

AGM 2015-03-08

Minutes of the AGM

\meeting commenced at 12pm

President's Speech – thanked outgoing committee member

2014 Committee's aims

- a. Conducting Samaj affairs with a greater degree of transparency and professionalism
- b. Improving the way we communicate with our Samaj members, both online and offline
- c. Placing a renewed focus on delivering high quality events throughout the year, which will serve the various interests of our Samaj

Performance against the above aims

Independent Examiner

Draft Report and Accounts

2014 Gift Aid claim

The future of the Samaj

Approval of the Minutes of Previous AGM

Proper: Chetan Thankey

Seconder: Bhaskerbhai

Secretary's Presentation of events during the year

Nilesh Thanki presented an overview of events that we organised in the year.

Treasurer's Report & Annual Accounts.

Questions & Answers

Arvindbhai: Trustees take decisions collectively, asked how we dealt with conflict of interests during meetings. Stated he provided voluntary services, asked why committee has sacked accountant and spent £400 on new accountant

Diwali program: this is a non charitable event and the event was run at a loss of £3000

Total non charitable money spend £3400, this means that gift aid money must be returned.

Falguni: we all make our own decisions and there was no bloc voting.

Dipakbhai: Diwali celebration is a key festival for Hindu religion, the event is promoting religion as per our constitution. Mary Wallbank was the cheapest and most qualified option, who was also external from the Samaj.

Naresh: we held aarti and puja program at the beginning of the event

Pareshbhai: 2013 there was no elected president, Dipak stepped in, and a new committee came in to handle matters. Also, we have had interlinked committees in the past and this was no problem.

Pradipbhai: what did the £400 spend on Mary Wallbank provide that was not already provided by Levy & Partners?

Falguni: a truly independent examiner should not be from within the Samaj. Best option was to move forward with an independent service provider. Incoming committee was also informed that Levy & Co had resigned just before the 2014 AGM

Arvindbhai: i withdrew my resignation at the last AGM and was prepared to continue as honorary accountant.

Diwali loss- if the event was kept simple and low cost, then more would attend the event.

Falguni: events were kept free and we have a large accumulation of funds so these should be spent on events.

Narendra: Donations to aarti should be given to Goshalla. What funds have been donated to charitable causes?

Dipakbhai: donations made to charities in india – sightsavers, action village, 2 bardai charities in porbandar.

Pradipbhai: it's a point that aarti donations should always be sent to Goshalla

Dipakbhai: new committee was not aware of this.

Pareshbhai: this was an oversight and there is still time to carry this out.

Bipin: minimum of £250-500 per year goes to Goshalla.

The Future of the Samaj

Falguni outline options to move forward:

- 1 Reduce the Management Committee from a minimum 8 members to a minimum of 4 members
2. Event or function based sub committees to be formed as required
3. Collaboration with other communities to leverage skills, experience, resources and time
4. A significantly reduced functioning core committee to manage remaining funds and make one or two charitable donations from BBSL to good causes. This allows the Samaj to continue operating without having to fold.

Election Process:

Arvindbhai Pandit has stepped in as Nominations Officer

Pradipbhai Pandit proposed new structure to guarantee long term structure of the Samaj.

asked for 9 people to come forward as newly elected committee

proposed a new constitution based on what the charity commission has recommended.

3 resign every year and get replaced by 3 new members

9 in total should take up the posts of president, vice president, secretary, assistant secretary, treasurer and assistant treasurer plus 3 others. We can also have volunteers to help on an event by event basis.

Pradipbhai stated that he is happy to stand up if we can get the structure in place.

Arvindbhai: looked at the constitution, we need 8 people.

we need to make sure that conflict of interest situation does not arise

Bipinbhai: all changes to constitution must be made at a later date with the proper notice

Bhaskerbhai: we should focus on getting people in and continuing the Samaj.

Pradipbhai: this new model doesn't need to come in place now, it can be researched and then approved at a later AGM. However the model will help continuity and allow for skills and knowledge to be transferred. Need to move away from having the same situation every year.

Rishi: main focus should be getting names on a list.

Bipinbhai: has seen this model in place before and fail.

Arvindbhai Pandit: that was one example and not necessarily translates to our situation.

Names of people who stepped forward: Prashantbhai Dave, Bhaskerbhai Dave, Pradipbhai pandit, Venilalbhai Joshi, Harshadbhai Modha, Rashmiben Dave, Rashmiben P Dave, Radhika Modha, Sarlaben Modha, RajnikantBhai Chhelavada, Anantbhai Dave

Unanimous show of hands and applause to confirm appointment of the 11 as committee members

Clarification from Arvindbhai that staff from his firm work on Samaj accounts. He confirmed that Levy & Partners are happy to provide support to the new committee

Questions from Rishi and Dipakbhai about independence and regarding situation in the past where Samaj funds went missing.

Pradipbhai and Bipin clarified this as Levy & Partners discovered this and brought it to light to the committee in place.

Pradipbhai: we should not slander people and we should remember the facts. Added that Dipakbhai was on this committee during the issue in question.

2014 committee isolated themselves

Falguni: we did not isolate ourselves but previous committee did not help us and stated at the last AGM that they should not expect any help. Referenced Bipinbhai

Dhiranbhai: explained how files were used on his home PC and then used a USB drive to transfer to Samaj laptop

Bipinbhai: clarified that no one asked why Arvindbhai had resigned. It was due to Dipakbhai's method of handling matters. Levy & partners are professional at all times.

Rishi: outgoing Treasurer had spoken about services of Levy, this guided us in deciding to opt for a new provider

Arvindbhai asked if Dipakbhai was defaming Levy & partners

Pareshbhai and Pradipbhai asked that we all move on from this point, and not get bogged down in personal issues.

Dhiranbhai: also clarified that he was Treasurer for 1 year and in that year the Gift Aid claim was submitted in time.

Bipinbhai: mentioned that Shri Trikamjibapu's murti has been installed at Shree Hindu Mandir in Leicester, asked that all go there to visit.

Appointment of Accountant:

Arvindbhai stated he will be happy to provide services of Levy & Co to the new committee.

Arvinbhai Pandit: requested that previous committee lend support and goodwill to the new committee

This marked the end of the formal AGM.

Meeting called to a close.