

**KSIMC of LONDON, WOOD LANE, STANMORE, HA7 4LQ**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> JUNE, 2024,  
AT 10:30AM AT HUJJAT HAREFIELD, CHAPLIN HOUSE, WIDEWATER PLACE,  
HAREFIELD, UB9 6NS**

Due to a lack of quorum, the Hon Secretary, Akil Kanani, adjourned the meeting to 11:10AM on the same day

**1.Recitation from the Holy Quran and translation thereof**

1.1 Maytham Gulamhusein recited verses from the Holy Quran and the translation thereof

1.2 Akil Kanani thanked Maysam Gulamhusein for the lovely recitation.

1.3 Akil Kanani went through housekeeping rules and guidelines.

**2.Consider and approve the minutes of the previous AGM of 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2023**

2.1.1 Members were given a few minutes to go through the minutes which were displayed on the screen and available for download and advise the Chair for any corrections.

2.1.2 Faiyaz Nurmohamed - Page five, line two there's a spelling mistake of CoEJ.

2.1.3 Faiyaz Nurmohamed - Page four question one, instead of pace it should be page

2.1.4 A Member raised a question and Akil Kanani replied *Okay*, so I think that should say *"he's been kind enough to say that he hasn't"*. Okay, all right so what we'll do is at one so page 11,149-58, verify the word 160 days. Okay, we'll check the recording on that.

2.1.5 Faiyaz Nurmohamed - Page 17, question four, spelling of *Janmohamed* to be corrected

2.1.6 Faiyaz Nurmohamed - page 17, question four, it should say *'what I'm suggesting'*.

2.1.7 Akil Kanani – Will go through, and check recording,

2.1.8 Sabira Lakha – My name is spelt wrong and needs corrected. But much more importantly she was accepting the withdrawal of the resolutions on the basis that she had been assured by the President that he would be implementing resolutions without the resolutions being tabled and it was on that assurance that she had withdrawn the resolutions Akil replied and said the recording will be checked.

2.1.9 Faiyaz Nurmohamed – page 38, correct surname spelling *Nurmohamed*

2.1.10 Faiyaz Nurmohamed – page 39 and 40, to correct spelling of *Carpenders Park*

2.1.11 Faiyaz Nurmohamed – page 40 – correct spelling of *bury*.

2.1.12 Faiyaz Nurmohamed – page 40, it says can I ask you to present your resolution and then it says "no", so I don't know what that means. Akil Kanani replied that it should say *"now"*

2.1.13 – Faiyaz Nurmohamed commented that there are a few very tiny grammatical errors but we'd spend a lot of time if I went through all of them. Akil Kanani replied that we look at the main ones that change, if they change the way that the minutes are read.

2.1.14 Faiyaz Nurmohamed - page 44 change Richard Workshop to *Saturday Workshop*

2.1.15 Faiyaz Nurmohamed – page 44, change "it's not going the teachings of Islam Acai and the bait" to *"it's not going against the teachings of Islam and the Ahlul Bayt"*.

2.1.16 – Faiyaz Nurmohamed - page 45, what was said at the meeting where it says "when we used to be in Hammersmith, there was the height remember" Akil Kanani replied that the recording of the whole paragraph will be checked as Sakalain was not present

2.1.18 – Akil Kanani allowed 30 seconds for anyone else who has any issues with the recording of the AGM minutes of 4<sup>th</sup>, June 2023. There being no further corrections the minutes were approved, after being proposed by Arif Nurmohamed and seconded by Mohamedali Somji.

## **2.2 Matters arising therefrom**

**2.2.1** Faiyaz Nurmohamed asked if there was an update on the engagement of an internal auditor. Akil Kanani replied that there is no update on that matter.

**2.2.2** Faiyaz Nurmohamed – page 7 – asked if there was an update on the clarification from the parent body CoEJ or via the World Federation who the Ijaza holder is

**2.2.2.1** Sibtain Allibhai said from what he has been told, the question is that who is the Ijaza holder for khums that we are using to collect for Hujjat for that matter and the Ijaza holder is the WF president, Safderbhai Jaffer, being in that position of the presidency so I hope that answers your question.

**2.2.2.2** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - I think the original discussion at that time was about giving adequate or full information on the letterhead on and documents regarding the Ijaza holder and the charity, the World Federation. I think if you go back on the comments made by Musafirbhai, I think at a later point, I'm just asking the question I wasn't involved in this discussion but it set out in the minutes on page six so I just wanted to ask if there is an update. If there isn't then there isn't.

**2.2.2.3** Dr Munir Datto said that there was an update. This was discussed at the one of the World Federation meetings finding out, in fact the meeting that was held here last weekend and the Ijaza holder Safderbhai Jaffer as the President of the World Federation just like Ameenbhai Nasour is the Ijaza holder as the president of Africa Federation. So, when the term of the president ends the Ijaza then moves to the next President. So Safderbhai Jaffer is the Ijaza holder being the president of World Federation and this has been since Mulla's time

**2.2.2.4** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - my motion was successfully converted to a resolution and in the resolution, it said that you will report back to the general body in the next AGM.

Akil replied that the EC report he will give and provide an update then.

## **3. Consider and approve the minutes of the SGM on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**3.1** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - page four starts with the members, if you go down to my name, it says, I mean I'm not going to make any comments on the grammar, but before that it says "we just haven't been given the 21 days". That was said in that particular clause and I request the trustees, and I think you will increase our respect for you as trustees, if you would take what we are saying seriously. So, it's not flowing so I'm just commenting on that but I'm also trying to think you know what to replace that with because it's not giving.

**3.1.1** Akil Kanani - what I can do is whilst we're moving on, I'm happy for you for that sentence if you want to bring out a change sentence or revised sentence, I'm happy to take that from you or alternatively we look at the recording whichever way you are happier with it.

**3.1.2** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - just look at the recording.

**3.1.3** Akil Kanani - okay fine so page four. I fully agree check recording.

**3.2** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - If we could go to the next page at the bottom where Azad Kanani is. The next page where it starts with Mr. President at the top. The page after the page we just spoke about yeah

**3.2.1** Akil Kanani - That's page four. Page five says, yes, I do concur with the importance of having account circulated before.

**3.2.2** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - The one at the top where the page where it says Mr. President at the top.

**3.2.3** Akil Kanani - Okay page eight, thank you.

**3.2.4** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - So, there is at the bottom it says Azad Kanani? Correct? It says *Mr. President I request you and urge you again* so I guess that is material enough to warrant a change. I'm guessing so he's not present here to confirm

**3.2.4.1** Akil Kanani - We can check the recording but yeah, I think it says again rather than gain.

**3.2.5** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - Could I request you just to make an announcement to the general body regarding the material change in about which you and I spoke about. Many of us may not be aware that change has been implemented subsequently or more recently.

**3.2.5.1** Akil Kanani - So, if you see I have tracked the change there on page nine and I've also tracked it on page 10, and I think those were the three that you had emailed.

**3.2.6** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - Can I continue while everybody is like not bothered and not worried and wants to play a part, so I don't have the page number but one of the speakers at the time was Mustafa Walji, but it says Waji and I think it's important to get that like correct.

**3.2.6.1** Akil Kanani - that's page 11, spelling, Thank you. Any other corrections?

**3.2.7** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - Again, so don't have a page number but one of the speakers there is no name listed so I that's the observation I'm making, I don't have an answer for that though.

**3.2.7.1** Akil Kanani - Has it been bold that there's no name mentioned or is it No Name six? So, no name 6, page 20. We must see if on the recording if we can find this individual if we can't he'll be known as No Name six.

**3.2.8** Akil Kanani - Page 37 ladies' question. Anyone in the ladies remember if they said this?

**3.2.9** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - three four pages towards the end and it starts with Salim Hamir at top and ends with, well my name is stated there so I just wanted to make a correction there.

**3.2.9.1** Akil Kanani - I think this is page 57. This one here?

**3.2.9.2** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - Yes, that is incorrect so I just want to clear that up if I may.

**3.2.9.3** Akil Kanani - So that wasn't you?

**3.2.9.4** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - No, it was me, what I said in there is incorrect.

**3.2.9.5** Akil Kanani - page 57, so have you got the text of what you said or you want us to check the recording.

**3.2.9.6** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - I will give you the meaning that I intended in my statement at that time so I'm just reminding everybody that this is an unconstitutional meeting, and we should not really be passing resolutions in this sort of meeting full stop one and then I just wanted to make this point.

**3.2.10** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - Next page under Makbul Jaffer, the name seems to be incorrect on the second line, Hasad Kanani it says.

**3.2.10.1** Akil Kanani - So, this is Page 58, spelling should be Azad Kanani, thank you. We've got 58 59 60 and 61. Page nine, so it should be Harefield not hair field, thank you.

**3.2.11** Akil Kanani - On page 60, I can see that there is a spelling mistake. Any others on page 60?

**3.2.12** Lady - We at Hujjat have opted for VAT so that the treasury team is her.

**3.2.13** Akil Kanani - okay so same page 60. Sibtainbhai, do you remember what you meant there or what you said? I think it's here not her, let's check recording..

