

Minutes of the 2023 AGM

Venue: Kerala House

Schedule time: 14.00

Meeting commenced: 14.30

Chaired by Anil Edavana

Minutes taken by Sreekumar Kunjuraman

Welcome & Chair's remarks

1. The Chair, Anil Edavana (AE), welcomed all members and apologised for the delayed start, which was due to the quorum not being met at the scheduled time. One minute silence was held to remember members who have departed since the previous AGM

Minutes of Previous AGM

1. The Secretary Sreejith Sreedharan (SS), read previous AGM and updated the members about matters mentioned in the minutes.
2. Member Edwin Rajan Thomas (ERT), attending via Zoom, complained that he wasn't given the opportunity to inspect the Kerala Projects accounts as stated in the minutes. AE explained that ERT was given the opportunity to meet with the CFO to inspect the account but it did not materialise due to gaps in communication. 12 October 2023 was fixed for ERT and meet the CFO for this purpose. ERT to communicate with CFO to arrange the time.
3. The AGM approved the 2022 AGM minutes; proposed by Raji Gangadharan and seconded by Jasline Antony.

Annual Report 2022

1. SS presented the annual report for 2022. He explained that the needs of the community are changing fast with there being an increase in calls coming from Malayalees for help with visa scams, accommodation, jobs, domestic abuse, mental health issues, etc.
2. Member Hari Bhaskaran stated that MAUK should be helping those who are in the UK, especially for elder services and assistance with HCI. He suggested more funds be used for services for 1st generation Malayalees in this country.
3. SS stated that MAUK continues to have a good relationship with the Indian High Commission even after the sad demise of Thekkemuri Haridas and paid homage to him.
4. Hari Bhaskaran asked about the progress of purchasing a community van. SS responded by stating priority was given to other major projects, and the ambition to purchase a van would be pursued.
5. Hari Baskaran also queried about sending money to charity in India. SS informed that MAUK is obliged to follow all Indian laws when sending money to India. We are paying directly the vendors and project leads.
6. Swayamabra Purushothman enquired about the lack of participation of young people in MAUK activities. SS stated that MAUK has pursued many plans to encourage young people to take up roles and participate in MAUK events without great success. He stated that the interests of the new generations are completely different and welcomed ideas to attract the new generation.
7. Ravi Unnithan stated the importance of having good communication with other organisations so dates of events do not clash. He also stated that money generated from donations should be spent on members, as

“charity begins at home”. SS informed any fund collected for a particular project must be spent for that project according to the Charity Commission regulations.

8. Dilip Gangadharan suggested that MAUK should look into purchasing a larger property which will hold at least 500 people and must have a car park. SS informed that the main issue is finding funds for such a large project. It was decided that a special committee will be set up under the guidance of Aji Gangadharan with experts and experienced members to conduct a feasibility study into this. The committee is to report back to the next AGM.
9. Sudha Das expressed her disappointment and asked why the Malayalam Library that was decided at the last AGM did not materialise. She stated that book lovers will contribute towards books and make small financial donations towards this cause.
10. Ravi Bhaskaran asked why we still have members paying £12 annually instead of £20. SS informed that the members who are paying £12 were contacted and requested to change the standing order to £20. He informed that members who are still paying only £12 will not get the full privilege.

Annual Accounts

1. CFO Aloysius Mathew presented the annual account and gave details of all income, expenses and notes
2. SS thanked the finance team and Hari Bhaskaran for auditing the account.
3. Member Edwin Rajan Thomas praised AM for presenting the annual accounts in detail. He raised concerns that some
4. projects are at a loss and requested to see the breakdown for the project TPM. SS explained that as a charity serving
5. the needs of our community, some projects will have to be conducted at a loss. He explained that MAUK many grants in the past year and the overall finance is in good shape.
6. Edwin Rajan Thomas also suggested more should be invested in training UK-based artists to perform at MAUK celebrations and focus less on artists from Kerala.
7. The account was approved by the AGM; proposed by Nihlas Rawter and seconded by Murali Pillai.

Elections

AE read out the nominations for the board; Suresh Unnithan, Priyavrathan Sathyavrathan, Rajeswary Sadasivan, Baiju Gopinathan, Aji gangadharan, Sreejith Sreedharan and Sreekumar Kunjuraman. The AGM unanimously approved the nominations.

Vote of Thanks

AE closed the meeting by thanking all members who attended. The meeting concluded at 16:30

