migrate the service onto Microsoft office "Share point" which will simplify the process and allowing reporting to be made easier.

## **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. This is an NHS supported activity.
- Manharbhai has discussed and agreed with Barnet Hospital for a Jain Chaplin to attend. Bharatbhai Bavishi has joined. Another Chaplin has been identified to support this activity in Royal Free Hospital.
- Vanik council is in the process of providing a service(Jains & Vaishnavas) 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. Previously 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. It has been recognised that individuals will need to go through the necessary checks (e.g DBS)
- 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. A training package is available and has been sent to individuals in other areas. This pack is now being used and will used to train volunteers.
- As part of this, Vanik Council also provide a service in prisons for individuals who are Jains. The main issue is provision of Jain food. Manharbhai has already visited prisons on number of occasions and is pushing for inmates to have Jain food.

## **10) Organ Donation**

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Vanik Council started with Living Organ Donation over two years ago. Due to the success NHSBT asked Vanik Council to present the background and organisation of the project to other communities so learnings achieved could help other communities to be as successful as Vanik Council. Links to material that has been generated are available on our website.

## **Future Projects**

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

The organisations can

1. Apply for funding as an organisation. (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.

A number of organisations submitted their application and have been successful.

Vanik Council also submitted a proposal for further promotion up until Mar 21.

Jain Network and Brighton Samaj have also received a grant to promote this event.

In addition, NHSBT has allocated funding to hospitals (Royal Free, Hammersmith) to promote the new law. Vanik Council has been requested to assist the hospitals in this promotion as partners.

## **11) E-Newsletter and Website**

### **Website**

The developers have made further changes which have been tested by Vanik Council members. Issues have been forwarded to the developers to review and make the necessary changes.

Vanik Directory - The developers have previously provided a version of the migrated Vanik Database. This still needs further testing before it can be launched.

### **E-Newsletter (Vanik Voice)**

- The last VV was issued in Aug 2019.
- All affiliated organisations were asked to provide details of events and articles including the Vanik Professional for publication into the next issue of Vanik Voice.
- All associations are also asked to ensure VV is distributed to their members.
- Give consideration to marketing and help engage with the youth. Smitaben/ Tarakbhai were previously asked to provide suggestions.

## **12) Area Chairmen's reports.**

### **Shree Sorathia Vanik Association**

At least 4 to 5 events organised in a year

1. Had a Valentine event on 9th Feb 2019
2. In May we had an play@ Winston Church
3. We had an outing on 21st July, Went with 3 Coaches to Cotswold Village
4. On 8th Sept we had an our big Event our Mataji's Patotsav, around 800 people attended
5. Recently we had a joint Navaratri with Maa Krupa Foundation
6. On 12th Feb celebrated Sharad Purnima with dinner

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More support from Vanik Council id desired when events are organised.

## **Summary from Shree Jain Sangh, East Lon & Essex**

- Held Paryushan programme and Pat Darshan twice a year.
- Hold regular Jain workshop and Jain shala.
- We celebrated Paryushana everyday with Pratikraman and Bhavana
- We also had Swami Vatslya dinner which we prepared
- We appointed new Board of Advisers
- We also appointed new Building Committee

## **Summary of Jain Network**

- The Paryushan was successful with many devotees attending.
- The building demolition work started in last few days(80% complete) ,the new Jain centre annex is only 10 minutes away. All equipment, office, temple items have been transferred to the new site. The address of new site is Jain Centre Annex, The Flight Way Centre, Concourse, Colindale. NW9 5UX.
- The Ambil oli was celebrated at new centre and was successful with support from all members and devotees.
- 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2019 – 18 Abhishek planned.

## **Navnat Bridge Club**

- Play twice a week
- Compliments to Navnat – excellent facilities
- In-house catering
- Encouraging more to join.
- Annual function 9th Nov

## **Summary from Navnat Vanik Association**

- Successful Events holds as follows:
  - Paryushan Celebration – 27<sup>th</sup> Aug 2019
  - Pritibhojan – 15<sup>th</sup> Sep 2019
  - Navratri – 30<sup>th</sup> Sep 2019
- Two weeks ago, AGM held and new committee formed.
- Event dates for next year to be sent
- Planning permission for extension of the building received
- Chopda Poojan – 23th Oct

## **Aden Vanik Association of UK**

Christmas party 21<sup>st</sup> Dec planned

## **Summary from DJVM**

- AGM planned in Nov – No election, as it occurs every two years.

## **Summary South East Jain Association**

- August 26 to 2nd September 2019 . Paruayshan celebrated. Evening pratikramans held at Bhagyshali's residences.

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- September 2 , 2019 Savantsary Pratikraman was hosted in a hired hall. The pratikraman was attended by over 35 members including a number of youngsters. The pratikraman was led by Kalpeshbhai and his team.
- September 7 and 8 - 2 days pilgrimage trip to Antwerp Jain centre with 53 members. Members had opportunities to perform puja, darshan , Navakar mantra recitation, felicitations of several tapasvis from local community and swamyvatsalya hosted by families of the tapasvis .All organised by SEJA youth team
- 3 November 2019 - Diwali celebrations. Plan to have evening boat trip on Thames river - open for family as well as near and dear friends.