**3.2.14** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - In sort of the middle part of the document where one of the buildings it says one building is no gene house, I think that says should be Norgine house.

**3.2.14.1** Akil Kanani - You mean the spelling of Norgine, is this the one?

**3.2.14.2** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - So, it starts with we are taking it from someone on that page nor gene house needs a correction there because it says no gene house it's subsequent to that I think following pages

**3.2.14.3** Akil Kanani - I can't find where it says. Yes ladies? Someone ladies?

**3.2.14.4** Zainab Jaffer - page 60, where it says Altaf Daya.

**3.2.14.5** Lady - same page, where it says residential purposes whether in at the moment it says wither, it's just a spelling error. In the same paragraph, in the middle somewhere in the middle of that page exactly or under Altaf Daya, for residential purposes whether.

**3.2.14.6** Akil Kanani - Find it, thanks. It should be whether not wither. So, I found that one of no Gene that's actually page 33, spelling of Norgine and there's another place on page 40 as well

**3.2.15** Faiyaz Nurmohamed – on that same page, other than nor gene, Chaplin has been stated as Chaplain in in a couple of places.

**3.2.15.1** Akil Kanani - So, we'll correct the names of buildings. We'll do that on the entire document.

**3.2.16** There being no further corrections the minutes were approved after being proposed by Arif Nurmohamed and seconded by Shiraz

### **3.3 Matters arising therefrom**

**3.3.1.1** Faiyazbhai Nurmohamed – I think second last page about VAT. In Sibtainbhai's statement it says the VAT is recoverable since we have VAT registered but for the minutes, we will make sure that we have checked that. Can I have an update on that please?

**3.3.1.2** Akil Kanani - Okay, so VAT is only for Harefield we're not claiming any VAT for Stanmore. Are you happy with that the VAT is claimable on Harefield it's not claimable on Stanmore

**3.3.1.3** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - I'm ignorant about the VAT issues to do with two separate projects or two different addresses so I can't really, it's a specialist subject I think so I wouldn't know whether that process is correct or I don't know enough about it I can't comment either way.

**3.3.1.4** Akil Kanani – I have just stated what I've stated that this is what we have. The VAT is recoverable on Harefield, expenses I think but not on any expenses that are related to Hujjat Stanmore. That's my understanding.

**3.3.1.5** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - Is there any particular reason for that?

**3.3.1.6** Akil Kanani - So, the building has been opted in for tax at Harefield.

**3.3.1.7** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - So, can you select what you can opt into and what you can opt out of?

**3.3.1.8** Akil Kanani - Yes, you can.

**3.3.1.9** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - Okay, thank you.

### **4. Consider and approve the minutes of the EGM on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**4.1** Ali Ali - Page 13, thank you. and then Page 14, there is some grammar, I think on the second line, I said when he is a BF member of Hujjat which is separate from burial fund, not who is a separate doesn't make sense. And then the fifth line which start with that these transactions have been eliminated in consolidation, not consult. And then after that line there's Azad Kanani if you can bold it.

**4.1.1** Akil Kanani - I'll put that on a new paragraph.

**4.2** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - I don't have the page numbers as I said but it's probably about page five or six. It starts with the Constitution and ends with Mahmood Padhani, there are some errors on that page. if you go in the middle of that page, it's on the second line. It starts with what plans if any due to trustees, so that is a mistake which needs to be rectified but I wasn't there.

**4.2.1** Akil Kanani - Who was speaking? Azad Kanani? Yes. So let me just write that. Page six. Check recording of Azadbhai Kanani.

**4.3** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - Further down the same page, I think he meant the agenda item is for presentation and 'for adoption of' the accounts and instead of adaptation I think adoption.

**4.3.1** Akil Kanani - Okay any others?

**4.4** Akil Kanani - So, page 19 I think there's a spelling error of Dr Ali Hashim.

**4.5** – Zainab Jaffer - It says visual cost is higher due to more activities. I don't know it doesn't make sense, visual cost?

**4.5.1** Akil Kanani - Okay, we'll check the recording on page two? Page three, is it?

**4.5.2** Zainab Jaffer - Page three, next slide, paragraph. Ladies, it should be Zainab.

**4.6** Zainab Jaffer - The EGM minute is 17-11-2023 and then Akil Kanani, 17th November.

**4.6.1** Akil Kanani - Yeah, so it should be 2023 not 2024.

**4.7** There being no further corrections the minutes were approved after having been proposed by Zainab Jaffer and seconded by Arif Nurmohamed.

#### **4.8 Matters arising therefrom**

**4.8.1** There were no matters arising therefrom

### **5. Adopt the audited accounts of the Jamat for the previous financial year**

**5.1** Sibtain Allibhai - The agenda item number five is adopt the audited accounts for the Jamaat for the previous financial year. As you might know already that the audited accounts are not ready and we haven't heard back. We haven't received it back from the Auditors. Hence, these audited accounts will be presented in the next meeting when it will be called by the time we would have received it, present it to the members for any queries on that. Are there any questions on that?

**5.2** Akhtar Jaffer - Salam alaikum. Mr President without being disrespectful this is the second year running that the accounts have not been presented at the AGM. Last time we had to call a second meeting, and it seems like we'll have to be calling another meeting separately. Obviously, we can't wait till the AGM or the new committee coming in and the problem I see is that the new committee will probably then wash their hands fairly so that they don't know the answers to most of the questions because these are the minutes or these are the accounts handled by the committee before, notwithstanding that a reason for not, other than the queries is not back. What is the main reason for the accounts not being ready in time when the EC aware that they're going to be holding an AGM today and that this would be their last accountability?

**5.2.1** Sibtain Allibhai - You're 100% right and on behalf of the EC, I would like to put this on record as an apology to the members that as much as we have tried our utmost to make sure that the accounts are ready audited and come back to us ready for the AGM unfortunately it hasn't. The numbers that we have shared on the on the website is something that have all been agreed by the EC presented to the Auditors and we are still awaiting that audit back and there have been series of queries after queries which again for the purpose of minutes I would like to take this moment to appreciate the effort both of Mushtaq Kassam, our Treasurer and Ali Ali, our assistant Treasurer have put in sleepless nights, countless hours to make this possible but we haven't got it back from the auditor as yet.

**5.2.2** Akhtar Jaffer - Thank you. Am I right in understanding, therefore that the Auditors or the queries that are still pending to be clarified are not related to the numbers and more so on certain technical matters?

**5.2.3** Sibtain Allibhai - The queries have been flowing into the treasury team on the numbers and of course on the technical side as well so they both are being dealt with. And most of the queries relating to numbers have been resolved and returned to the Auditors. But once we have the full audit report from the Auditors then only, we can present it to the General body.

**5.2.4** – Akhtar Jaffer - My final question Mr. President would be when this is completed say in a month's time or so, how do we get the accountability and the account finalized? Because like I mentioned in my statement is that the answerability obviously is for the



previous Treasurer and it would be unfair or unjust on the incoming Treasurer to give a fair answer, although a Handover will take place but you can understand where I'm getting

**5.2.5** Sibtainbhai Allibhai - I understand, I completely understand the way things work and again you are much more experienced on this on these matters than me. It's that any new trustee that come in, take responsibility to everything that has happened in the past so good or bad, it's taken with it. So, whatever will be presented once the audit is ready to the members if there are good or bad, the new EC automatically takes ownership of that and that's how historically even when we came in office, we take on for whatever has happened in the past. Thank you.

**5.2.6** Gentleman - Just for the purpose of clarity, when we say previous financial year, we're talking about the year ended 2023? Correct? All right. So, my question here is looking at the financials that's been presented, the auditors have presented a qualified opinion so it seems like they have already reviewed the financials gone through all of the bases of the information and come up with an opinion. Now that is a massive concern especially as a charity getting a qualification and you know we are many of us are accountants here getting a qualified is quite well, to be honest person who's an accountant has not done his job and as a committee for us, as a charity having a qualified is massively concerning. Now as a chair, and I know the vice chair has got his own practice, from your perspective and on record. Would you consider that these financials are be qualified based on the opinion that the valuation was not completed and I want to understand why the valuation is not being completed. Is there any Covenant breach for not completing it is there anything that's going to because we have a massive if not mistaken clarify, 17 million loan debt on this property. How does that breach impact us, We don't to have a valuation done for the next committee in and there's a write down and suddenly you know as a committee, Community, we're stuck so any information on that? I would like also anyone from yourself or you on the vice or that because you know especially from the vice because he's an accountant to give us his opinion.

