

Navnat Vanik Association of the UK

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 2.15 PM on 26 April 2015 at Navnat Centre, Hayes

1. The meeting commenced with prayers and two minutes silence was observed for the peace of departed souls and world peace.
2. President, Dhiru Galani, in his address, thanked the EC, affiliates and volunteers for their efforts and expanded on the events that took place during the year especially the increase and popularity of Vadil Mandal activities, which has now extended to Tuesdays and Fridays; Badminton which extended to Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and gave further details on the progress on incorporation and constitution issues; viability study for the children's play area, car park resurfacing, and the issues arising on these projects.

The last of the events had been held just on the day before the AGM, this being the Careers Fair, having been a huge success, with over 300 attendees and the event having been led by the young team of Nikhil, Amit and Sangeeta, which had taken over six months in planning.

He also thanked the co-ordinators of various sub-committees that had been active during the year, these being: the Incorporation team led by Jay Bhuva, the VAT and Jiv Daya team led by Jayesh Doshi and now taken over by our retiring trustee Jayesh Kothari, the building and maintenance committee headed by him and assisted by David Holden; Darpan team headed by Reshma Mehta, web team headed by Nemish Mehta and finally the playground team led by Kruti Varia.

He informed members of Jayesh Kothari's appointment to the grievance committee, to fill the vacancy arising from Surekha Mehta-Shah having sadly passed away earlier in the year. The outgoing trustees, Manhar Mehta and Jayesh Kothari were appreciated for their five years plus service and the EC were recommending Bhupendra Shah and Usha Surendra Mehta for appointment to the Board of Trustees.

His vision was to expand Vadil and sport activities and generally to develop our premises for optimum usage, for example by installing a jogging or walking track in our fields.

3. The general secretary, Dipak Shah, informed members that the AGM minutes of the previous year had been uploaded to the website and requested comments from the floor. Mr Avanti Jasani asked why the report had not mentioned the previous year's remark about Jiv Daya donations being distributed on an almost equal basis regardless of the size of the organisations. Jayesh Doshi, as the co-ordinator, explained that to give larger amounts to bigger organisations would mean reducing amounts to the smaller ones and given the numbers and average amounts involved, smaller ones would get a tiny amount. Accordingly, over the last 3 to 4 years the committee had decided to give the same amount regardless of size.

The minutes were approved following proposal by Bhupendra J Shah and seconded by Kishor Mehta.

4. **Secretary's Report** – The General Secretary, Dipak Shah, read out his report, detailing the events held during the year and thanked the EC team and all volunteers for their hard work, not forgetting the affiliates, namely, the Board of Trustees, Grievance Committee, Bridge, Golf and Badminton Clubs, Bhagini Samaj, Youth and Vadil Groups, Kitchen Committee and last but not least the Culture Classes.

He also thanked staff for the long and unsocial hours that they work in keeping the Centre running.

Apart from the usual annual events of Ramnavmi, Janmashtmi, Mela, Mahavir Janma Kalyanak, Paryushan (with Paushad option for the first time) and Navratri; we had staged a Gautam Swami Pooja (with the help from Jain Samaj Europe Leicester and Jayeshbhai), staged a Gujarati play courtesy of Ramesh Shah; honoured Nishaben Kapashi, a Diksharti from New York (in conjunction with Mahavir Foundation), honoured the graduates and hosted the Careers Fair mentioned earlier.

In the background, work was underway to achieve the goal of incorporation as a CIO and the latter half of the year saw the building renovation work being carried out in the quiet season.

He concluded by thanking his colleagues, staff and volunteers and asked for forgiveness on behalf of the EC for any errors or omissions.

5. **Treasurer's Report** - The Treasurer, Jaswant Doshi, presented the approved and audited consolidated accounts for the year to 31 December 2014, explaining that an abridged version detailing the results had

been published in Darpan. Members, who had requested, had been sent full accounts by email and further copies were made available at the meeting. He explained the main figures in the accounts, sources of income, main expenditure, profit arising and the funds on deposit with various banks, on various time deposits, to optimise interest and to provide access at reasonable times. Income had increased due to carpark rental income.

Matters Arising:

- a) On enquiry by a member, it was explained that posting a full set of accounts to each member was neither practical nor cost-effective; and instead, as in the past, a summary was published in Darpan.
- b) Ashwin Sheth said that in his opinion the accounts were window-dressed and offered to meet-up with the accounts review committee and the auditors prior to finalisation of next year's accounts.
- c) Manhar Mehta was informed of the figure for car park income.

The accounts were proposed for adoption by Bakul Kothari and seconded by Mahendra Kothary. Ashwin Sheth recommended that approval and adoption by members should be demonstrated by a show of hands. This was done and approval by the majority was indicated with the sole exception of Ashwin Sheth, on the grounds mentioned by him earlier.

Jaswant Doshi, Ketan Adani and their team together with the auditors, were thanked for their efforts.