## **Navnat Vadil Madal**

Tours successfully held -

- Edinburgh
- Great Yarmouth
- Cotswold

Programmes planned

- 25<sup>th</sup> Oct – Diwali Dhamaka
- 20<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas party.

## **Navnat Vanik Bhagini Samaj**

International Womens Day planned next year – 5<sup>th</sup> Mar 2020. Aim is to raise more money and is requesting help from affiliated organisations.

Charity Walk is also planned

27<sup>th</sup> Oct 2019– Dinner and Dance Xmas party

## **13) AOB for the present team**

- One Jain is creating an Ahimsa Garden – 150 Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. To maintain the forest, they will need 20k. Many organisations have donated funds. Vanik Council has been requested to donate to this cause. The meeting agreed to donate £500 to this cause.
- Purnimaben mentioned that the Vanik Council should link work undertaken by the Vanik Professional Group to the graduation ceremony planned by Navnat. A note should be sent by the Vanik Professional group to Navnat.
- Dr Natubhai requested all affiliated organisation to support Jain Network on the building project.
- The chairman thanked all members for the support provided to Vanik Council and thanked out Honorary Auditors P.S.J. Alexandra &Co for the services they have provided.
- Area Chairmen would like to thank all the organisations for their support.
- Mahesh Gandhi thanked all the EC members for their support over the past eight years whilst being a General Secretary. Unfortunately, due to other commitments he was unable to continue as secretary and wishes the New General Secretary and all Committee members the very best for the future.

## **14) Break**

## **15) Dissolution of EC and appointment of Returning Officer**

- The outgoing EC was dissolved and a vote of thanks proposed for them.
- Dr Natubhai Shah was invited to chair the election proceedings for the new EC

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## 16) Election of office bearers and EC members

- The following nominations having been received resulted in the election of the following office bearers and committee members.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>Chairman</b>	Manhar Mehta
<b>General Secretary</b>	Purnima Mehta
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jaykumar Shah
<b>Vice Chair North</b>	Nehal Mehta
<b>Vice Chair Midlands</b>	Rajnikant Shah
<b>Vice Chair London</b>	Vijay Sheth
<b>Vice Chair South</b>	Virendra Bakhai
<b>Deputy Secretary</b>	Anup Mehta
<b>Exec Com members (7)</b>	
	Kirit Batavia
	Bharat Mehta
	Renu Mehta
	Mahesh Gandhi
	Shashi Shah
	Saroj Varia
	Natubhai Mehta

There were 9 nominations received for the Exec Committee, however Bhupen Vasa and Bharat Parekh withdrew subsequently.

### Additional Appointments

IT Consultant – Chirag Bajoria

Webmaster - Bhupen Vasa

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## Co-Opt

Ramesh Shah  
Jayman Mehta  
Dhiru Ghalani  
Anil Parekh

## 17) Future Work and Sub committees

Members of the sub committees are as follows:-

<b>Sub Committees for 2019-2021</b>			
<b>Activity</b>		<b>Co-ordinator</b>	<b>Committee Members</b>
<b>Speed Dating (Patra Parichaya)</b>		<b>Ramesh Shah</b>	<b>Jayman Mehta Mahesh Gandhi Chandrakant Mehta Anup Mehta</b>
<b>Matrimonial Register</b>		<b>Jayman Mehta</b>	<b>Ramesh Shah Mahesh Gandhi</b>
<b>Jain Spiritual Care &amp; Vaishnav Spiritual Care</b>		<b>Shashi Shah</b>	<b>Renu Mehta Paresh Pb Mehta Bina Holden</b>
<b>Home Visits</b>		<b>Smita Shah</b>	<b>Renu Mehta Paresh Pb Mehta Bina Holden</b>
<b>Community Health (Health &amp; other seminars)</b>		<b>Manhar Mehta</b>	<b>Natubhai Mehta Vijay Sheth Anil Shah</b>
<b>Organ Donation</b>		<b>Bhupen Vasa</b>	<b>Natubhai Mehta Vijay Sheth Kirit Batavia Mahesh Gandhi</b>
<b>Web site</b>		<b>Bhupen Vasa</b>	<b>Mahesh Gandhi Chirag Bajaria Dhiru Galani Jayman Mehta</b>
<b>Vanik Voice</b>		<b>Anil Parekh</b>	<b>Dhiru Galani</b>
<b>Jain Funeral rites</b>		<b>Manhar Mehta</b>	<b>Vijay Sheth Paresh Pb Mehta Bharat Mehta</b>
<b>Vanik Professional Group</b>		<b>Anil Parekh</b>	<b>Tarak Gajjar Bhupen Vasa Vijay Sheth</b>
<b>Office Maintenace</b>		<b>Renu Mehta</b>	<b>Asha Mehta Bina Holden Saroj Varia</b>

## Auditors

Honorary Auditors P.S.J. Alexandra &Co

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## **18) Urgent issues for the new committee, Resolution for bank signatories.**

The chairman stated that the bank accounts held would be operated as per current practice i.e. by the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary with any two to sign. With the appointment of the Secretary, the bank will need to be notified for changes to the signatories.

The resolution was supported by the members.

## **19) AOB**

Manharbhai thanked Natubhai for chairing the election so efficiently.

## **20) Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

1-Mar-2020 at the Vanik Council office