



Kent Muslim Welfare Association

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MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 4PM SUNDAY 30th MAY 2024 AT GILLINGHAM MASJID.

26 ATTENDEES INCLUDING 8 TRUSTEES. Brothers & Sisters from the local community attended.

- 1) **TILAWAT** – Performed by Br Zaki Ahmed.
- 2) **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Brs Majid Arshad, Agha Naeem, Rizwan Chohan, Sr Rizwana Shelley.
- 3) **Minutes of the last AGM 2023** Br Azeem stated that they had been in circulation for around 1 year and are on the website. These were approved by Br Ajaib and seconded by Br Issa.
- 4) **CHAIRMAN AND GENERAL SECRETARY REPORT** – Br Azeem Nader presented the report which highlighted the years activities and acknowledged and thanks some of the brothers and Sisters who had been heavily involved on delivering the activities. Br Ajaib thanked Br Azeem for the report and the report was adopted. A report from sister Rizwana, was summarised in the report. Br Issa commented further to sister Rizwana's report that refugee families were given free education in the Masjid for the first 3 months after their arrival before being reassessed. Br Ajaib commented that as he was involved representing the Muslim community with the police via IPAG and in interfaith via MIFA he appealed for other members of the community to come forward to offer their help.
- 5) **TREASURERS REPORT** – Br Waseem Mirza summarised and clarified the accounts and explained the terminology. (see accounts summaries). Br Waseem Mirza also summarised the financial position. A simplified breakdown of the mosque's income and outgoings was presented. Salaries and maintenance/utilities were identified as the highest expenditure categories for the current Masjid in Canterbury Street. He clarified the funds collected during the year against the expenditure on staff wages, utility bills and other bills. He clarified that there was not a large amount of surplus 'money from which we could draw on for events and providing the facilities and highlighted that the expectations of the community did not match the amount of money contributed.
Br Waseem was thanked by Br Azeem for preparing and explaining the accounts.
- 6) **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS** - Akbar Chartered Accountants were reappointed and thanked for their service to the community, with respect to preparation of our annual accounting report, audited accounts, and the staff payroll.
- 7) **ELECTION COMMISSIONERS REPORT** – Br Naseem Sheikh presented the election commissioners report for 2024 and the results of the elections. There were 6 candidates for 4 Trustee posts. The elected Trustees were Brs Azeem Nader, Issa Rumjaun, Enam ul Hoque, Redwan ul Ferdous. The election commissioners – Brs Naseem Sheikh and Saeed Khan were thanked for their long service and sacrifice to the BoT and community and the professionalism by which they carried out their duties.
- 8) **MOTION TO HOLD QUARTERLY 'TOWN HALL' MEETINGS FOR PAID MEMBERS (Br Fayaz Iqbal)** – Br Fayaz presented his proposal with some discussions of the detail and how it could work. It was essentially proposed that KMWA should hold 3 meetings per year in addition to the AGM which would be held both in the Masjid and on zoom for members to ask

questions, discuss any issues, make requests, ask for assistance, offer help and communicate with the Trustees. It was also discussed that the meetings should be representative of all Trustees and that Trustees should engage more with all sections of the community and all Trustees are expected to attend 2 of the meetings in a year. This was unanimously agreed by all the members present **and became a resolution** and as such will be adopted into the constitution.

9) **ANY OTHER BUSINESS & DISCUSSIONS & QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR -**

Membership: Brother Tariq asked about the membership of KMWA and how it was being managed. Br Azeem mentioned the vision and reforms for membership, focusing on improving data collection, ensuring accurate and timely renewals, increasing membership, and involving members more in KMWA operations. This had not progressed as had been envisioned but there were currently efforts to use an app such as 'member press' to manage the membership in a more automated way. The KMWA app which had been 90% developed but never finished will also require switching to a UK developer to finish it.

Summarised financial statements and finances: Br Ajaib requested along with a number of members that KMWA treasurer publish periodic summaries of our finances in a simple form throughout the year (eg quarterly). This was agreed by the BoT. It was asked what the realistic target was on a monthly basis and what our projected target is for finishing the new Masjid. It was difficult to give precise figures, but the current situation was summarised in the financial report- ie. what was owing on the current building stage and what would be the next stage. As building costs were continually rising and the work would need to be halted at the end of the current building phase it was hard to predict. The fact remains that the building work will continue at a rate proportional to the funds coming in. This is currently around 5-10K per month and more during Ramadaan and not including large donors and quarde hasana.

Representation: The sisters present said that they had no effective way of communicating with the BoT and that they required better and more direct lines of communication. They wished to have a representative present as a coordinator position, this was agreed in principle as in practice KMWA have had a coordinator for the ladies group in sister Rizwana Shelley, but she cannot always attend the meetings.

Under 5's decision: This was highlighted by attendees and was generally regarded as an unpopular decision by those present which was poorly handled without looking at alternative suggestions and solutions.

There were accusations of not listening to the community as well as double standards when it came to policing, as well as suggestions that it is not enforceable at the busiest times. The rationale for the decision was explained and it was agreed that the situation could have been better handled. It was agreed that if there are suggestions or ideas that may help tackle the problem, we can hear them, however, the Trustees felt that the decision was as fairly applied as possible and affected Trustees as well as non-Trustees.

EDUCATION – there was very little time to discuss education, but it was asked what the current attendance was. The attendance at weekends was between 60-90 children and during week day afternoon/ evenings 15-30 children.

Closing: The meeting concluded with Dua, gratitude towards all attendees for their active participation and commitment to the goals of the Kent Muslim Welfare Association.

Azeem Nader, General Secretary KMWA.