



Gujarati Cultural Society

G.C.S. AGM 8TH April 2018

Swaminaryan Temple, 79A Trafalgar Road, Portslade, BN41 1XD

Returning officers : Dr Bhanubhai Patel & Vinod Mushru

The President welcomed the attendees by introducing them to the committee and trustee:

Minutes of the AGM held on 9th April 2017: The approved, accurate records were proposed by Dr Banubhai Patel and seconded by Mr Chandrakant Mehta.

Matters arising from 2017 minutes:

- 1) Questions from Chandrakant Mehta - What is GCS doing for the youngsters? Gopal Patel and Anita Agnihotri answered by stating we have done Cricket and Sport Fun Day, Barclays Cyber Events to encourage youngsters to use the resources offered by Barclays team at the Eagle Lab, Preston Circus.
- 2) Chander Jain suggested we should think about different activities - such as Bridge, Wellbeing group, laughing Yoga, Golf for beginners, meditation and mindfulness classes - Agreed by the committee that all good suggestions but we currently have a free Yoga class on Sunday mornings which is poorly attended even though it is FREE - Mr Jain offered his services to teach Bridge and laughing Yoga if needed.
- 3) Chandrakant Mehta brought up problem of communication - could more people be added on WhatsApp?
Gopal advised that it was a personal choice and if an individual expressed an interest in receiving messages from GCS then we could do that. Anita stated that if anyone had a 'preferred' method of communication then they could make a request to receive the information in their desired way - whether that is email or a hard copy in the post.

Trustees Report -Dr Amrut Shah

Dr Shah congratulated hard efforts of the current committee and had seen positive changes and this was reflected in an increase in membership.

Dr Shah stressed that the committee need to look into applying for funds/grants that are available - i.e. National Lottery & Brighton & Hove City Council Grants - getting financial assistance would help keep membership fees down.



Gujarati Cultural Society

Presidents Speech - Jignesh Agnihotri

Thanked the attendees. Speech focused on commitment and hard work of the committee and emphasized that despite everyone having full time commitments the current committee had demonstrated strong team working and all the events had been a success. A special mention and thanks goes to Mahindra for his devotion and time and relentless efforts. Thanks to Ramabhen Patel and Raju Patel for their contribution to the committee as they were stepping down from their roles. GCS will endeavour to serve all members but it is always difficult to find mutual ground that pleases all - as our members range from children to members in their 90's.

But with the principles set out by the founder members over 30 years ago, the continued support of our community the hard work and time given by the committee members our aim is to continue with a professional outlook that will make efforts to embrace new ideas.

Secretary's Speech - Mahindra Chauhan

Appealed to community for more nominations and participation in committee roles. Urged members to attend free Yoga classes and thanked Mr V Mushru for his kind donation towards this activity. Stressed that we are happy to introduce new activities but need the members support.

Entertainment Secretary's Report - Gopal Patel

Diwali 2017 had been a success, and The Grand had been booked for Sunday 11th November 2018. GP talked about the trip to Buckingham Palace in 2017 and the proposed trip to Windsor castle in 2018.

GP on behalf of the committee apologised for the cancellation of this year's Holi & Dhuleti and this was only for public safety reasons due to the unforeseeable bad snowy and icy weather conditions.

Success of the family sports day at Waterhall, Navratri and the largest Diwali event in the history of the GCS.

Asst Entertainment Secretary - Dhirubhai Lamba

Mentioned the up and coming cultural events for 2018 with the start of a free member's entertainment evening of ghazals and an Indian comedienne on the 28th April and another Musical event planned for 7th July 2018 at the Sallis Benney Theatre. DL also talked about



Gujarati Cultural Society

the success of the monthly free Bhajans at the Temple which had started at the beginning of February. The Bhajans will continue on Sunday evenings - the next one being on the 22nd April.

Dr Milind Jani

Reminded the members that there had been some interfaith work - the scouts had a planned visit to the temple and an informative talk from the temple and Dr Jani. Also Dr Jani had held a meeting with the Govt of Gujarat regarding NRG support initiative to help the NRI's in our city.

Brighton & Hove Council's Public Health team had requested our involvement in their 'Stay Healthy' Project. They had offered some exercise sessions to promote preventing falls in over 50's. Dr Jani and others had participated in a campaign initiated by the Government and were included in a video - the video would be shown on the main screen at the Duke of York theatre on the 10th & 11th April.

GCS would look into doing an event on World Yoga Day - 21st June 2018

Treasurer's Report - Anant Suchak

Breakdown of Annual accounts - figures were presented to the attendees. The accounts had been produced by Blue spire Auditors.

AS reiterated that the Building Fund was a restricted fund and has not been touched.

Bhanubhai Patel added that he was one of the pioneers of this Fund and suggested that we add to the building fund on an annual basis- with the aim of acquiring a building sometime in the future.

Accounts prepared by Blue spire were approved by: Bhanubhai Patel, Seconded by: Kalabhen Shah

Re-appointment of the Auditors for GCS: The chair requested the members to approve the appointment of Blue Spire as Auditors for the period 1st Dec 2017 to 31 Nov 2018. Blue Spire were appointed as Auditors for the coming year.

AOB

Hitendra Rajyaguru asked the committee if they were aware of new legislation that states that no committee is allowed to discriminate. It was confirmed that the committee take on board all new legislation relating to operating charitable committees and we have a diverse



Gujarati Cultural Society

membership profile and all events are open to the whole community. We encourage diversity and equality.

What were Admin costs mentioned in the accounts? Reply from AS - the admin costs are for example the hiring of the temple for the AGM, some printing and postage costs.

Rachit Mehotra - Asked what the future vision is of the GCS as he is thinking of joining? Anant Suchak read out the constitution which outlines the aims and objectives of the GCS. The aim is to continue to further the cultural and social interaction amongst the community, promote the Hindu religion and also provide support and education in the form of ensuring a healthy community. The health professionals within the GCS were considering holding a health seminar to offer advise and support in the future. Also plans for Educational trips to the temples, and monthly Bhajans promoting the religious aspects.

Chandrakant Mehta - Asked what assistance we were giving the elderly group? Anant's response: We pay the monthly fee for the weekly use of the meeting hall to Sanctuary Housing. We are also looking at having a designated committee member to oversee the groups needs and interact with them on a regular basis. Planned trip to the Mandir.

Mr Mehta made the members aware that there was a new 'Loneliness Fund' which would be worth looking into to acquire funds.

1st May is Gujarat Day in London.

Also in May as part of the Brighton Fringe festival there will be artists displaying their work at the BMECP building. It is an idea that our talented community be encouraged to display any art works or at least visit the exhibition.

The meeting was concluded with the current committee members all standing down and the returning officers to announce new nominations.

Resignation: Raju Patel

Co-opted members: Danshuk & Ila Patel, Rama Patel were stepping down from their positions.

New committee would be made up of all current members as per nominations apart from Raju Patel.

New nominations for co-opted members included:

Pinal Patel - Lewes, Mira Patel- Brighton and Anju Chauhan

Closing prayer

Arti

Followed by the Refrshment.