

Navnat Vanik Association of the UK

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 3.00 PM on 8 July 2018 at Navnat Centre, Hayes

1. The meeting commenced with prayers and a minute's silence was observed for the peace of departed souls and world peace.
2. Amit Lathia, General Secretary, reminded members that the meeting was being held under the CIO rules as the old charity had ceased to function with effect from 1 July 2018 and we were now a UK CIO charity, having retained the same name but with a different charity number. All the assets and liabilities of the old charity had been transferred to the CIO organisation.
3. Accordingly, the AGM minutes of the old charity for the AGM held on 21 May 2017, having been uploaded for members on the website, were taken as read and noted for the sake of good order and did not require to be proposed and seconded. Under matters arising, Baburai T Shah asked for an update on action taken on recommendations made to the incoming committee. He was informed that this would be dealt with under other sections to follow.
4. **President's Report:** Dhiru Galani, firstly thanked the staff at Navnat Centre and all the volunteers who were giving their service without expectation and represented the 'silent workers' without whom the activities carried out during the year would not have been possible. Special thanks were extended to Shakuben Sheth and her team who provided their cooking skills tirelessly, especially for the Friday Vadils Club.

He went on to provide an update on the following activities:

1. The Jalsa Club, not yet an affiliate, was flourishing and conducting events daytime on Tuesdays.
2. The opening of the school sponsored by NVA UK from Jiv Daya funds was hugely successful with 65 members attending and some making further personal contributions to provide better additional facilities at the school.
3. He thanked the CIO committee for the timely delivery of this transition project.
4. He provided an update on the playground project going ahead as planned, initially co-ordinated by Kruti Varia a couple of years ago.
5. The building project was in hand with plans for the dining hall extension being drawn up under the leadership of David Holden; an internal office was created in the old reception area.
6. He thanked Mayur Sanghvi for upgrading the internet and Wi-Fi facilities.
7. He thanked the audit team of Ketan Adani, Harshad Mehta, and Kanubhai Kotecha.
8. He thanked the Darpan sub-committee under the editorship of Smita Adani.
9. Unfortunately, the Janmashtmi Mela had to be cancelled this year due to various factors.
10. He reminded members that 100% of the funds raised at Paryushan Uchhavanis were now being allocated to Jiv Daya, as opposed to a 50% share with building projects in the past.
11. The car park annual income reaching nearly £250,000 was propping up the charity as hall hire income was on the decline due to changing trends.
12. He thanked Amit Lathia, Secretary, for sharing his vision for moving the charity forward.
13. He requested the BOA to look into changing the roles and responsibilities of the key EC roles.

Next year would be his last year of as president and he hoped to continue to serve members and made his apologies for any errors or omissions during the year.

5. General Secretary's Report: Amit Lathia, informed members that he was pleased that the annual calendar of events had been delivered with good attendance figures and summarised each event briefly.

This year had been taken up in delivering the transition from the charity association to the CIO in practical terms, following the initial registration as CIO on 15 May 2017.

He also mentioned that Navnat had staged a play by under-privileged youth from Mumbai and also participated in activities with other organisations such as One Jain and NCVA.

6. Vote on proposed constitution changes

The two constitutional proposals put forward by the EC were debated upon and put to the ballot, both requiring a 75% majority.

The results were as follows:

1. On whether to allow changing the Term Limit for VP, Secretary and Treasurer from 4 to 6 years: the proposal was defeated with a vote in favour being 56.7%.
2. On whether to simplify the Quorum clause for EC Meetings by allowing 8 members to be valid for a quorate meeting: the proposal was defeated with a vote in favour being 33.9%.

7. Treasurer's Report - The Treasurer, Jaswant Doshi, presented the following documents for adoption:

1. Approved but unaudited dormant accounts for the CIO for the six months period ended 30 June 2018. Proposed for approval by Bhupendra Vasa and seconded by Jayesh Doshi.
2. Approved and audited consolidated accounts for the year to 31 December 2017, a summary version having been published in Darpan. A full copy was made available on the website in advance of the meeting and links circulated via email. Members, who had requested, had been sent full accounts by email and further copies were made available at the meeting. These did not require to be proposed for adoption as the old charity rules no longer applied.