**5.2.7** Sibtain Allibhai - You're right. I'm not an accountant but as chair I will give you my view first of all for record the loan is 14 million not 17. And secondly when the Auditors have raised queries and those queries have been answered. Yes, they have written to us regarding the qualification, that qualification has not been approved by the EC. We have written back to the Auditors because the qualification according to them is based on the valuation side of it which is on a view that this property for example Harefield, where we are, is treated as an investment property whereas the property that we're in and we've written back to them to say this property is for our own use. When we were presenting this at the SGM in 2022 January at that stage also and since then and multiple times. We've made it abundantly clear to the members and everyone that we are buying, this not as an investment but for as for us to use. And of course we are slowly growing into it, so as this is being used for our own self and it is used as hence that is why there is, in our in my opinion, it is not required for valuation, just like we do not do valuation for Stanmore and hence Harefield is the same thing. We've bought this place for ourselves. Yes, we have tenants and yes we have income stream coming from it and yes we do need the income stream currently because we have a loan to pay off so we have written to them the Auditors to review their qualification remark and we are waiting for their response, for them to come back to us to say whether the qualification is justified or not. But the qualification is on our view that this property is not investment it is for our own use.

There is no Covenant breach from Co-op, it does not say anywhere whether you buying this for investment or you are buying this for use. We have bought this property, they are interested in ensuring that their interest is being paid month on month, and even if there is even if there is a breach of ratio in the borrowing, they have written to us not once but twice to say that we see that that ratio is out because obviously we've bought this place with a

view that the tenants will slowly leave and we will then fund raise to pay off the loan that is the whole intention. So, the 14 million loan as we've been saying from the outset is a loan that we have for three years. In three years', time, in an Ideal World, we have to raise 14 million to pay off Co-op and then to start utilizing this place for ourselves fully. So, the co-op has said that even that though your ratio is out, even if one tenant leaves your ratio is out, but they've said that as long as we are paying their interest, they have no other reason to do it take any further action.

**5.3** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - I will concur with what Akhtarbhai Jaffer said few minutes ago, I'm concerned and disappointed with the current EC because this is a replication what happened with the 2022 accounts, I don't think you have any reason to be this and presenting draft accounts at the AGM, so that's my first comment.

Second comment is that the auditors have been selected by you Gerald Edelman and I'm sure they are competent Auditors and from your answers it seems you are questioning and suspecting their competency because they have qualified the audit report. Now, that is something that concerns me greatly because I can also see in the accounts that new Auditors are going to be proposed. So, my point that I want to by translation, and I'm happy to be corrected, is that because the Auditors have not done what you want them to do I have qualified the report. When you did not want this report to be qualified you are proposing a change so that's my comment. I'm happy to be corrected.

My other point is that what is your reason for not doing the valuation in order to remove the qualification, We have adequate time to do the valuation so I hope that there is no ulterior motive in refusing to do a valuation surely the auditor is regulated they have to comply with the rules and if they want an valuation done in order to not qualify the report, please enlighten me thank you

**5.3.1** Sibtain Allibhai - So just as I mentioned before as well I'm not an accountant but I will try to answer. First of all your first point is about presenting as I said because the accounts are not audited we are not even presenting this for today, so we're not presenting. And I think the last AGM it was a same thing. The members from the floor raised this point that if the accounts are not audited there's no point presenting. It will be presented the next meeting so that's one

Secondly the new Auditors are not resigning or leaving because of us as you put it unhappy that you are qualifying it and all of there's nothing of that sort. I will let maybe Sajjadbhai or Mushtakbhai by answer that why they're leaving but it is certainly nothing to do with the that we're not happy with how they have audited and I have no, I'm not saying by any means that I am challenging their operating how they would operate and all of that there's nothing like that. They have given a view we have given them our view because we know why we are at Harefield what have we bought it for so we've given our views on that and we are waiting to hear if they come back to us to say that no as per accounting practice. this has to be treated as an investment and then if we feel that there is no other way around but we will value it the reason. Why we are not valuing this first of all in summer of 2022 we have a valuation of B&P Paribar which I have shared in the past as well and that clearly says that and it's very important to understand that the value of Hujjat Harefield in the existing form of the tenants that sit with it is at 33 million. The same with no tenants is valued less and we are clearly of this view that when we start occupying this place there will not be all these tenants around, there may be some element of tenants because we will need some level of income coming our way but not all. So the members should understand if you say the value of the property is going to be less if there lesser tenants so we know that but valuation is not relevant because this place is for our own use we didn't buy to sell, we didn't buy to make income out of it. We've bought this for our own self; we are waiting for the 14 million loan to get paid off. We are waiting for then the tenants to leave, we are waiting for the change of use to come in place for so that we can start occupying this place, so that is there is no ulterior motive. The

plan is very clear that we are going to utilize this place. And also, valuation comes at a price and the money is not coming from my pocket or your pocket, it is the Jamaat's money and the valuation cost can be anywhere between £13 to £18,000 to Value this. Now, if there is a requirement then most certainly, we will spend that money but if the requirement is not there as per accounting practice that the property that you have using for yourself requires a valuation then there is no need for valuing because you will be just spending that money to Value it at a lesser or a higher price but achieving what? Achieving nothing because this property according to us it is for our own use so there's no requirement for valuation, hence summarizing once the auditor reports back to the EC, we will then take a view and if there is need we will it and if there is no need we won't.

**5.3.2 Faiyaz Nurmohamed** - Okay, just responding to your answer. So, you can do a cheaper valuation because I'm not an auditor. I'm an accountant but I got 35 years' experience. The balance sheet should as at 31st December 23 reflect the asset value as determined by the various accounting rules that are there, the SOPs or whatever they may be called now. So, why is that such a problem? Because you're saying the circumstances are different now but eventually, we will occupy the whole place so I don't agree that because we are predicting the future I personally think that Harefield is going to weigh down on the charity, there are many unknowns, there are many question marks, it's a vague investment. So I personally think that it is not a done thing that we will migrate to Harefield in full so as at 31st December 23, shouldn't the asset be valued so that it's shown as at its valuation and not its cost number one

number two a Charity would not look right in front of external Regulators when it has a qualified Auditor's report, number one. Number two the bank when it sees a qualified audit report, will start getting nervous and maybe you know covenants may be breached and I don't know what these covenants are but I'm saying you don't want to upset the bank and the bank get concern is to the higher risk that the customer is now showing so these are alarm bells for the charity and it is in my best interest to recommend request the EC who are trustees and have got very important responsibilities to be please not take chances, not in my name, not in anybody's name here, thank you.

**5.3.3 Sibtain Alibhai** - Thank you. Your opinion has been noted.

**5.4 Aii Ali** - I thought that I'll come to the mic and speak in front of you so that everybody can see me and hear me clear and loud my name is Ali Ali and I'm the outgoing assistant Treasure. I was involved in these accounts in preparation and liaising with the Auditors. Now, there has been a question that these accounts are not being presented in second year in a row and I feel like that that has been a personal attack on me that is why I have come in front to answer this question. So there are several reasons as to why we don't have signed audited accounts from the Auditors, today I'm going to list them, state them and explain them. The first reason I have is that our bookkeeper went on sick leave around the middle third week of January and he had only completed the bookkeeping work until end of November. We could not find a replacement to come and do the rest of the work we advertised for a bookkeeper. We put out a notice on the website if anybody remembers record and we had some CVS coming through, but we did not sift through the CVs and choose a person to come and help us do the work. We then eventually decided to ask a previous bookkeeper, Azadbhai Govani, to come and help us out and he did a lot of work which we asked him to do so that was one. The second thing is I asked all the Bujus, well in advance to give me the accounts by end of February. The last Buju gave me the accounts on 30<sup>th</sup> March. IT Department, without telling anyone, not one EC member was involved but without informing us as a treasury decided to shift the IT system from in-house server based to cloud based. In the transferring of systems our Sage system got corrupted, we could not access sage. It took three days of my Easter weekend, 29, 30 and 31 of March to sort this problem out. The following weekend, finally I managed to complete the accounts I spent that



day, Sunday, from morning at my house, then at 11:00 I went to my office because I had to see someone, after that at 12:15 I started again until 9:30 at night. Without having lunch without having dinner, I then completed the accounts and in our next meeting, which was on 16th April, EC meeting, we approved the accounts and on 17th April the accounts were sent to the Auditors. Now, we knew from day one when the notice must go out, when the AGM date is, we knew well in advance. However, the Auditors we have chosen are the top 50 firm in the city. They have got plans well in advance, if you miss the date, you are back in the queue, they do not care who you are. Also, the fees we pay them is peanuts. According to the standard they are at top 50 firm. We are paying 1/3. If we paid them 15,000 then yes, they would give us some more time but we are paying them 5,000 so there, they are not a priority, we are not a priority. To them so this is why the accounts cannot be presented today. One thing which I would like to correct Mr. President is that the accounts were approved by the qualification was approved by EC we could have got the audited account signed today with qualified report but unfortunately one of the EC members decided to write an email to the Auditors asking them to change the investment property to tangible fixed asset. So how do you expect a top 50 firm, you are emailing them on Wednesday evening, afternoon to turn around in two days and take your view and amend the accounts and change it to tangible fixed asset and give you an unqualified opinion. It doesn't happen. I hope I've answered your questions.

