

Executive Committee Meeting

10th October 2017

Venue; Bedford Golf Club, Carnoustie Drive, Bedford

Meeting started; 18.50

Members present: Jas Parmar (JP), Kuldip Rupra (KR), Jagtar Singh (JS), Raj Chahal (RC), Balbir Lall, Nicola Demelio(NatWest)

1. Apologise

Sukhpal Gill, Suki Thiarra, Eric Masih, Majid Shabir

2. Minutes of the meeting

Approved

3. Feedback of last Seminar

RC – Excel very good and informative dealing with tax issues concerning everyone and forthcoming changes.

DV was very specific to those affected by asbestos, good general information and awareness of the subject.

4. Chairman's report

Corn Exchange booked on 20th October 2018 for Awards Dinner

University of Bedfordshire approached by MS to seek support and funding. (Nicola updated on behalf of MS that they only fund registered charities)

NABA board has asked me to take over as Interim Chairman until the Association is reformed and relaunched in the very near future.

Attended BCABA Awards dinner with KR and SG, very glitzy and well organised. (KR-Many things to learn from and many things to be proud of our achievements)

5. Treasurer's report

No change from last report

6. BABA – Charity / Community Interest Group

After discussion it was decided that BABA should be registered as a Charity/limited company and a unanimous decision was taken that a payment of £500 be paid to RC upon completion of BABA registered with Charities Commission and Companies house. BABA has missed out on getting grants and support due to its status as an “association” and not a charity.

7. AOB

JP – Dilly Hussain has left DV Solicitors and has asked to be removed from the BABA executive. –**Agreed**

JP – Diwali function is organised at Shere Punjab Restaurant Amptill Road. **All are welcome to attend.**

KR – We should aim at our young business people to get involved. **RC to look in to it**

ND – NatWest is holding seminars for businesses every second Tuesday during office hours. Next event on 29th November deals with Employment and Tribunals and General Data Protection Regulation that will affect all businesses – **Will place that on Website.**

ND – NatWest would also like host a joint seminar in the New Year covering subjects like BUY vs RENT and Synergy Finance to talk about financing businesses. – **JP to contact Robinson Hall or others to come along.**

JS – Form an Awards task committee early next year to get the things moving smoothly. **Agreed**

JP – AGM early next year to hold elections to reform the committee. All Committee member to seek re-election. **JP – Notice will be sent out in December**

8. Next meeting

To be confirmed

Meeting closed at 19.45

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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

12. Next meeting / seminar

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

13. 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