

MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON 27-04-2008

TIME: 3.15PM

VENUE: INDIA CENTRE, SPLOTT, CARDIFF

MEMBERS PRESENT: SEPARATE SHEET ATTACHED

1. **Welcome by the CHAIR PERSON:** Dr. Das welcomed everybody and said she was glad to see members in such good numbers. She marked the end of an eventful chapter and beginning of a new one in the history of HCA. She said that the present committee was leaving the HCA financially very healthy and socially very active. She mentioned that there has been transparency in everything and the different monies coming have been used for different purposes; for example, lottery money which comes in bits has been used for its purpose of staff salary and so on. Land behind the temple was in the final stage of purchase. A planning permission has been granted to extend the building has been awarded proof of which could be shown if needed. She also requested that nobody should go personal in the HCA matter. It shouldn't affect personal relationships; the centre is there to make friends and not break them.

There were a lot of proposals for the day but she suggested that if the floor agrees, it could be taken for next time.

2. **APOLOGIES RECEIVED:** Mrs. Renuka Chedha, Mr.Santosh Kumar, Mr. Rawi Nair

3 a. **Minutes of the AGM 2007:**

Accuracy: Few members objected that they didn't have the copies of the minutes.

(Few minutes were given to make more copies of AGM 2007 and EGM 2008. While waiting, the other topics in the agenda were discussed, namely chairperson's report, secretary's report and the treasurer's report) to be contd.

4. **Chair person's Report:** Lots of regular daily and weekly activities have been going on at the centre for all ages and abilities. The details of which are

updated on the web site regularly. Thanks to Mr. Pranay Kumar for his help in maintaining the web page. Thanked all the committees and all Governors for their continued support. Some of the highlights were Bhagwat Katha, Odissi dance workshop, New Durga pratima for the pooja to name a few. Thanked the coordinators Mrs. Kamla syal for Pooja committee, Mrs. Niru Kumar for Events committee, Dr. Sarita Pawar for Ladies group, Mrs. Usha Singh for 50+ ladies group, Mr. K N Rajkumar for History committee, Mr. Raghuram for sports for their support. Thanked the staff; Punditji, Sharda, Debu, Mr.santosh Kumar, Harji bhai and Radhika Kadaba for their help in running the place smoothly. The chair then passed it on to Dr. Arun Sinha, the secretary, to continue with his report.

5. Secretary's report:

As you know, today is the last day of the present team which includes both Ex. Committee and Governors. We had many happy moments together in the last two years, which gives us a great sense of satisfaction.

We arranged many events during the last one year period since last A.G.M. on 20th May 2007. Just to mention a few, you may remember an audio-visual musical programme on 7th October 2007 in association with 'Mala Group' of Swansea at Grand Pavilion, Port Talbot. This programme was totally free for our members, which they deserve once a year. The other highlight of this year was last Durga Puja, for which we had a beautiful new set of 'Durga Pratima' from India. 'Diwali Mela' at 'National Museum of Wales' was another milestone in the success story of our Association. All other religious functions and cultural events were held as usual. The only difference was ever increasing number of people attending these functions.

All those successful events are not a success story of the Executive Committee, but it is a success story of all the members of our Association, without whom no function or event can be a success.

Unfortunately, there are always two sides of the coin. The brighter side, I have mentioned just now, the darker side is the undesirable developments in the form of malicious emails that we saw during the last few weeks. This has hit the heart and soul of our Association and we all individually and collectively agree that these sorts of unacceptable developments should not be allowed to flourish which will ultimately kill our Association.

There have been occasional criticisms by some people that there should be more transparency, responsible governance and inclusiveness of all in the dealings of our Association. I would like to say to all members that we have been totally transparent in our dealings. Whenever Governors enquired anything from the Executive Committee, their queries were answered fully and openly as soon as possible. We, as a team, have managed clean and responsible Governance at India Centre and we have tried our best to take everyone together, if someone wanted to work with us. On many occasions, we have even gone out of the way to accommodate other people in different ways in the organising functions and events or any committee work. We were quite clear in our mind that this is the only way to keep our small organisation together and we did our best to fulfil this responsibility.