**5.4.1 – Sibtainbhai Allibhai** - Thank you very much for clarifying for everyone. Once again, can I request everyone for a loud Salawat for Mushtaq bhai Kassam and Alibhai for all the work that they've done to get to this point please, salawat. I have requested, most of you are familiar with brother Asgar Sultan, he used to be a partner with the auditor that we use and I have requested him to come today and give us an insight the technical side of all this audit and valuation all of that so you can hear it from an independent person outside the EC which will probably makes more sense than you listening to me so if I can please request Asgar Bhai to come and present please.

**5.5 Asgar Sultan** - Just to clarify that I'm not presenting any views from the Auditors. I used to be with them for a long time as a partner there but I left them last year, I continued being a consultant with them until this year and I've been heavily involved in being liaison between the Auditors and the EC or the treasury team. With regard to the investment property I thought that it will just be best that to clarify the position because a lot of arguments can be made either way when it comes to the classification of the property that is here and the contentious issue in the financial statements. So, the first thing that goes is that it was an investment property itself, an investment property is a property that is acquired by the owner with a view of generating rental income or a capital appreciation, that's the main definition. However, if the property is owner occupied that cannot be classified as an investment property. The issue that we have got here is that what about if there's partial ownership where you have got partly a property is used for renting out and generating rental income and the other part you are using it yourself. So, for example if we see Stanmore Hujjat, you utilize most of that property where you've got Tax shops which are generating your rental income and you've got Saturday Workshop probably that probably generates your rental probably I don't know when it's for free but imagine if it was. Then the question that comes is that if the substantial part of that property is being owner used then you cannot classify it as an investment property. The standard itself is very quiet on the owner occupation apart from saying that if you have got a property like this one here and partly is being occupied by yourself and the other part is being as an investment property. If you can distinguish those two parts clearly then you have got to classify partly as investment property and the other part is your tangible fixed assets. However, the question that comes is what is the intention at the outset. Now like Sibtainbhai has said that your intention from the outset was that this property was going to be occupied by yourselves and being used for charitable purposes. If

that was the intention from the beginning and that is what the intention is then. It can be argued that the property that is here should be classified as a tangible fixed asset as opposed to investment property. Now if you were to do that, then last year's accounts will have to be restated whereby you are simply moving the investment property element into property plant equipment. That's a technical what but there a tangible fixed asset. You have to remember one thing is that an investment property that is not generating rental income or anything like that you cannot classify it as an investment property. If the income is being generated, just like here the way it is but the intention is key, that it's only coming in, for example, just to pay for the interest and stuff it can be argued that is not an investment property because you are not holding it for an increase in value to resell or your intention is not that this is going to be your foreseeable future activity rather than your own use. There are certain classification where investment property is not required but I don't think that is relevant for us here today mixed property use. As I said if you can distinguish it clearly the way now I'm just giving my opinion now so far, I've been just saying exactly what is in the standard but mixed use for example for Harefield here, you'll find it very difficult to distinguish because as an Islamic charity, anybody who is occupying here I don't think you're are going to get a proper fair value my opinion but I stand to be corrected based on other opinion. So if there is that kind of contentious that fair value cannot be obtained then the property can be classified as a tangible fixed asset as opposed to an investment property, Now the valuation of the property if the property is an investment property then the requirement is that it has to be presented in the accounts at fair value every year that is it has to be revalued every year. There is no requirement in the standard that the valuation has got to be done by an external person, it can be done by the directors if it's limited company or by the trustees of the charity, provided they have got sufficient knowledge and experience in that field and be able to justify their valuation. However, the Charities accounting, adopted accounting policy which is in the accounts you have locked yourself in by saying that all your investment properties at balance sheet date should be revalued by a third party independent, third-party valuer, so as a result the trustee valuation will not hold right here because of the accounting policy that you have. Should the trustees decide that the property, the intention is certainly to be used for charity purposes and investment property just to be something that has come up which is paying and what I understand is that tenants are leaving or have left you can argue again that this this property is not really an investment property but it's a tangible fixed asset. If you were to decide to do that then, the standard is telling you that where the property no longer meets the definition of all the criteria of investment property the deemed cost for subsequent accounting as that should be moved will be whatever the fair value is of the moment which is 33 million 33.5 33.1 million, will have to be moved from investment property recognized as a tangible fixed asset after that there is no such thing as fair value or any kind of revaluation but depreciation will come in whereby the property will have to be depreciated each year over the life you know over 100 years or 50 years whatever that may be. I think that probably summarizes. I hope it's clear and then now the trustees can decide the accounting policy to adopt so that the property can be moved. If it was to be moved then it will have to be at restatement of last year's accounts and if for example the devaluation is good to be done then that will be reflected whatever it is in these financial statements, thank you.

**5.5.1** Sibtain Allibhai - Thank you, really appreciate Asgerbhai for your insight, I'm sure it's been helpful.

**5.6** Akhtar Jaffer - Thank you Mr. President. Since the last time I wanted to say something the couple of developments have happened. First and foremost, of, there are four things that I'd like to do because I can appreciate namaz time is very close. We as members are in no doubt that this was going to be used as a community center eventually and provide service to the community at a larger scale than what is currently being provided in Stanmore. So, then we go to part one where we don't need to get a valuation done because it's eventually

going to become a community property and we are all fully aware that the tenants were not going to be there permanently, they were going to leave in the period of 2 to 3 years. Number one, my question is though there is some element of investment planned in the future of Housing and how does that play with the current situation, so do we go back to needing it to be revalued or we can have a period of because it is currently being utilized as a community services place it remains without requiring revaluation and then when it comes to, we decide at some point in the future to invest to build flats which was what was one of the things that that was discussed originally with the purchase of this project so that would probably require clarification on that, number one. Number two, like previously we need to have a timeline of when we can have these audited accounts and the commitment of having general meeting, I think it's called an EGM to finalize these accounts and not wait till the next AGM. Number three, with all due respect to the previous trustees and treasurers sorry, being charged a certain amount was agreed by both parties to be thought as I don't think Gerald Edelman would think us any less as a client if they decide to charge us a third of the fee, I'm sure that was agreed by both parties so we can't use that as an excuse to be treated the way we have been or not have been treated whatever the excuse may be. So most importantly can we have an agreement before we finalize here on a date of when the audited accounts can be presented to the general body and we can have a date of the meeting, thank you.

**5.6.1** Sibtain Alibhai - Thank you, Akhtar bhai. Quickly responding on all your three points, again I'm not fully familiar but Sajjadbhai can correct me if I'm wrong, the substantial subsidy on the fees that we have, Asgar bhai has a key role to play in that as a community member has requested and this has been going historically in the past care to give us a discounted fees and we've enjoyed that relationship with them but unfortunately at this fees they do not wish to continue so we as the EC or the new incoming EC will have to make a decision whether we continue with them at a revised fees or we go with another auditor so that is something for the new EC to review and present to the members for approval, in any case that's number one. Number two, you say that we don't want to wait for one year for the accounts to be presented. I don't think this happened last time as well as much as we missed the last year accounts on the June date, we did call in EGM as soon as the accounts are ready presented got it approved in all of that and I think I would expect the same thing to happen again as soon as we have the audited accounts to the treasury and to the EC, they will call an EGM. I can't agree that we call the EGM on let's say 1st of August because I don't know when I'm going to get the accounts obviously our intention is we have a deadline 31<sup>st</sup> October. So obviously we're not going to go all the way I'm as we are as Ali also mentioned and as I also mentioned, the numbers are all generally principally being accepted, it's just this little bit of a technically side needs to be resolved so hopefully I would give it a guess maybe few weeks, we should have the audited accounts back and once that is done, the notice will be given, fair notice and then will be presented and approved your point. About housing, I don't want to comment on that housing is definitely a part of the plan for Hujjat Harefield and the building that you're sitting in is most likely become apartments for our senior members and those who wish to take on what how we will reflect at that stage, I think I will leave it for the next EC to decide when we get to that because we're not there yet, for now the site is for our use. I hope that answers your question.

**5.7** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - I want to firstly thank Asgar bai Sultan for the talk he just gave it was very useful information and for his services to this community in obtaining the subsidy on the auditor's fees that's first thing. Second thing is the description of what is an investment asset and what is a non-investment asset or tangible asset, I wanted to ask that because out of the three buildings, one building is occupied by WF. How does that affect or whether it doesn't affect the classification of what is an investment property or what is a tangible property perhaps you can enlighten me, thank you!