Queries and Matters arising on the accounts were as follows:

1. It was explained to Ramesh Shah that disposal of assets related to deposits classified as investments.
2. Baburai T Shah was informed that NVA no longer paid any honorarium payments. Trustees expenses paid were mainly for mileage expenses for the treasurer and specific travel claims by other EC members and staff; the president had donated back his travel claim of £121.
3. B T Shah had also sent an earlier email in advance of the AGM raising the following questions which were answered in the accounts, elsewhere at the AGM or by email from Jaswant Doshi, Treasurer:
 - a. How are assets going to be protected by creating Navnat CIO rather than Ltd co.? –now directly owned by CIO and long procedure to dispose of key assets.
 - b. Membership changes since 1st January 2017 were advised.
 - c. Where is hall hire income generated? – hall & car park shown in other trading activities note.
 - d. Hire income split between weddings and other events.
 - e. Latest valuation for the freehold asset – valuation being done for CIO due diligence.
 - f. Is there an inventory? Yes, schedules of additions for each year are kept.
 - g. Cost of CIO transition – cost approx. £25K in last few years.
 - h. Members were advised of the grievance committee members – no complaints handled, last year.
 - i. Progress on satellite site in North London – not successful yet
 - j. What were the contingent liabilities? These were now time barred.
4. Paresh Mehta congratulated the committee for increasing the carpark income stream but noted that expenses were also going up. One of the reasons for higher parking income was the removal of the 10 year VAT rule barrier and the committee was recommended to explore the of further revenue potential arising from the Hayes regeneration project.

5. Hall secretary, Bharat Mehta informed that there had been 22 sanji and 11 mehndi bookings.
6. Bhavesh Suteria, warned against the rising percentage of costs against rental income and the NVA should consider innovative ideas like hiring out direct to wedding planners. Anil Parekh recommended increasing hall hire income by increasing the rates. Bhupendrabhai Shah advised that security costs, wages and repairs and maintenance were all on the rise. Kishor Mehta suggesting hiring out the playgrounds. Ramesh Shah proposed hiring out for two events per day.
7. The auditors, Maneshbhai Shah of PSJ Alexander and his team were thanked for their timely services, which were donated. Kanubhai Kotecha was also thanked for assisting the Treasurer.

8. Reports from representatives of affiliates.

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

- a) BOA had taken the initiative to attract members via the connect@navnat project.
- b) Bhartiben Shah from Navnat Vanik Bhagini Samaj informed that their travel tours were popular and NVBS boasted a membership of 900+ members.
- c) Bridge Club report was given by Mahendra Kothary.
- d) Navnat Vadil Mandal report was given by Nalinbhai Udani – he requested installing a walking track.

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

1. Harsha Kothary wished to bring to the members' attention the shortcomings she experienced whilst booking the civic marriage ceremony only to discover that the license was due to expire. Planning by administration and seating arrangements needed improvement.
2. NVA should take up a satellite office in North London for NBC, other committee meetings and would be beneficial for the elderly members – but currently not cost-effective.
3. Use of middle names should be encouraged
4. No update on appointment of communications or PR officer to address website updates, testimonials, news etc.
5. Address issue of potholes – awaiting tree root solution for resurfacing to commence.
6. Mahendra Kothary requested EC to provide data protection guidelines for the affiliates and research demography for future projects.
7. What are the playground costs? Plans have been approved and stands at £120,000 plus VAT. Paresh Mehta questioned the cost-efficiency of this project when funds could be better spent on dining hall.
8. Hall deposit/reservation system needs updating and Mela should not be cancelled next year.
9. Gujarati and Sunday School held an annual end-of-term event with about a dozen items being presented by students- £200 sponsorship was received.
10. Wi-Fi should be enabled for visiting members
11. 5 item 'greener' eco-friendly plates should be used at our functions.
12. Replied that Jalsa Group funds were held on their behalf separately by the EC.

10. Vote of Thanks and 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.

After closing prayers, Dhiru Galani, president, thanked all the members for their attendance and input and there being no other business the meeting was adjourned.

Dhiru Galani
President

Amit Lathia
General Secretary