

Malayalee Association of the UK (MAUK)

Minutes of 2017 AGM

Welcome

1. The meeting commenced at 17:40. The Chair welcomed back the members and reminded the ground rules. Chair explained the Agenda and moved on to the report.

Report 2017

2. The Secretary presented the 2017 Director Board report to the floor and pointed out the huge increase in MAUK activities in 2017. Secretary expressed his gratitude to all those who have assisted in making 2017 a successful year for MAUK.
3. Members enquired if the Board has received any complaints. The Secretary explained that complaints were received following an altercation between two opposing players at Keralolsav football competition. The matter was settled after both parties decided not to take the matter further following meetings with MAUK chair and secretary.
4. The Director in charge of MAUK classes informed that an anonymous complaint was sent to Newham council accusing one of the teachers of misconduct. The director added that the council conducted their investigation and concluded that the accusations were vindictive and baseless. The Secretary explained that almost three months were consumed dealing with this unscrupulous allegation, but lessons were learnt from the incident. He informed that new safeguarding policies along with improved security measures were put in place as advised the council officers.

Annual Account 2017

5. The CFO presented the annual account and invited queries and response from the floor.
6. One member raised concern that in 2017 MAUK had not made much profit and that spending was usually high. Secretary pointed out that the turnover for 2017 is way much higher than in previous year. He added that the expenditure was high due to spending on health and safety upgrade to Kerala House including fire safety equipment, CCTV installation, office renovation, door entry system, etc. He explained that these upgrades had to be done to comply with legal requirements. He further explained that MAUK is a service orientated charity and not a profit-making company.
7. Some members highlighted that the accounts published on MAUK website and the one presented to the AGM were inconsistent. In light of this the AGM appointed Nash Rawther and Aloysius Mathew as internal auditors and suggested to convene a Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to approve the accounts once the internal auditors have audited the account.

Election of Officials

8. Secretary has informed the AGM that sitting officials Mr. Sudheer Vasudevan and Baldwin Simon informed that they will not be continuing as directors. He informed that 10 members have applied to join the Board. As there were over 10 vacancies to the Board, the following members were unanimously approved to the new Board of Directors: Anil Velu, Sherin Sathyaseelan, Jayan Pillai,

Anil Edavana, Nishar Viswanath, Ajikumar Velu, Mohandas Madhavanandan, Rajeswari Sadasivan, Puskas Vasu and Muralidharan Pillai.

Other Matters

9. An ex-director board member raised an allegation that MAUK teacher Vinodkumar Sukumaran has manipulated MAUK accounts for personal benefits. The Board denied such allegation and pointed to Vinod's terms of employment which was agreed at the start of his employment at MAUK. However, the Board informed that there was an outstanding debt of £7000 as overpaid salary which was carried forward from past years. The Chair informed that an agreement was in place with Vinod to pay back this amount on a monthly basis. It was further informed Vinod has agreed to repay £400 each month to clear that outstanding debts. The secretary added that the salary arrangements for Vinod has been in place for several years and nothing has change during the term of this Board. Directors who have served in previous Board also waded in to counter the accusation against Vinod. The floor agreed that any over payment in salary was the fault of the successive director board and that Vinod cannot be held accountable for the Board's failure.
10. The Floor has approved a request from the Secretary to allow the Board to recruit non-executive directors as advisors.
11. The Floor has instructed the new Board to restart a Women's Forum
12. A life member complained that MAUK officials have not made any attempt to offer support and help when her mother passed away. She further pointed out that MAUK representatives failed to visit her or send a sympathy message. The Chair apologised for this oversight and assured to take necessary measures to prevent this from happening again.
13. A member of MAUK complained about an altercation with the secretary at MAUK X-mas gathering. The secretary explained the situation and apologised. The member accepted the apology and the matter was laid to rest.
14. The AGM has decided that life membership of MAUK must be extended to the spouse of all current life members.

Vote of thanks

15. The Chairperson welcomed the new board members and thanked all the members for attending the AGM. The meeting concluded at 19:10