**5.8** Sibtain Allibhai - Can we take some more questions please and then I'll come back on that.

**5.9** Gulamhusein Sumar - I meant to speak much earlier but I think we should try and give those who have already spoken, second third chance a bit later so the others can speak because we are here on point number five to adopt the audited accounts which isn't here. The other discussions which is going around healthy as they are but there are matters arising from the adoption so if we don't have those figures and numbers, I think it's unwise that we are because the same thing will be discussed when those adopted accounts will appear so let's just go away from that. Second thing our Treasurer Ali, by very nice assistant treasurer assistant, I'm sorry. He went through 6, 8, 10 points, those are the points that he should have addressed to you guys so it is solved and not for us to hear. Of course, we feel pity the way things are going, IT people removed, we became sick there was nobody to do that but we are a mature and professional organization under charity, this shouldn't just happen. He is right to tell us but this is not our baby to solve, it's yours, the buck stops at you Mr.Chairman. Thirdly, if you are paying peanuts, I think I don't want to hear that we have agreed we have a contract, so I hope in the next Auditors we don't make that mistake and let's get the figures in time and the correct one and finally. With due respect president, you have mentioned again and again and again, I'm not account an accountant and that I appreciate that but you are our president, and it doesn't matter if you're not a lawyer, not an accountant, a doctor that you have to make sure things just are delivered. Thank you very much.

**5.9.1** Sibtain Allibhai - Thank you. it's heading to namaz time so I will just quickly answer Faiyaz bhai and your Sumar bhai on that. Faiyaz bhai, the view on WF house is it is leased out at zero value to WF house so I don't see that as being classified as an investment, it is just treated and WF house also has given us full utility of their building on the ground and the second floor and as you can see we've facilitated with SJ to be used as an SJ clubhouse as well, so it's not an investment it is for our own use. To your point is correct and if you remember when I started I did say that the adoption the accounts are not there so there's nothing to talk about it but it was only fair that I give opportunity for people who want to speak certain things but you're right all these questions will come back again when the accounts will be presented. And just on your last point is that yes I did mention about me not being an accountant and hence I did not pass my responsibility to the accountant sittings on my left and right and I did say because as you mentioned the buck stops at me and I take full responsibility of that and we have had multiple discussions on and that's why I'm presenting but thank you for raising that point and sorry I'm going to pass it on the secretary to continue from here.

**5.10** Akil Kanani - Thank you very much. So we are now going to move to agenda item six after Salah. Salah arrangements to my right here okay, washrooms are just behind on the left so we will try and convene at 2 p.m. after Salah. There are some lunch arrangements so we can try and wrap up quickly so that we can get back to the agenda we're only on point six we have up to 14 to go so 2 p.m. we will reconvene. here are bathrooms on the first

## **LUNCH BREAK**

**5.11** Akil Kanani - Brothers and sisters those who have yet registered, please go and register yourselves at the desks in the gents and at the back in the ladies. If you've registered you should get some voting slips. We will give some time afterwards to also go and register but please can we at least get seated so we can commence. Just before we proceed can I just say thank you to the volunteers who have served, who have been here right from the beginning who have arranged the facilities, who have served us lunch who will continue

serving us until we finish this meeting. Both in the ladies and the gents can we have one loud salawat for them.

**5.12** Akil Kanani - Just a point of correction before we move on to point number six so there was a mention that the qualified report was uploaded on the website following an EC meeting. Just a point of correction, the qualified report that was uploaded on the website was done without approval of an EC meeting, it was done on the day that it was received by the office bearers and it was uploaded on the website. I'm not taking any, it's just a correction. We're moving on to agenda item number six. No, there's no discussion, we've moved forward I'm just making a correction. Can we get the mic to Akhtar bhai

**5.13** Akhtar Jaffer - With all due respect to the honorary secretary Mr. President, we have to discuss avoiding this from happening again. That is the most important point, we can't just roll over. It is a very critical piece of information that went out to public, Alhamdulillah. Members of the community fine, you can understand and explain here but if this same thing was done outside, it and this is done by if I'm not mistaken by an officer of a trustee of the EC so there must be some deliberation on this issue of how do we avoid such happenings in the future. Thank you!

**5.13.1** Akil Kanani - Point taken, thank you. We move on to point six which is the Jamaat report so I'll ask Sibtainbhai to give an update on the Hujjat refurbishment and Harefield and then I will also continue with further details on the EC report.

## **6. Receive the report of the Executive Committee on the Jamaat's activities since the previous AGM**

**6.1** Sibtainbhai Allibhai – Bismillahirrahmaanirraheem. Dear members of the community, I'm actually delighted to see so many of us here at Hujjat Harefield and not just members to see so many Sheikhs here, MashaAllah. Our religious scholars all under one roof, I pray that this roof can support the blessings that we have from the Sheikh, Masha'Allah and Ladies of course. This also is a record in the making to have so many participants at the AGM and as they say, if you build, they will come so I'm sure there is Baraka of Harefield that brings all these people here and to add to this Baraka what other and as you may have also seen some beautiful frames on the wall which I'm sure you all must have appreciated and that takes our heart and our mind. And just to make this gathering even more spiritual I thought let's just talk about the Maula of all maula Imam Ali where the poet says, poem recited in Urdu. So, I have been given the task to give you a quick update on Stanmore refurb and Hujjat Harefield but I think as the outgoing president I feel it is my duty, I'm not sure when I'm going to get this opportunity and this crowd again to first of all thank Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala to have given me and my team the opportunity to serve this lovely community. Secondly, I want to thank my entire executive committee team who have worked tirelessly in these last two years, it's been a roller coaster. We've gone through a lot together. There have been meetings and endless hours that spent but we've all come together to deliver whatever we were set out to do in the last two years and I'm sure I'm not fishing for compliments here but I am just wanting to put on record that Alhamdulillah only because of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala we have been able to achieve which Hujjat has been wanting to for over a decade. Besides that, I want to thank the volunteers in all capacities, the car park volunteers, the main hall volunteers, the lady's volunteers of course, the burial volunteers, the AV volunteers, from the kitchen, volunteers that work in every Buju. These are the backbones of our community and through them we are able to deliver. I also want to thank and acknowledge the staff that we have who work tirelessly and deliver more than they are set out to make Hujjat continue running, as we should. And for example, one of the comments that was raised which was very valid, we have shortcomings within our system, that is true. We have lack of volunteering within the community, that is true. Members are not



coming forward the volunteering spirit. I'm ashamed but it is the reality, the volunteering spirit in our community is dying. We collectively have a responsibility to bring it back to life where I hear 15, 20 years ago so much of volunteer things were done on voluntary basis are now most of them are on paid basis. So, it is something for us as members because tomorrow I will be sitting there, there will be new team sitting here. We as members of this community have to bring life back into this community, bring unity in this community bring Brotherhood and love in this community because what we don't want is that we get fragmented and we lose the vision and the Constitution that we are set out to that one day, InshaAllah, hopefully in our lifetime when the Imam comes we hand over the keys of Hujjat and to say that we took care of it to the best of our interest and here are all of us ready to serve under his leadership. Coming back to Stanmore. I just want to say that it has been an extremely difficult process to go through the entire insurance claim, to go through selecting the contractors, to making sure that the work is done it and I know all of you or at least most of you, appreciate that it is a lot of work to make those decisions on a day-to-day basis. Should we colour the wall white or yellow? Should we get this lift or that lift? What goes where there is a lot of thought that has gone behind in refurbishing Stanmore. It's not just like to like but we have improved in a lot of respect and you all will appreciate when you go to Stanmore to see that what we have done is while we are there we are as comfortable as possible. Remember we've gone through COVID, remember people have lost interest in coming to the mosque and this is a responsibility of the EC and of course all of us to make sure that members come back and one reason one way of attracting them is to bring them to a centre which is pleasing to the eyes, which has facilities that really are required by the community. So, we have done our utmost, Alhamdulillah, the way we are progressing, the target is and I hope we are able to deliver that come first of Muharram, InshaAllah the ground and the first and the second floor should well be completed so that we can do the Azadari of Aba Abdillah in as comfortable environment as possible. Coming Hujjat Harefield, as you know this is my favourite subject, Hujjat Harefield from the moment of the SGM of 15th March 2022 to where we are today, it has been a long journey. We have gone through a lot of back and forth and again World Federation has played a critical role in making sure that we are able to enjoy the fruits of this building. Without their support, without the funds that they gave, this would have been impossible and in return of that all they have said is that the building on my right, which is now called The World Federation house, they have paid for that building and on top of that they have given Hujjat, the use of that building so the ground floor is entirely for us to use. We are working on couple of options, unfortunately we couldn't complete in this term but insha'Allah the next team will continue that and hopefully utilize that for the benefit of Hujjat the second floor is already being used by members of this community under the SJ Clubhouse which is also something that we should be super proud of that SJ has now its own clubhouse where members can come meet, play, socialize and benefit from this. And this is also been a dream come true for our community to have our own clubhouse. One thing which is very clear and we were aware of this at the outset is the tenants that are here are not here forever they will all leave in stages and that has already started, Hence I mentioned this that it is absolutely important for us as members to come together to raise the loan amount to pay off the loan so that we can move forward because if there is any hurdle that currently holds us to delivering on our vision and progress is this loan because for as long as there is loan, you cannot even if you want, you can't let go of the tenants because you need the income to pay off interest. So, it is it is a collective responsibility of all of our members to come together and of course the EC will lead this and how we're going to fundraise and there are some brilliant ideas around which will come forward when they take office of how we going to raise the money. But the idea is to raise these funds so that we are able to start utilizing the space we have started utilizing as you may have been aware in the last two years we have done multiple events from meetings as

this to all our EC meetings to an Eid get together, to our state-of-the-art co-working space FUTR which I will encourage all of you who still haven't seen because I see some faces who I think are here for the first time at Hujjat Harefield. And if you are here for the first time please do take a walk around, it's a beautiful weather out there, see the 6.3 Acres, see the potential this site has go upstairs to FUTR so you see what we have developed and how we as members are going to utilize that. The last point on the update on Harefield is that we have submitted the change of use, under Class E for which we have there is a vast variety of things that we are able to do but one thing that we need a change of views of is for us to hold our Majalis and our Salah, for that we need to have change of use for which we have already applied to the council, we are in conversation with the council. The planning consultants have been so far very positive and we expect to have a meeting with the council insha'Allah, in this month and for some positive outcome from that so I will request all of you to please remember Hujjat Harefield in your duas so that we are successful in this change of use so that we can start utilizing this place for the core purpose which we have bought, which is to use it for our community centre majalis, namaz and everything else, I will pass it on now to Akil Bai for the remaining reports please.

