



# 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 NCVA Council meeting held at 11:45 on**

**18 Feb 2018 at**

**NCVA office, 7 Arrowhead Parade,  
79 Headstone Gardens, Harrow HA2 6PJ**

### **Present:**

Manharlal Mehta; Mahesh Gandhi; Jayman Mehta;  
Virendra Bakhai; Bharat Mehta; Bhupendra Vasa;  
Jaykumar Shah; Bharat Parekh; Renu Mehta; Ramesh Shah;  
Chandrakant Mehta; Yogesh Rayani; Rajnikant Shah; Bina Holden;

### **Apologies:**

Chetna Desai; Shashi Shah; Kiran Mehta; Sudhaben Mandaviya; Anil Parekh; Chaya Shah; Harkishan Mehta, Kirit Batavia; Vijay Sheth, Prakash Mehta, Saroj Varia, Asha Mehta; Anil Parekh; Praful Vora; Raksha Shah;

### **1) Prayers/Welcome**

The meeting started at 11:45 with all present reciting the prayer.  
All attendees were welcomed followed by introductions.

### **2) Approval of Minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017**

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

### **3) Matters Arising**

None

### **4) Treasurers Report**

Accounts for the year 2016 are complete and meet the requirements of the Charity commissions.

Accounts for 2017 were distributed at the meeting.  
Rameshbhai asked for a breakdown of the speed dating accounts.

Manharbhai mentioned the directory fund and web-design funds should be merged as both are now linked. This was agreed at the meeting.

Office equipment – Restricted funds currently show negative. This will be removed and transferred to general funds.

The accounts for 2017 were accepted, proposed by Bhupenbhai and seconded by Renuben.

#### **Chairman**

Mr. Manharlal Mehta

#### **General Secretary**

Mr. Mahesh Gandhi

#### **Regional Vice-Chairmen**

*North Region*

Mr. Kiran N. Mehta

*Midlands*

Mr. Rajnikant Shah

*Greater London*

Mr. Vijay H. Sheth

*South Region*

Mr. Harkishan D. Mehta

#### **Treasurer**

Mr. Jaykumar T. Shah

#### **Deputy General Secretary**

Mr. Bharat Mehta

#### **Executive Committee Members**

Mrs. Asha Mehta

Mr. Shashi Shah

Mr. Virendra Bakhai

Mr. Kirit Batavia

Mr. Ramesh Shah

Mrs. Bina Holden

Mrs. Saroj Varia

#### **Co-opted**

Mr. Chirag D. 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, 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 Vadi 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

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Rameshbhai proposed Speed Dating to be shown as restricted funds. However, this is not possible and therefore our current policy will continue.

A number of individuals submit expenses much later than expected and therefore affects the year-end accounts. It was therefore recommended that all expenses should be claimed as soon as possible, ideally within 2 months of the expense being incurred.

Attempts continue to seek subscriptions from affiliated organisations; however, it is becoming time consuming. Jayeshbhai will produce a list of outstanding subscriptions for the Area Chairmen to gain their support in gathering the subscriptions. Jayeshbhai will aim to provide these following this meeting.

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

Following release of the draft version of the Vaniks Database from the website designers , very little testing has been carried out by the Directory committee. The website designers have asked for testing to be complete by end of Feb.

A WhatsApp group of Vanik Council members has been created. Members were encouraged to use this to communicate with other organisations and post messages that are relevant to the key aims of the group.

WhatsApp group for speed dating has also been created.

Living Organ Donation – Following the event in Hayes, a follow up session was held where a living donor coordinator was invited to provide further details on the next steps that would follow for those who are interested.

Work has also continued in the organisation of the next event scheduled on 4<sup>th</sup> Mar 2018. A flyer has been created and the event is now being promoted.

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.