6. Reports from representatives of affiliates.

The appointed representatives of BoT, NVBS, NVM, NYA, NBC and NGC gave a synopsis of their activities during the year and events planned for in the ensuing year. In particular:

- a) BoT had helped with the Careers Fair, Incorporation and financial management in addition to holding quarterly meetings and attending EC and other sub-committee meetings.
- b) The Youth's report was given with a humorous twist, with Nikhil Sangani's report being translated in Gujarati by Dharmin Gandhi. Their highlights were the annual boat trip and the Careers Fair.
- c) Golf Club had now been running for over eight years.
- d) Badminton Club was planning to play on three evenings after the hall refurbishment.
- e) Bhagini had participated in the NCVA anniversary celebrations.
- f) Bridge Club formed in 2001 was playing twice a week and aimed to give more articles in Darpan.
- g) Vadil Mandal had received a grant of £3,900 towards weekly coach travel and held yoga classes.

7. Any Other Business, recommendations and Questions and Answers from the Floor

1. Rita Shah – Prarthna times should be adhered to.
2. Mr Chandrakant Shah – football, cricket and sports should be promoted.
3. Vandana Wadher was informed of the membership of the grievance committee.
4. Satish Pancharia recommended that the EC should be given the title of Honorary EC.
5. Jitu Mehta showed appreciation of the solar panels, £6000 having been recouped to date.
6. Mr Kirit Wadher was informed that there were 1982 members, but this may include some deceased members, as not all families updated us. 81 members had joined this year, of whom 19 paid full subscriptions and others joined at concessionary rates – 10 youth, 26 spouses, 25 Vadil and one annual membership. Numbers present at AGM would be advised later.
7. Surbhi Khona, asked why air-conditioning costing £68K, not in use. Explained that it was rarely switched on due to the poor and uneven ventilation layout in the hall.
8. Jasuben Sheth praised the EC for the time-keeping and catering at the AGM.
9. Ashwin Sheth mentioned that he was impressed with the skills of the hall secretary, Hasmita Doshi, experienced in his recent dealings whilst booking a family event.
10. Jayantibhai Sheth asked why the allocation of 100% to Jiv Daya (from Paryushan Uchhavis) had not been made permanent. President explained that our reserves could be depleted by tennis court development, car park resurfacing and play area and so it was prudent to keep the options open, in case we needed to revert back to a different allocation. Future Committees will have to decide.
11. Subhash Bakhai, thanked Binaben Sanghvi for assisting him in the graduation ceremony programme held at short notice, when 32 candidates had been honoured.
12. Dhiru Galani thanked Bhupendra Shah for helping the EC in his ex-officio role as past president.

10. Re-appointment of Honorary Auditors and Solicitors

The proposals to re-appoint PSJ Alexander as Auditors and Mrs Mamta Parekh as honorary solicitor were duly approved and a vote of thanks proposed unanimously to appreciate their donated services.

11. Appointment of Independent Chairperson for Election of incoming EC

Bhupendra Shah proposed a vote of thanks for the retiring EC, prior to the President's announcement of the committee being dissolved.

There being no further business, the president invited Mayurbhai Sanghvi, chairman of the BoT, to chair and conduct the proceedings for the election of the following year's executive committee.

12. Dissolution of 2014 EC and Election of 2015 EC

Mr Mayur Sanghvi declared the 2014 EC as dissolved and proceeded with the election process to elect a new committee for 2014/15.

He conducted the election process, with help from his team and announced the results for each post as follows, after the counting of the votes or where the vacancy was unopposed.

The list of the 2014/15 executive committee elected and the nominations received is as follows: -

POST	ELECTED		NOMINATIONS RECEIVED	
President	Dhiru Galani			
Vice President	Nitin Parekh	after ballot	Subhash Bakhai; Harshad Mehta;	Bharat Mehta & Usha Shah
Secretary	Amit Lathia	withdrew	Subhash Bakhai ;	
Assistant Secretary	Dipak Shah.	after ballot	Subhash Bakhai	
Treasurer	Jaswant Doshi	withdrew	Subhash Bakhai	
Assistant Treasurer	Ketan Adani	withdrew	Subhash Bakhai	
Hall Secretary	Hasmita Doshi.			
Membership Secretary	Kirit Batavia	after ballot	Subhash Bakhai	Harshad Mehta
Committee Members:	Subhash Bakhai	withdrew	Amit Lathia	
	Sangeeta Bavisha	withdrew	Nitin Parekh	
	David Holden	withdrew	Usha Shah	
	Bharat Mehta	withdrew	Jaswant Doshi	
	Harshad Mehta	withdrew	Dipak Shah	
	Kishore H Mehta	withdrew	Shakuntla Sheth	
	Dilip Mithani			

Dhiru Galani, the incoming president, thanked Mayur Sanghvi and his team for conducting the elections and there being no other business the meeting was adjourned.

Dhiru Galani
President

Amit Lathia
General Secretary