**6.2** Akil Kanani - Thank you Sibtainbhai. The EC report for 2023 to 2024 highlighting the activities, so the EC report for the year 23-24 was circulated in the AGM pack, again a vote of thanks to all Hujjat staff and volunteers which Sibtainbhai has kindly mentioned. I'm just going to bring up the Hujjat EC report, again those of you who've had time to read it, this is an EC report from all the Bujus, of exactly where you know what the bujus and the sub-committees have been up to. A brief in terms of Harefield, we've looked at planning The Journey Beyond FUTR which has been mentioned religious affairs under the guidance of the resident Alim and the Alima, so all the activities have been mentioned. We've done WhatsApp last year, we now have nearly 3,000 contacts. We've made some website improvements, there's a report from the ladies Committee in the events that they've had so very active lots of activities, burial fund report has also been included. Darul Quran has given a report of their activities. Hujjat Saturday Workshop, Hujjat Bookshop. Reciters committee, you can see the forthcoming speakers on the screen. We're looking at this report here, that's available in the AGM. So just to give you back to where the contents were, so these were the reports that we have received, Harefield, FUTR, Hujjat refurbishment, religious affairs, marketing and then we had the ladies committee report, burial fund, Dar al Quran, Saturday Workshop, Hujjat Bookshop, reciters committee. The past recent speakers and the future speakers have been listed there the madrasa has provided an extensive report which, Hujjat dementia support and they hold monthly sessions, Al Hadi youth and their activities they've summarized, Islamic Montessori School. Lots of activities and they have over 52 children at the moment so that's really encouraging. Annex girls, again their activities and their programs, Lady senior citizens again, Helping Hands and that's the final report. You can view this and then we can take some questions at the end if I just go back to my slide here some of the statistics that we have there, 75 new member applications, burials, 28 of which were Khoja, 99 of which were non-Khoja, we officiated nine Nikkahs and there were 31 engagements. So, I open the floor for any points, questions, queries. If they are directed specifically to our Buju subcommittee. If we have the representatives here then we can answer, if we don't have the representatives then I'll take those questions and perhaps can let you know. If I can't answer then they'll I'm sure they'll be able to answer directly. So, I can see Akhtar bhai is number one, Muhammad number two. So, we'll start with that, thank you very much!

**6.3** Akhtar Jaffer - Coming back to the president report on Hujjat Harefield, I just wanted clarification on, remember we met as a Jamaat to be able to raise 750,000 pounds to be able to start on the flats across if I'm not mistaken at WF they had to come here and that never transpired but I don't think as members we were given the clear picture of what exactly

happened post the original AGM where we sanctioned the 750 spend to do this project and where it stands now, thank you!

**6.4** Akil Kanani - Yeah okay, we'll take a couple more questions and then we'll answer.

**6.5** Muhammad Damji - I have several questions, should I go one by one? Mr. Chairman, first, I'd like to take this moment to appreciate all the hard work and time and effort you've put in. I know in many opportunities of conversation we don't take the opportunity to say thank you and we only do it in places like this and I think it's important that we do, that despite all the discussions around the community it's clear from this report and yours that you've put in a lot of effort as we can see with sincerity and the community has made a lot of progress over the last two years. I recognize particularly that you went through a difficult phase during covid, taking on the presidency from the previous president and then staying on to support the community in that transition and I want to take a moment to appreciate you further and your determination to go through that process and bringing the community into a phase now where, Alhamdulillah, you know attendance at this AGM is a representation of how engaged everyone is and insha'Allah as per your speech, we can encourage more volunteering and we take these learnings from you and we take inspiration from you, insha'Allah, so thank you. It's been almost 8 weeks now, is there any specific updates on when that meeting will happen? And also, can you outline for us what the next steps are so that we can sort of keep track of it as a community and we know what to expect the timelines are around preapp and then the full application on planning. Can you also share some guidance on who is part of the planning team and who are the appointed external Consultants? That would be useful for us to know. My second question is around FUTR on page six and I'm just cross referencing on the budget because I know the accounts weren't gone through today but I believe the budget that was passed for FUTR was £100,000 expense, so we had passed £1.5 million expenses for planning and £100,000 for FUTR. I noted that the expense on FUTR was £183,000, so can we get some clarity, why the expenditure was more than the approved budget and whether that was run by the general body or decision made by the EC and is that something we took on as a deficit or were we able to collect donations for that? And, from the £1.5 million budget of the planning, how much of that has been spent already? Would be useful to know. My third question is for page seven, on religious Affairs and I think it would just be useful as a community for us to know. This is a general question, is there a defined role for the resident Alim? I know obviously, he supports the community in q&a sessions engagement with Bujus. Do we have a specific job description for the resident Alim? So that at least as community members we know what we can reach out to him for we know what value he's adding to the community. If we can maybe learn that then we can engage with him better and the Alima as well, it would be useful to have that information. I'll go with those three questions for now secretary, and I'll hand back.

**6.6** Sibtain Allibhai - Thank you very much, Muhammad. First, for those kind words like I said I wasn't fishing for compliment, but I'll take it anyway, thank you!

Akhtar bhai, you asked a question about the when we were swapping, I think you were referring to that, so we called in SGM to say that it is in an interest of the community to swap the building with World Federation. The reason for that swap was that we, at that particular point felt it is in the interest of community that while the PD was valid, we should immediately exercise that, build those apartments- rent or sell so that was our best opportunity to basically, to raise substantial income or value on that building which was empty and we were going to swap with World Federation. So, we reached out to the members, gave us the Mandate you approved a budget of 1.5 million. The budget was approved for us to spend to do the preliminary work and then come back to the general body for the next phase of work and then we went to WF, and they approved as well. However, when we went to the consultants and the people who were going to build it and the conditions that were there was a nervous point at that time within the EC because we were to then were hitting towards the

deadline it was going to be a close call and even though in the legislation it says nowhere that if you do not complete that build, what happens to that half cooked building? And that was one element that we were not sure of and the second element was that for us to build, we would have had to raise £5 million extra to build it. So, the EC at that point decided that it is in the best interest that not lumber the community with any further debt than it already is in. And based on that we made that decision, that we will not go ahead with the swap and also at that stage we got the insight that the PD is going to be extended, so the PD extension has come in place since then as your there and based on that there was no real rush and the reason why we were swapping buildings is because that was the building which was vacant, you couldn't build on this because we had tenants. So, if now as the PD extension has come in and we can build it at future date so as the tenants leave at certain point, we can then build apartments here, so hence we did not go ahead with the swap of the building so that was the long and the short. I hope that answers your question and in regards to the cost, in order to get to that point there was the cost, according to the treasurer that he explained, he told me it was I think just around 15,000 plus minus if at all the money that we spent to a certain from the planning consultant all of that to understand in terms of conditions discharge and all of that.

The second question, Muhammad you raised was about the update on the pre-app, the pre-app has submitted, as you mentioned it takes 6 to 8 weeks, that's a number that we normally get. We are pushing the council for a meeting, we have been advised that it is due this month, I'm not particularly sure which week of this month, so give or take a week here and there we should have a meeting with the council to understand they have been issued or rather they have been submitted our drawings and when we meet them, we're going to deliberate with them that what are we asking for and how do they see it before a formal application is submitted. All the teams, all the bujus, all the volunteers stay in place unless the new EC decides otherwise so the new president, the new EC can decide to have their own team but unfortunately in our constitution, there is no nothing enshrined that the planning team will stay as is, so if the president wants a change and the new EC, that's up to them. You asked who is the planning consultant? We have several, as our planning consultants who are advising us on the preapp and they are leading on our behalf with the council spend on FUTR when FUTR came in. I remember, yes, we had budgeted 100,000 but the way, then we changed the model is that we realized that we were going to go through a different source and that was founder members so we reached out to founder members and Alhamdulillah, I'm pleased to say that barring £10, £15,000 if that and that also there is one founder member which still needs to confirm once that confirms I am pleased to inform that every penny that was spend on FUTR was funded by a Founder member so Hujjat is not going to be out of pocket at all on that. You asked the question on planning spend? On how much we're going to spend on planning? How much has been spent so far on planning? So far, we've spent £24,000 on planning the pre-app and all of that. On regards to role of Resident Alim, I think best secretary answers that.

