



Shree Vishwakarma Association of UK

President: **Miss Jayna Vadgama** | General Secretary: **Mr Paarik Bharadia** | Interim Treasurer: **Mr Amit Ambasna**
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20 November 2023

SVA of UK ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date : 19 November 2023

Venue: The Function Room, 543-545 Kingsbury Road, London NW9 9EL

Meeting commenced at 6pm.

Member 1005 and Member 1110 announced that due to the quorum not being met (need 75 members, and we only had 58 members) the meeting will reconvene in 1.5 hours as an Adjourned AGM.

The AAGM commenced at 6:30 pm

On the table to conduct the meeting were: The Executive Committee

Notes:

Member 1005 introduced the meeting and asked if all present members have received a voting card.

Those who came late were verified and handed a voting card.

Total Members present 58.

Member 1110 chaired the meeting and requested all present to please respect everyone when the meeting is in progress. We are all here for the betterment of the community / SVA.

Approval of Minutes for the AAGM held on 30th April 2022

Member 143 read out the brief in Gujarati.

Member 704 commented: Years back, the entire contents were read out. Maybe a shorter version of the minutes could be read.

Member 143 mentioned that for the past many years we have followed this procedure of sending minutes by email to all members, which gives members ample time to read, digest and come up with any questions.

All members were asked to either vote YES/NO/ABSTAIN only

Meeting minutes approved.

YES 41

NO 0

Approval of Annual Accounts for year ending 31 Dec 2022

The SVA annuals accounts were sent to all members and published online. Approval of the accounts:

Approval of accounts - Approved

YES 42

NO 0

Member 333 sent a voice message which was played to the members and due to tech problems they were not able to join online.

- Income approx. 50 k
- Expenses 46 k approx.
- Approx. 161 k amount in Bank
- Approx 40 k income from Function room rental
- All rental is covered.
- Approx. 18-19 k income for hiring only for this year.
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Member 1110 announced that for the function room, we have a caretaker now, but the team was doing all the work previously. Including setting up, cleaning, mopping, opening and closing of the property.

The floor was asked if they had any questions? None came forward.

Brief and Approval of the Satsang Mandal Funds held by SVA of UK

This was briefed to all regarding the Satsang Mandal funds scenario, letter/s received from Member 560 requesting their funds be returned back to the same bank account.

As this is an adjourned meeting no decision can be taken formally on what the SVA should do.

In April, a letter was received from Member 560 who had requested for the Satsang Mandal funds to be returned back to their original account.

SVA had a Caretaker committee in place at the time, and it was explained to Member 560 that in case wrong persons joined the committee, then we need to be careful how the funds will be spent.

We, the SVA, need to protect the funds of the community.

None of the current SVA committee members were part of the EC back in 2002/3 when the original money was deposited into the protected account.

It was the Satsang mandals wish to have all their monies be distributed to various charities.

SVA asked SM if they wanted to give to charity, then the SVA will write out individual cheques for SM to donate to whoever they wish to.

Member 143 pointed out that some SM members raised concerns regarding the use of the SM funds and were not entirely happy with the current situation. The SVA cannot afford to just listen to just one or two people and make a decision, as this is charity money and the need to hear all members' opinions is important.

SM wants all money to be put into a private account. SM also have gone ahead and changed the name of the said account to "Vishwakarma Satsang Mandal" (to be confirmed)

Friday 03 November 2023, the EC had a meeting with the SM team of about 15 persons. A majority of them the EC had not met before or seen at any SVA functions/ events. SVA EC only recognised 4-5 persons as SM members.

Member 143 assured all that the SM fund is held in a designated protected account. It is our wish to resolve this matter amicably. We need the Charity's Commission's guidance and approval for the transfer of funds into a private individual account. We also wish to stress that SM to take full liability on the transfer, and the SVA are obliged to get protection and indemnity and be absolved from any responsibility.

It is important to always conduct financial transactions in a lawful and ethical manner, and if you're uncertain about the legality or appropriateness of a particular action, we need to seek advice from a qualified professional.

EC has been in touch with solicitors and awaiting their response.

At the meeting of 03 Nov 2023, Member 149 and Member 328 were elected trustees of the SM. Original Agreement was that funds can be used for an SVA centre and there is no mention of Leasehold or freehold properties.

Previous funds of SM accounts need to be verified, We as the trustees of the association need to be careful about transferring funds.

Member 160 assured that all SM funds are safe. At present we do not know how long the process will take to resolve.

Member 336 commented: This is a charity commission process. We have to follow due diligence when handling money donations. We have to be accountable for all funds.

Member 1014 mentioned that Member 704 asked them to become a trustee of the Satsang Mandal. They declined the offer as they are an EC member of the SVA of UK at present and it will be a conflict of interest.

Member 316 commented: On behalf of SM reiterated that the money is not going into a private account. Currently EC should respect the promises of the previous administrations. The account is now in the Satsang Mandal name.

It was confirmed by Member 704 that the SM have written to the CC and the SVA should hand over the funds.

Member 560 commented: This fund was given to the SVA in 2003 at the time of the proposed purchase of Stag Lane property. Most of the SM members are no longer living. Kasturben was the one who gave the 25k to the Stag Lane project. I am doing all the work for the SM and there is no one who is willing to take over.

Member 1039 mentioned: I have been an active member of the SM for over 25 years. We have never seen any account of monies spent or saved. None of the SM ladies are aware of what's going on. We were not even aware that a new account had been opened in the name of SM.

A member of the public (female unknown) said that if a donation is given to a charitable organisation, how can someone ask for it back. A donation is just a donation and on no account can it be refunded. We all give money to various charities, but never ask for a refund.

Member 704 commented: The lady who spoke about the donation being returned; if a donation is conditional then it can be refunded. We had the same scenario when the Stag Lane property was being considered for purchase. SM donated 25k towards Stag Lane, and it was conditional. However the amount can be made available for an alternative centre for the SVA. SM has also written to CC.

Member 336 commented: CC rules and regulations have changed since 2003 and they are a lot strict in terms of how the monies are utilised.

Also note, there are not many SVA members who know who this other signatory (M Mistry) for the SM is. Member 704 and Member 1039 confirmed that Ms M Mistry is the daughter-in-law of Kasturben and used to handle banking matters for her mother-in-law.

Member 143 briefed all that the SVA is still in favor of SM's original suggestion of charity donation of choice by SM

Member 1039 commented: I would like to stress that NOT all SM ladies are in favor of funds going into a private account. We can then give it to charities as per SVA suggestion.

A show of hands was taken, and a majority were in favor of SVA's proposal

Member 704 reiterated that the account in the name of SM is being opened.

Property Updates:

We had a huge water leak at the hall. We are trying to resolve this and there is a cost involved. We would like to thank Member 92 for helping out in this matter.

AOB:

The team briefed the members that in the last few months individuals have been spreading bad rumours about SVA of UK. We would like to say to all present and please tell all your friends and family to ignore these persons. These individuals are banned from all SVA events and SVA properties.

Questions around the validity of Member 160 being elected as a trustee, their membership and terms of office were vetted by the vetting committee and was approved at the time.

Member 1110 said we are all volunteers for this Association and we carry out our duties in our personal time. This isn't a paid voluntary job and all of us committee members are here because we have a passion to serve our Association wholeheartedly. We need your support to carry this on because if tomorrow we are not here, then who will carry this Association forward?

Member 316 pointed out that attendance at this event was not good. We need to work towards attracting more people to attend SVA events.

Meeting ended 8:10 pm