At last, on a personal note, I would like to say that I am feeling a great sense of relief that somehow I managed to carry the can of heavy responsibility of this Association that you members asked me to carry two years ago, when you elected me as Secretary. I am going out with a great satisfaction that I gave 100 % of my capability to fulfil my responsibility to serve this Association.

I do not expect anything in return for my voluntary service, but I must say that it did hit me hard and pain was almost unbearable when the trauma came unexpectedly in January this year at the time of EGM in the form of a letter from few members. It did hurt a lot because the trauma came from them with whom I had spent many many hours of quality time together. I am sure; many of you understand what I am trying to say. Without going into further details of these matters, I would conclude my address by saying that 'KARMANAYE WADHIKARASTE MA FALESHU KADACHANAM'. I have done my duty and

without expecting the result, I will leave it to almighty God to judge my performance.

At last, I would like to thank all my Executive and Management team members who are excellent persons to work with. I had their full support all the way and it gave me great strength to fulfil my duty. I always felt that all of you are like my extended family members.

6. Treasurer's Report:

IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE, I REPORT THE ANNUAL ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2007, FOR THE LAST TIME AS TREASURER OF HCA WALES.

I HAVE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED THIS ROLE AND WOULD LIKE TO THANK MY FELLOW EXECUTIVES AND ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY AND OTHER MEMBERS OF OUR ASSOCIATION, FOR THEIR SUPPORT DURING MY LAST TWO YEARS.

DURING THIS PERIOD HCA HAS GROWN WITH MORE NEW MEMBERS JOINING OUR ASSOCIATION AND ALSO FINANCIALLY FROM GENEROUS DONATIONS BY DEVOTEES AND FROM SPONSORSHIP.

I WOULD LIKE TO WISH NEXT TREASURER EVERY SUCCESS IN THE ROLE AND I HOPE THAT OUR ASSOCIATION WILL CONTINUE TO GROW AND FLOURISH IN THE FUTURE WITH FULL AND UNITED SUPPORT.

I HAVE ALREADY DISTRIBUTED MY REPORT FOR YOUR PERUSAL.

[\(A detailed account statement was distributed to everyone present\)](#)

Mr. Roy: Wanted to know in detail about the "other grants", building expenses and donations.

Dr. Das: Other grants meant apart from the Lottery fund the HCA had received monies from Art council, community chest, sports council etc. Donations included aarti money, sponsorships of puja. She also explained that there were

4 employees at the centre and only the priest (pundit) was given accommodation in addition to the salary. Building expenses included architect's money, planning permission application.

Dr. M D Mishra: Asked for a detailed print out of the accounts.

Dr. Das: Accountant has all the details. If anybody wants to see it is available. It is usually not printed out and given to everybody.

Dr. Roy: He wanted the reports by the secretary and chair and the list of members present at the meeting to be attached with the minutes from next time.

Dr. Arun Sinha: He said it is noted and would be taken on by the next team.

Dr. Roy: Proposed that the account was accurate and Dr. Alok Moy Sinha seconded it.

3a. Contd. (The minutes of the AGM held on 20th May 2007 and EGM held on 6th January 2008 were distributed to everybody)

Matters arising:

Dr. Selvaji: He wanted to know about the purchase of land behind the centre.

Chair person: Dr. Das said that as it was mentioned from time to time that the land behind the temple was leased at the moment. Purchase of the land is in the final stages and within few weeks the deal would be done and the HCA would be the proud owner of the land.

Dr. M D Mishra: Enquired about the progress about the History committee.

Chair: Dr. Das said that Mr. K N Rajkumar was leading the group of five in the history committee and he would give a brief account of the progress.

Mr. K N Rajkumar: Said that the committee included five members- Mr. P Kumar, Mr. R Mahapatra, Mr. Rawi Nair, Dr. Keshav Swarnkar and himself. They had met once and been corresponding the e-mails regarding how to formulate the letter which would be sent to all members especially those who were involved at the time of inception.

Dr. Bihari: Thanked Mr. Rajkumar for his enthusiasm to write the history. But he also warned him about the possibility of people bringing out emotional and controversial issues. He also mentioned that the information about the HCA in the first 13 years was still with him and he had not parted with it.