**6.7 Akil Kanani - Muhammad**, regarding resident Alim, obviously there is a job description and what we expect from the resident Alim and what services he provides with the community. As far as having any kind of constitutional role there isn't any at the moment that can change later. As far as for example the last EC has been concerned, we have invited the resident Alim to our EC meetings, on a very regular basis and we have sought advice and guidance, you know where applicable. We have recently looked at creating what's known as a religious Council. Brother Muhammad Asif had held a meeting with representatives of different bujus and if you don't mind, I can give him the mic and he can just explain briefly about what this religious council is. I have alluded it into in the EC report but it's probably better that you hear it from him directly.

**6.8** Muhammad Asif - There was a view at the tail end of last year with brother Mahdi Abdullah and Sheikh Anwar Jaffer, that as a community when we build our community it's been over the past couple 10 15 years it's been very event-driven so we build a community by driving events, putting out as many events that come. So when Sheikh Murtaza Bachoo came for his Muharram series, he sat down with us and he explained to us that we really need to move towards a model where our community is built on values and principles. So, the initial idea was to set up a strategic religious paper that looks into developing a spiritual vision for our community based on values under the guideship of Sheikh Anwar Jaffar and Mahdi Abdullah. So that kicked off at the start of last year to propose that to all the buju. So I think it was the first Buju meeting we had, where mostly every buju turned up, gave their thoughts, gave their feedback because there's a touch point of all of them within the community so that's been hugely successful. Coming out of that now and moving forward the idea is that team itself is going to be beefed up, hopefully with a few more members from the community and the idea is now that we will develop that Vision into something that is practical and implementing it throughout all the Buju so it's united, so you might see the sessions popping up from different teams, you might see al Hadi doing different events, so the idea is to come towards a more cohesive vision for the community and our upcoming president Murtazabhai has agreed for this to be continued into his term as well so it'll be something that will be continued and developed. And then lastly, the 5 to 10 year plan is to set up a board hopefully with a bit more of an innovative name and the idea is that all of the religious facets of the community will sit under that and inform the wider strategy and wider plan moving forward um so that's what's been done to date. I think most of the work will insha'Allah be done.

**6.9** Akil Kanani - Thank you. So we'll go to the next speaker, Sheikh Abbas and then after is Dr. Munir.

**6.10** Sheikh Abbas Ismail -Mr. Chairman, if you remember last EC, we had put a lot of work in to try and make the approach to our lectures, events, speakers, much more strategic. This one of our key things in the last term, that we said you know what we've spent far too much time on operational issues, EC as a principle needs to be much more strategic. So, I put a lot of work into this. So what we did was for example we had many focus groups get together, identify topics. I mean most of the community won't even know this because it's all done behind the scenes. Identify topics and then on a monthly basis on the in the *Jumerat Majaalis* lectures, we say we want this topic to be presented by a competent speaker who knows this area for example. We also had some short courses which were done on Zoom, one was done in person on very pertinent issues for example Ziarat Ashura and its authenticity, the things in the community which are being questioned a lot. We said you know what we should at least have a response to this from the mainstream perspective and such like, you know, we had even given the new incoming EC yourselves, some recommendations which we couldn't do because of covid and whatnot such as, for example, Jamaat Oriented Retreats and this kind of thing. I don't see any mention of that in your EC report, so my question is really did you find it not of value? Or is there another reason why we don't see it? Thank you!

**6.11** Dr. Munir Datoo - I'm talking on the burial, we had 127 burial last year, so the question is that how many burial spaces, have we got remaining and what's the plan going in the future because we'll run out of space pretty soon at this rate?

**6.12** – Akil Kanani - Thank you Dr. Munir. Sheikh Abbas, it's not that the recommendations were not taken on board, but as you can appreciate, unfortunately the EC gets bogged down with operational matters, the infrastructure is such that you know you can't avoid it and so it's not like we've not done some of the things that you've alluded to, it's just perhaps not been done in quantity. But, as Muhammad Asif explained, we've come to creating this religious council hopefully we can try and align the different institutions to work sort of in tandem with



each other because there's no point for example the madrassa talking about for example Hajj when the issue of khums is for example the burning issue, so we make sense that for example the madrassa the workshop and any other religious institution all talk about the same topic in different ways, in their different sort of ways in within their different institutions so I'm very hopeful that this religious Council you know which is say it's just been formed can actually take these recommendations forward and you know, your recommendations that you had given us and whatever other recommendations that the community has we can take this forward. Yes unfortunately, hands up, it's not been as great as it should have been, but I don't think it's that we've not done anything, I think we've tried but perhaps not in quantity.

**6.12.1** Sheikh Abbas Ismail - Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman. You know, it's a relief to hear that the hard work we try to put in when we have the opportunity doesn't go to waste and that you do value the Strategic approach. I would like to really, I don't know how you're going to categorize this, I'm not a person of Politics as such, I don't know which term you want me to use but I really would like to emphasize to every single EC which comes in, we have to move away from what I would call mundane operational issues and at least a portion of the EC if you are 14 members, 50%, 30%, 25%, whatever it is, concentrate on strategic matters, it's fundamental that we do that. Mr. Chairman, that's my humble observation.

**6.12.2** Akil Kanani - Thank you. Before you come in, is there someone who hasn't spoken yet?

**6.13** – Faiyaz Nurmohamed - Can you please share the text of the or the proposed text in the planning application for change of use for Harefield that is going to try and ensure that Harefield is permitted to hold Majalis and prayers in this centre. I've asked that question in the past a number of times but that hasn't been adequately answered so I'm requesting you for the benefit of all the members that you can kind of point us in the direction that the planner is proposing to go, that's one question. The second question is really a concern, as a former member of the Mukhi team of Stanmore Jamaat for 7 years I have seen recently that we are moving away from practicing our faith in the way I see it should. We have reduced the times given to speakers on the pulpit, we have given more attention to speeches, auctions and the like, so I'm requesting the incoming EC members who may be present here to please refocus and let's put faith first and any collateral benefits subsequently, thank you!

**6.14** Hasnain Merali - Firstly, thank you for all the hard work, I know it hasn't been easy trying to deal with covid. the two properties so again just to reiterate. I have a question on the Hujjat Harefield project, specifically on, firstly it's good that we've had the pre-app, I just wanted to clarify it's the pre-app that's been submitted not the change of use, right? I think in your speech you said change of use, but I think from the pre-app for change of use. Okay fine, so the planning for change use hasn't happened and Alhamdulillah, that's a good that's a big step in my opinion, it was very late, it should have been done a lot earlier but insha'Allah we are where we are. we all know that we have a £14.1-million debt and I understand we're technically in default of that loan in terms of loan coverage that sort of stuff, it is not far away we're in June I believe the loan there's bullet repayment next October? Is that correct? So, we're about 17, 18 months away from a repayment. Now, that may seem a long way away, it's not very far at all in terms of having a plan. Has there been an analysis, both if the change of use occurs whether we're still going to be in a position to repay that debt, to refinance that debt, to come up with alternatives and the fact you know and in my very limited opinion that plan to convert into Apartments has to be and should be expedited not waiting for whatever is happening? Because that's one of the keyways that you will be able to refinance, will be able to kind of release that 14.1-million-pound debt. Again, if the change of use does not happen it or it's delayed and there's a very real possibility that it's bogged down in technicalities, it may happen in a year and a half two years expectation, based on my experience planning is not always a straightforward, it may

say that we'll get there but it may be delayed, what other scenarios have we looked at to ensure that we do not default on the debt? Because I'm a big supporter to this project, if you know I continue to be a supporter but for me that is a major risk, and you know I just want to ensure that never happens because I can tell you now if that does happen this community will be set back 40 years. There will be a lot of infighting we get enough politics on mundane issues. I just can't imagine what will happen to that community and maybe at that stage I'll migrate to Oman with Sheikh Ali Hussein.