- Vanik Council - Kidney Disease Prevention and Living Organ Donation Event
- Vanik Council (UK) and Jain Network - Health and Wellbeing Programme, Saturday 24th February 2018.
- Jain Samaj Europe - Bhagwan Bahubaliji 108 Abhishek Mahotsava at Jain Centre, Leicester – 18th Mar 2018.
- South East Jain Association - SHREE MAHAVIR JANMA KALYANAK MAHOTSAV, to be held at the Apple Tree Centre, Crawley, RH11 0AF on the 8th of April.
- Vanik Council – Fundamentals of Jainism' Course – 10 Weeks from 20th/21st Feb 2018.
- Jain Samaj Europe - Bhagwan Bahubaliji 108 Abhishek Mahotsava at Jain Centre, Leicester – 18th Mar 2018.
- Prathna Sabha/Funeral details
- Dec 2017 issue of Vanik Voice.
- Navnat Vanik Bhagini Samaj – Christmas Party on the 10th Dec 2017.

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- Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur (UK) - YUGPURUSH - MAHATMA'S MAHATMA - 19th JANUARY TO 4th FEBRUARY 2018.
- Navnat Vanik Bhagini Samaj – 40th Anniversary Celebration on 18th Nov 2017 and Annual Christmas Party on 10th Dec 2017
- JAIN NETWORK – Health and Wellbeing, 28th Oct 2017.
- BAPS – An event on Living Organ Donation and Transplantation for Hindu Communities. 28-Oct-2017.

## **6) Vanik Professional Group**

Discussions on resurrecting the Vanik Professional Group has taken place in previous meetings. However there has been no progress. Manharbhai gave a short summary on the background of the Vanik Professional Group for awareness to those who were not involved in the past.

In summary, the 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
- 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

Dr Natubhai and Vijaybhai volunteered to be part of this committee and will discussed following the re-election.

A meeting will be initiated as soon as possible.

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## **7) Speed Dating**

- A subcommittee meeting has been held to discuss the event scheduled in May. The registration process includes new features which now asks for Photos and hobbies to be entered. Both of which are mandatory.
- Rameshbhai has asked all organisations to promote this event
- The event will be promoted through Navnat Darpan.
- The next speed-dating event will be on 13th May 2018.
- Dr Natubhai asked if statistic can be provided which could possibly be used to obtain a grant. Rameshbhai to provide details. Continues
- Following discussion on the statistic of speed dating events, it was agreed that a summary should be published on our website. Rameshbhai to provide relevant information to Bhupenbhai. Continues.
- Chandrakantbhai asked for speed dating event flyers to be produced to help with the publicity. This was a good idea and will be carried out.

## **8) Matrimonial Register**

132 members on the register of which there are 64 males and 68 females.

The current registration is manual, however will be electronic once our new website is up and running.

Following the last Speed Dating, it was agreed that those who registered for speed dating could also register for free to the matrimonial register.

The terms and conditions on the Matrimonial Registration forms have now been updated on the website.

For the future, we need to consider our strategy and enhancements to take the matrimonial register further. This may require several sub-committee meetings leading to scoping our future strategies.

## **9) Spiritual Care and Community Care**

### **Spiritual Care**

- Manharbhai gave a summary to those who attended of the service that Vanik Council is providing.
- The coordinator is Shashibhai Shah
- Hospice visits are under scrutiny. We are liaising with other chaplaincy such as Muslim and Christian and learning from their experiences. At present, we are considering visiting informally to learn and then decide on way forward. A small team has to be ready and prepared; outlining their function and duties before publication of leaflets.
- Funeral Services – A number of individuals have shown interest. This includes individuals in Leicester and Manchester. Further discussions to be held with these individuals.
- Manharbhai has asked if attendees know of any volunteers who wish to be included. The demand for the funeral rites is high on the current individuals and therefore Manharbhai has requested more individuals to help with these services.

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- New initiatives are being discussed whereby Volunteers would be sent to help patients at their home, hospices, care homes, hospitals etc. Vanik Council is working with NHS and obtain a grant to provide this service. Over 25 volunteers have already shown an interest. The process (insurance, training etc) and determining the way forward is under discussions.
- Dr Natubhai indicated that grants are available to support patients at home if there are sufficient volunteers 'home champions'. This should be considered by the sub-committee.
- Chandrakantbhai mentioned that a ministry of loneliness has been formed. Vanik Council should investigate to determine if our community can be assisted.

## **10) New Project – Living Organ Donation**

Vanik Council has been engaged on campaigning for organ donation; particularly donation of a kidney by living people. The project concentrates on live kidney transplants within the Jain community of North West London. It is funded by NHSBT.

