

Executive Committee Meeting

6th June 2017

Venue; Bedford Golf Club, Carnoustie Drive, Bedford

Meeting started; 19.05

Members present: Jas Parmar (JP), Eric Masih (EM), Kuldip Rupra (KR), Sukhpal Gill (SG), Majid Shabir (MS), Jagtar Singh (JS)

1. Apologise

Suki Thiarra (ST), Raj Chahal (RC)

2. Feedback on Seminar

The seminar was very important to find out how the uniform business rates are calculated and applied. Members asked questions regarding their properties. Mark Oakley, the council's business development manager gave an overview of the new developments / businesses that are coming into the borough. A letter of thanks was sent to the officers.

It was decided that the JP should contact Joe Testa to ensure that BABA representation at the council business meetings. A letter will be sent to the Mayor to ask for better relation.

3. Treasurer report

ST was unable to attend. East of Anglia Ambulance Trust have paid their sponsorship subs. The amount of money in the account is believed to be over £4000. Only outstanding amount is £150 owed by Bedford Indian Community for the awards night. JP brought to the committee's notice that this has been raised several times and BIC's Chair notified. In the absence of any response, it was decided that no further request be made to recover it and the amount left on the account as outstanding.

4. Chairman's report

JP and RC met the CEO and other senior officers of Harpur Trust who were keen to link up with BABA to promote and help the Asian community. A contact was made with an organisation called UPRISING to help BABA become a not for profit organisation and seek funding. It was decided that RC and KR to take this further.

JP (Director of NABA) was also invited to a dinner at The Lords Cricket Club organised by Maharashtrian organisation OMPEG. He was impressed by the energy and unity of a newly formed association. Some of its key members are based in MK and an invite will be sent to them to attend any future seminar.

JP, KR, MS, RC, ST attended a dinner organised by DV solicitors to celebrate 10 years in business.

JP also informed that although it was decided to request DV solicitors and Excel Accountants to attend the executive committee meeting with a view to be co-opted as executive committee members, however, in view of Ramadan, JP decided not to request their attendance on this occasion as the meeting was held in a licenced premises.

Committee agreed.

5. ACTION / REVIEW OF Plans for New Year 2017 /2018

Action from BABA meeting of February 2017

Some of the suggestions were as follows

- 1) Bedford Borough Council to talk to members about Business rates

DONE

- 2) Two social events a year

A cricket match between BABA and Premier Solicitors was discussed. JP, JS and ST to organise

- 3) Another Awards night with a different angle

It was decided that it will dilute the effort and emphasis should be on the next awards night in 2018. JP to find out about the venue

- 4) Bringing other speakers and existing/new corporate members to the seminars.

DV solicitors and Excel accountants will be asked to be the main speakers at the next seminar to be held in July (date tbc)

Moving the meetings to Monday night and at venue convenient to everyone with parking provisions.

Not discussed

6. Next meeting / seminar

Date, venue and subject to be confirmed after JP has contacted DV and Excel

7. Any other business

JP - A local Asian business magazine to communicate with the members to promote the businesses and BABA. Members felt that there is a need to communicate and JP to liaise with Buddhdev Pandya to see the financial viability and its potential impact.

The website still needs refreshing, it is being run and updated regularly, however, given the limited experience, it does require a professional approach to make it user friendly.

JS- Annual Charity Golf day will be held on 1st September at The Bedford Golf Club, Gt Denham and all members and friends are requested to play/ sponsor / attend during the day or evening.

MS- Use of social media like Facebook etc to promote BABA

Meeting closed at 8.50