

**Minutes of ESS Alumni Biennial General Meeting held on
Sunday 24th November 2019 at 12.45 pm
Blue Ginger Restaurant**

1) Welcome:

Jayant Tanna opened the meeting and welcomed everyone especially those who had taken the trouble to come from distant places. Jayant requested everyone to introduce themselves very briefly. Jayant then invited everyone to stand as he read out a prayer by St Francis of Assisi.

2) Members present:

There were 25 members present - Jayant Tanna, Vijay Patel, Nisar Butt, Pradeep Luther, Anil Lakhani, Bhagwant Virdee, Nasrullah Khan Moghal, Varinder Singh, Kanji Bhudia, Balraj Sidher, Bashir Butt, Dipak Patel, Kiran Patel, Narinder Luthra, Amarjit Ahluwalia, Ramesh Rajput, Daljit Ohbi, Saleem Mehar, Jasbir Bhoda, Zahoor Seifurehman, Gurdip Bahra, Nilesh Raithatha, Satwinder Dhand, Dhiraj Shah and Ajay Mahindru.

There were 13 guests present – Mrs Jyotsna Tanna, Mrs Narinder Virdee, Mrs Neerja Luther, Mrs Darshan Ohbi, Mrs Mina Raithatha, Mrs Prabha Patel, Mrs Sneh Dhand, Mrs Lajwanti Rajput, Mrs Suman Mahindru, Mrs Hasu Shah, Mrs Singh and Mr Viram and Mrs Mina Jasani

3) Apologies:

There were 21 Apologies - Hasu Joshi, Yakoob Sheikh, Pritam Singh Dhanjal, Khalid Chaudhry, Mohan Singh Matharu, Jagtar Singh Sangha, Anup Hanspall, Shakoor Ahmed, Vijay Jolly, Amar Rihal, Sharad Bhagwat, Uttam Pawar, Ravinder Laly, Harjinder Chana, Darshan Singh Chana, Purgent Patel, Madhukant Hirani, Mukesh Varma, Mansoor Sharief, Hasmukh Nandha and Harish Luther.

4) Notes of the last BGM of 21st May 2017:

Nisar Butt proposed and Bhagwant Virdee seconded the motion that the Notes be accepted as a true record of the last BGM. The motion was accepted unanimously.

5) Report from the Chairman – Jayant Tanna:

Jayant went through his report, which had been circulated to all members in advance. He answered questions and also showed photos from the Nairobi visit. The main points are outlined below.

Visit to Nairobi EHS Sep 2019

- Donated £2850 for Lunch fees 2019/20; Presented 6 laptops and 2 projectors. Laptops are being used adequately, but the Wi-Fi in the school is generally very poor.
- Visited lessons to see use of laptops; Donated £1980 for school fees 2017/18
- Met local alumni, keen to take active part. Jayant mentioned that the present 'Asian' alumni group were keen to amalgamate with the new local members forming a new alumni association and take an active interest in the school's progress.

He made some points about the Toronto Reunion

- Toronto Reunion in Sept 2018;
- 130 alumni from 15 Nairobi schools; 26 of us from the UK
- Very excited and enthusiastic atmosphere; Excellent food and ambience
- Lovely Souvenir magazine, profiles, articles; Overall good - Surplus CA\$ 2,100;
- Toronto committee to decide and let us know how surplus will be spent

Jayant talked about the ESS Alumni website

- Website www.essalumni.org.uk
- Very well planned and laid out, Aims, plans, projects, accounts clearly posted
- School progress, staff, pupils profiles, Extensive photo gallery of teams, activities
- Latest News, events, dates for the diary including Nairobi visit report and photos
- Separate section about EHS TODAY with news about the school in Nairobi
- News of the BGM with all the documents
- Looking for new ideas for the website; Need missing magazines, photos, profiles

Jayant talked about the Sunday Lunch Meeting at the Everest Lounge

- A Sunday Lunch event in Harrow 22.07.18

- Talks from Pradeep Luther and Bhagwant Virdee about health issues in the Asian community.
- The talk was videoed and is now on our website.

Jayant made some suggestions for the future:

- Need to support the school with more laptops and mid-day meals - Donate
- More Sunday Lunches and Speakers
- Arrange visits and tours for members?
- ESS Reunion in 2021 in Nairobi? Approximately 15 attendees raised their hands to show interest in attending a Reunion in Nairobi.
- New energetic committee members?

Several suggestions were made by Saleem Mehar, Daljit Ohbi, Kiran Patel, Nisar Butt and others. These included

- Golf tournament and a fund-raising Dinner.
- Possible linking our Alumni with the Pangani Girls' alumni and having a joint function. Neerja Luther said she would try and help organize this event.
- Saleem Mehar suggested a Ladies' night.
- There were suggestions of registering our Alumni as a charitable Institution. This was discussed at length. It was decided that as we had a turnover of less than £5000 per year, it was not advisable at present.

6) Report from the Treasurer – Nisar Butt:

- Nisar presented the accounts 1st April 2017 to 5th October 2019.
- The accounts showed a credit balance of £11,520.00.
- NB said there were 57 Life Members and 59 paid-up Biennial Members for 2017-19.
- Varinder Singh enquired about the dwindling membership, suggesting the possibility of increasing the membership fees in order to increase our revenue. Nisar explained the membership numbers were similar to previous years and our revenues were healthy.
- Nasrullah Khan voiced his feeling that donations was a better route, as opposed to increasing membership, for raising funds for the Alumni.
- Saleem Mehar suggested an evening function especially dedicated to fund raising.
- Bhagwant Singh said every communication from the Chairman should carry a note requesting membership and donations to boost the Alumni's revenue.
- Nisar concluded his report asking everyone to pay their own Membership and get their friends to do the same.

The members wholeheartedly applauded the work done by the Treasurer in keeping meticulous accounts. The Accounts were agreed unanimously.

7) Election of the Committee for 2017-18

Jayant informed the meeting that no nomination forms were received from any of the members for the Committee. Jayant requested several members to accept positions on the Committee in addition to those who had served in the previous term. Daljit Singh Ohbi and Saleem Mehar agreed to join the committee as new members.

In the end, Jayant agreed to carry on as Chair, Vijay agreed to continue as Secretary and Nisar as Treasurer. The members who accepted to be on the committee were Nasrullah Khan Moghal, Pradeep Luther, Bhagwant Singh Virdee, Anil Lakhani, Saleem Mehar and Daljit Singh Ohbi. Harish Luther was not present but Pradeep Luther confirmed he would be interested.

8) Any Other Business:

There was no other business. The Meeting came to a close at around 4 pm.