Following invitation by NHSBT to submit a bid for further promotion within our community. A flyer has been produced for the next event due on 4<sup>th</sup> Mar 2018. All speakers have been confirmed and preparations are underway.

Many organisations have supported in promoting the flyer produced to their members. This is much appreciated.

Jain Network and Vanik Council are holding a Health and Wellbeing health seminar and organisations have been asked to promote this event.

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

### **Website**

Vanik Directory - The developers have provided version of the migrated Vanik Database for test purposes. Feedback is being sought to ensure it works as expected.

Whilst the new website is being developed, Bhupenbhai has generated a website in the interim. All attendees were asked to visit the website and also send any information they wish to promote.

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

- All affiliated organisations were asked to provide details of events and articles for publication into the next issue of Vanik Voice.
- Suggestion has been received to collate an annual newsletter featuring main articles, events and activity of Vanik Council. It is suggested that report of all events should be sent soon afterwards to the editor for publication in Vanik Voice.
- Manharbhai has requested all affiliated organisations to send Vanik Voice to their members as soon as they receive a copy.

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- Consideration should be given by Vanik Council to provide regular update all members, on a monthly basis, to include a summary of key events being promoted by individual organisations.
- Last directory was published in 2014. Discussions took place for re publishing this again. As soon as the new website is available, VC will start to promote this facility for families to begin updating their information. The intention will be to produce a copy soon after.

## **12) Donations to Charity**

At previous meetings there was a discussion on Vanik Council making donations to charities.

At previous meetings a number of charities were nominated to receive donations. Of the £10000 agreed, £1500 has been donated so far. Manharbhai will continue to pursue.

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

### **London Area Chair**

#### **Summary of Jain Network**

- Health and Wellbeing programme – 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018
- Womens wing – programmes being planned
- 25<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> Mar – Aymbil arranged.

#### **Summary from Navnat Vanik Association**

- 31<sup>st</sup> Mar – Snatra Puja

#### **Summary from Navnat Vanik Bhagini Samaj**

- Seeking to join with Vadil Mandal to attend the South East Jain Association event.
- 22-Mar-2018 – Caribbean Tour Planned – 40 Passengers confirmed.
- 14-Apr-2018 – Fun Day to be arranged. For Bhagini members only.
- 12-May-2018 - AGM

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

- 85+ celebration being planned – 30-Mar-2018.
- 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Jun – Cardiff - Wales trip planned
- Mothers day event being planned – 11<sup>th</sup> May
- AGM – 4<sup>th</sup> May
- 40 years celebration planned in Sep.
- Coach trip to SEJA being planned. One coach full.

#### **Summary from – Mahavir Foundation**

Following events held -

- See website for more details
- Puja next week following purchase of additional property

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- 29<sup>th</sup> Apr – Health Seminar planned – Kingsbury School
- Murti (Shantinanth) being procured from India . Vidi to be organised, in May.
- Coach trip being planned to SEJA event.

## **Summary from Midland Areas**

See Jain Samaj Europe website for more details

## **Summary South East Jain Association**

- The committee are working very hard and preparing for the Mahavir Janma Kalayak on 8 April, whereby all the national samaj's have been invited. I am hopefully the other samaj's will support the event with their respective attendance and the support of their members. Please can I request the committee to encourage members to attend and to respond to the SEJA team allowing them to prepare appropriately.
- 13-May-2018 – Coach trip planned for Leicester

## **Brighton Samaj**

- The committee are organising a date to meet and reach agreement for next steps regarding the Samaj.

## **14) AOB**

£2 per person will be contributed by VANik council for costs incurred by coach travel to SEJA. However VC will only contribute if the current fees to members are reduced by the same amount.

Brighton – funds that already exist will be discussed between Virendrabhai , Bachubhai and Chandrakantbhai

VC will also be planning to celebrate 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year. A sub-committee will be formed and will include Bharatbhai Mehta, Binbaben, Renuben, Virendrabhai, Yogeshbhai, Rajnibhai, Rameshbhai.

Meeting to be called as soon as possible.

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

3<sup>rd</sup> Jun 2018 - Venue Vanik Council Office or Manchester/Leicester