

## **General Meeting**

29<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Venue; Grand Villas Bromham Road, Bedford

Meeting started; 19.07

Members present: Jas Parmar, Eric Masih, Kuldip Rupra, Sukhpal Gill, Suki Thiarra, Majid Shabir, Raj Chahal, Rashpal Singh. Gurpreet Singhota, Trevor Maxwell, Paul Cox

**1. Apologise**

Jagtar Singh, Piara Josen, Balwant Gill, Shalini Camiah

**2. Minutes of last meeting**

Members present acknowledged the receipt of the minutes of last meeting.

**3. Chairman's report**

Jas Parmar thanked the members of the association for their continued support. He spoke of the letter he had received from Cheryl Smart CEO Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce. An invite was sent to all members to comment. Raj Chahal and Majid Shabir sent their written response that the proposal for affiliate membership was not value for money and the benefits offered were available through Semlep and Velocity. A letter has been sent politely declining the offer.

21<sup>st</sup> CET had sent invoices relating to the River Festival 2014, it was agreed to pay them the £200.

I received an invite through NABA for a meeting with Rob Marris MP, shadow Treasury Secretary to give Asian business's prospective to formulate future Labour Party's financial strategy, unfortunately I am away to India and instead another member of NABA will be attending.

As discussed in the last meeting, I enquired with Corn Exchange and Kings House for availability of the Hall for Awards Dinner dance in 2016. The members decided to postpone it to another meeting.

**4. Treasurer's report**

Outstanding balance is £835.14 and an outstanding amount of £350 is being sent by Metro bank.

**5. Guest Speakers**

Trevor Maxwell, the new Director of NATWEST business banking gave an open and frank introduction to the business banking for SMEs. He emphasised that the NATWEST is open for business and is keen to lend. He mentioned change in banking culture where bonuses have been cancelled, the bank is customer friendly and offers loan without arrangement fees at competitive rates of interest. Members asked specific questions and both Majid and Trevor were frank in their replies.

The second guest Paul Cox was representing Lombard, an assets lending arm of RBS. He explained the role of Lombard and its relationship with NatWest and its lending criteria through the Retail Managers.

**6. Correspondance**

A written statement received from Jagtar Singh regarding the BABA member's involvement in community issues was read out.

Members commented of continued support for such issues where possible with the exception of anything religious or political.

Sadness was expressed at the outcome of the Conduit Road closure and agreed that there should be further cooperation and openness.

**7. Any other business**

None

**Meeting closed at 8.20**