Mr. Rajkumar: He said that writing history was a very sensitive task and all attempts would be made to project positive information after taking adequate consent. Any controversial issues might not be published if there was a lack of consensus.

Mr. S P Singh: Said that Mr. Rajkumar was creating problems at HCA by writing its history.

Mr. K N Rajkumar: He said he was invited by the Executive committee and the Governing body to undertake this hapless task. If it was the decision of the general body not to continue with this effort, he would immediately stop it.

Several members disagreed with Mr. S P Singh and expressed that the history work should continue.

Trustees:

Few members wanted to know how the trustees were changed and new ones appointed.

Secretary: Dr. Sinha said that he had e-mailed to everybody to give their names as one of the trustees had resigned and they had to appoint two more to make a total of 5 trustees. Only 2 members had come forward and therefore they had to request one more on the instruction of the BOG. So at the moment the trustees include Mr. Prabhat Kumar, Dr. H N Choudhary, Mr. Ashok Aggarwal, Mr. P K Verma and Mr. Alok Moy Sinha.

The minutes of the AGM held on 20th may 2007 was proposed by Mr. Alok Moy Sinha and seconded by Mr. P K Verma.

3 b. EGM 6th January 2008:

Dr. Roy: Said that the language used in the minutes was not appropriate.

Secretary: Dr. Sinha apologised for that.

Mr. Verma: A letter was distributed by Dr. Roy accusing Mr. Verma as criminal and that nothing was done about it till now.

The minutes of the EGM held on the 6th January 2008 was proposed by Mr. Kejriwal and seconded by Mr. P K Verma.

7. Proposals for discussion and voting

Mr. P K Verma: The proposals had to be discussed on the same day and taken over.

Chair person: requested everybody to take it over to the next meeting as it had been a long day with elections.

Dr. M D Mishra: It has to be agreed by the members.

Chair person: Because they were no emergencies, it could be postponed.

Mr. K N Rajkumar: All the proposals to be sent before a month to all members so everybody would be prepared for discussion properly.

Mr. P K Verma: All the proposals to get postponed or only the constitutional matters.

Chair Person: Only the constitutional matters.

Mr. Keshav Singhal: A group needed to go through the amendment which was passed in 2005/2006 and then put it in the BOG for approval to be passed at the next AGM.

Chair person: Dr. Das put Mr. Radheshyam's proposal forward to the members which they agreed unanimously. (Mr. Radheshyam's proposal: A TRUE COPY OF THE CURRENT CONSTITUTION OF HCA TO BE GIVEN TO ALL CURRENT MEMBERS OF HCA AND IN FUTURE TO ALL NEW MEMBERS AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION OF MEMBERSHIP. Seconded by DR. S K Sharma)

Dr. M D Mishra: One copy to be at the centre in a glass case for everybody to view.

Dr. Alok Moy Sinha: There was already the latest version on the web site for anybody to read or take a print out.

8. Any Other Business:

Chair Person: Some members have registered interest to speak. The first one would be our young member Mr. Gaurav.

Mr. Gaurav: He was extremely displeased with anonymous e-mails flying around everywhere especially criticising his father who is one of the employees at the centre. He condemned all the members and the Governing body that none had raised their voice in support of his father's appointment which was legitimate and signed by the then vice chair.

Mrs. K syal: Objected that a young person was given a chance to speak in the meeting.

Chair: Dr. Das overruled the objection stating that every member had the right to speak in the AGM and that young members should be especially encouraged to speak up because they would be the future of the centre. Moreover he had taken permission to speak according to the agenda.

Dr. Das invited Mrs. Sheila Nair to speak.

Mrs. Sheila Nair: She mentioned that an anonymous person (in the name of sweetie pie) not only had written awful e-mails but also had stepped into her personal accounts. She also mentioned that it was disgusting to think that one of the HCA members had done such horrendous job. She requested the Governing body to take action against such notorious people immediately to keep the harmony and sanctity of the association intact.

Chair: Dr. Das invited Mr. P K Verma to speak.

Mr. Verma: He said many members were confused because Governing body was following two sets of constitution at the same time for different people. There was the original constitution written in 1991 and then the amended one in 2006. The rules were not applied uniformly to all the candidates during the present elections. He just wanted the clarification as to which constitution

would be adopted from then on. Whichever it was, the rules applied to everybody in the same way.

Few people (together) said that it was already decided in the Governors meeting.

Chair: Dr. Das insisted that the Governing body could not take decisions about the constitutional issues. They could only discuss the matter.

Mrs. Poonam Sharma: She said that she wasn't interested which year was adopted.

Mrs. Sunaina Purbey: Said that the Executive Committee should know in advance what each person would speak in the meeting.

Chair: Dr. Das said again that every member had the right to speak sensibly and request for clarification about certain issues which needed immediate attention.

Mr. Bipin Pitrola: Said that the HCA consisted of very intelligent members who would have to think if they were going to be builders of a healthy institution or wreckers of the same.

Dr. Bihari: Assured Mr. Pitrola that there were no wreckers in HCA.

Chair: Dr. Das said that the confusion about the adaptation of the constitution still existed and it wasn't clear for the members. She went on to explain that the 1991 constitution (original) was amended (in the clause where the eligibility and term were discussed) in the year 2005/06. It was essential to know the start date for all the posts in the Governing body.

Dr. Roy: He said that it was the constitutional issue.

Dr. Bihari: The clarification was simple. 1991 constitution was the main body and was superior to all the rest and that it should be followed for all the posts.

Mr. P K Verma: Said he would accept Dr. Bihari's view.

Dr. Das: Could this issue be rested till the next AGM?

Mr. Singhal: Said that the constitutional matter should be left for the later stage. There would be no agreement at that stage.

Mr. Kale: Pointed out that one of the members was taking pictures/video which was totally against the law. He insisted that all the pictures needed to be destroyed.

Mr. P K Verma: He would accept Dr. Bihari's and Mr. Singhal's views. If the decision was so ambiguous then the election which was held on the 27th April 2008 should be null and void.

Dr. Mishra: Said that they could take it to the next meeting.

Dr. Sarnobat: It was unfair to postpone the decision.

Dr. Swarnkar: Disagreement should be sorted out first and then the election results should be announced.

Dr. Selvaji: Said that they had already spent 40 minutes on that issue and that 1991 constitution should be adapted for everybody.

Chair: Dr. Das agreed with Dr. Mishra and said that the decision regarding the start date and which constitutional (1991 or 2006) rules to follow would be postponed till the next meeting.

[9. Election Result announcement by the returning officer.](#)

The Chair invited Prof. Meena Upadhyaya to present the election results.

Prof. Upadhyaya read out all the winners (which are as follows).

Chairperson

Dr. Keshav Singhal

Vice Chairperson

Dr. Atul Gaitonde

Treasurer **

Mr. Ashok Aggarwal

Deputy Treasurer **

Mrs. Renuka Chadha

Secretary **

Dr. Mahendra Nathadwarawala

Deputy Secretary**

Dr. Sarita Pawar

** elected unopposed

Guardian Cell Members Unit

Dr Hari Narayan Chaudhury

Mr Prabhat Kumar

Dr Upendra Kumar

Dr Ravindra Deva Narayan

Dr Badri Narayan Purbey

Dr Satya Kishore Sharma

Mr Badri Narayan Singh

Mrs Kamla Syal

Life Members Unit

Mrs Niru Kumar

Mrs Manju Prasad

Mrs Sunaina Purbey

Dr Radhe Shyam

Mr. Kadaba N Rajkumar

Dr Chandra Has Roy

Mrs Manju Singh

Mrs Poonam Singhal

Mrs Suchitra Dasmohapatra *

Dr Meena Sarnobat *

Annual Members Unit

Mrs Usha Aggarwal

Mr Chander Chadha

Mr Santosh Kumar

Dr Hasmukh Shah

Mr M P (Mahendra) Singh

Mrs Prabha Kumar Singh

Mrs Usha Singh

Dr Ravi Tiwari

* - withdrew after elections

Chair: Thanked Mr. Raj Aggarwal, Prof. Upadhyaya and Dr. Ahish Wagle for their magnificent effort in conducting the elections.

10. Handover and takeover

Chair and the Secretary formally handed over all the papers and keys to the new team and wished them every success.

11. Vote of thanks:

The Secretary thanked all the members for attending the meeting.

The Meeting ended.