**6.15 Sajjad Tejani** - I'll just answer I think you mentioned about the graveyard, I think this is the right time to answer and Dr. Munir also mentioned the same thing so I'll just sort of remind members that, this was mentioned in last year's AGM that we managed to get space at Carpenders Park in the Harrow section, I think that is Zone H 250, so we utilize all those non-khoja members we try and utilize that space, Subsequently what has happened is that we, I must give credit to Shabbir bhai Kassam who is actively because he's the head of the burial committee and he's worried as everyone and he's been working on it, so one thing he did was he drew a plan in zone G, that is our section. To create more space so this happened beginning of the month of Ramadan he drew a plan and but subject to council's approval. If they come back to approve that we will be able to create space there for another at least 200 spaces but that is subject to council's approval. Unfortunately, there have been changes and the council are very under resourced now so we're still waiting we've sent them a reminder and we are in the process of sending another reminder. The staff who was dealing with it has left and there's another staff who's taking over so that is one thing which we are following up on. Thereafter, there was, a you see it's not only our community who's looking for graveyard space, it's the whole Muslim Community, You look at Harrow mosque, there are so many other centers who are looking for space for burial space so there was a meeting organized by Councillor Abbasali Merali Ada on Eid Day, it was very difficult sort of day to have a meeting from our EC, nobody could attend obviously but Shabbir bhai did attend and there was a meeting with the Council on burial space and following from that there was a Zoom meeting. Now the council have got a potential place for Muslims as a whole, they haven't disclosed the site to us yet because they haven't got possession of it but they are very confident that they we should get something soon and there's another meeting planned in the next, I think, a month or so. So. we will keep on attending these meetings and make sure that insha'Allah, I don't know what we're going to get in that space but insha'Allah there is something in the pipeline. So, as soon as we get any updates, we will update you. Even at Carpenders Park, we have, recently I was involved in one of the burials and there was an opportunity to do double burial so even in the new place there is opportunity to do double burial.

**6.16 Faiyaz Nurmohamed** - Can Watford Cemetery offer two tier burials because we need to have a plan B until the council decides where we are going so because of so many deaths happening in a short space of time we have to make a provision as to what or how we going to cover the situation whilst we're waiting for Council approval to add more spaces. So, that's been concerning me and that's why a resolution was passed in the AGM and when I asked the question about a progress report, Akil bhai said that nothing was done or we don't have an answer so you had one year to think about it and because this is a burning issue I'm extremely concerned that in the interim whilst the council is looking at this we may run out space who knows? I'm referring to Carpenders, all our burial plots.

**6.17 Sajjad Tejani** - So, Carpenders in our section Zone G, there is a two tier, you can do two sort of burials. Also, the council, discussion is taking place with Harrow Council but the potential site they are going to offer us they have said it will be in the Borough of Watford, this is the limited information they have released so far.

**6.18 Faiyaz Nurmohamed** - Yes, in the meanwhile if somebody or somebody's family does not want to go for the two-tier burials and they want a single grave then that's going to eat up

space, right? remaining space? So, I'm thinking allow my thoughts about potential issues and I'm just seeking the EC, well the incoming EC to take this on actively with a plan B until the council announces a new site.

**6.19** Sajjad Tejani - I'll have a discussion with Shabbir bhai, he'll be in a better position to answer you. okay

**6.20** Mahmood Padhani - Coming back to the point of Sheikh Abbas, first and foremost this charity is founded upon the guided principles of Shi'ism and the extolling of religiosity should never be suborned by mundane or operational issues. You say you have 14 people on the committee there, when NASA started, they had seven people running it, you have 14 people, so I agree with them that religious reportage should be the primary focus of this charity and any mundane and operation issues should never be self-contained especially the bureaucracy contained in this charity.

**6.21** Akil Kanani - Thank you for your comment. Anyone else not spoken yet?

**6.22** Muntazir - This is just a comment, quite a few points have been made about strategy so we've heard about the need for more burial space, etc. and work is carrying on. I would highly recommend like how you have a property team that lives on through several different ECs, you have a strategy team that brings together religious, you know all different areas of the strategy so that the new EC isn't going back from square one and thinking what are the issues in the community. I was struck by a speech that was done by a member of the new committee who says, oh we're going to spend some time to figure out what the big issues are. Well, the big issues are the same issues that were there 10 years ago. So, let's have a new team that can carry forward the work, the new EC comes and implements that strategy. That strategy owners are the members and the EC is following that strategy and building on it, thank you!

**6.23** Akil Kanani - Thank you Muntazir bhai for your comments. Any from the ladies on the EC report? Right, any comments from the gents before we move on?

**6.24** Akhtar Jaffer - I apologize, Mr. President but whenever I come to meetings of jamaat the World Federation the passion level goes off the roof and I apologize to members present here if I speak more often than they do but I'm sure they get educated enough as much as I do so first point coming back to your comment regarding the spend and the change of buildings so Mr. Chairman, I think this was one of the motions requested to be at the last AGM by none other than Sister Sabira Lakha, where we requested for information to be shared with the general body, now we called a meeting to get the approval to spend. Therefore, if the spend had been changed or not required then it would have been appropriate at some point for the EC to inform and rather than it delaying. A lot of points that have been raised by Hasnain for example and other members, if this information comes more freely or more often to the members be it by email or whatever correspondence that you want to utilize, then what happens is that we don't run away, we don't lose deadlines, if you like and we are able to make more decisions quicker and get feedback from members of the community who are as passionate as well and this is for obviously the incoming EC so just a request that this sort of information is made available to members more frequently. Secondly Mr. Chairman, the spend on FUTR, I hope I've pronounced it right, I've heard many versions of it but I'll still stick to FUTR. Mr. Chair, forgive me if I've got it wrong but by raising the money to getting FUTR done does not exonerate the EC for being accountable to spend more than the amount budgeted a right and to spend over £25, is it £25 or £35,000 pounds as per the Constitution, so it's nice and good. I've seen the FUTR, well I've not seen the FUTR, I've seen where the FUTR offices are and it's a fantastic job but on accountability purposes this way other items on the budget were approved at a certain amount can we easily go over that just because we have received donations from I mean we receive donations for everything so does that give us the go ahead to just spend without a ceiling or a cap on it? Clarification on these two points please, thank you!

**6.25** Maqbul Rahim - I would like to raise the issue of the cemetery, in relation to the cemetery. I was there recently and we have been to Carpenter Park Cemetery many times, One of the issue that have a reason is that we don't have a chapel, we have a gazebo which is not 100% ideal for purposes of winter and many times it happens when people are not able to hold majalis in winter, now we have one chapel in North Watford Cemetery which has been amazing and I think it is available for all faiths. I have some information in from the past that people did try to get a chapel and the council did approve subject to it being available for all faiths so I don't know where it went but it's passed. Now, I think what we should do is we should try to facilitate majalis in Carpenders Park which is convenient for many people and we should try to see whether we can move from the gazebo to a chapel which is available to all faiths so that we can actually put value, add it into the whole structure.

**6.26** Sibtain Allibhai - Let me just try and answer a few things in regards to somebody mentioned about the text of the preapp. I'm sure all of you understand that there are sensitivities when we are dealing with the council and the elements that we share amongst wider public not members for members all these documents are available but the word if it goes out and it is taken out of context it can be detrimental for the community's progress. Hence, if anyone, any member wishes to see any documents that we have submitted to the council for the preapp, he is more than welcome to take time with the admin office and go and see and hopefully we will make sure that there is a volunteer from within the planning team to explain them every context of that so that member can satisfy that what we have applied for and they are privy to that but I'm afraid if you're asking for me to put it online for everyone to see I'm afraid it is not in benefit of Hujjat and hence it's not been done that way. I stand by you honestly regarding the finance point, the money part and I know you've been a supporter from start to now and we appreciate you and all those people who have supported and I am fully in agreement with that and hence we were very interested in the apartments because in the apartments I see the value which I'm sure I've shared many a times that if we sell those apartments would be worth the building itself with those 40 Apartments is worth over the loan amount, so the value is there so you can either borrow against that to pay the interest let alone every other rental income that you're getting if the day we complete one of the buildings into Apartments. The value of that building, if we sell the apartments, we would have paid off the loan. If we rent those apartments, the rental income which will be about a million pounds will be more than sufficient to borrow against that so this part of the Handover to the new team to make sure that there is a plan to raise money but if that plan is taking longer then we should expedite on this particular point that if we can somehow start the PD process and get the apartments done this way it could be a savior for this project as well . Informing of members? I'm trying to understand, I'll probably ask Akilbhai who is got better memory than me. The resolution that we approved that day said that we will proceed with swap if it is practical and if it makes sense to do it so the whole idea was the EC to get a mandate from the members for us to deliberate on that. If it makes sense, we will proceed with that but in the future discussions Akilbhai, did we at any stage inform or email that the swap is not happening? To the best of my knowledge there has been a communication that the swap is not happening. I can't correctly remember at this point of time but I would like to believe that it has been mentioned that we're not swapping whether it was in one of the meetings or email or a speech but to the best of my knowledge I think we have but again I could stand corrected. The spend on FUTR the, the way it's worked historically as well and in this particular case as well what we realized is that there were some members who were not keen to donate money, so they physically gave the items so it's not that we have spent from Hujjat pocket. They didn't give the money to Hujjat, they just got us for example furniture or IT or AV system and all of that, so the spend accordingly was to the best of my knowledge, would stay within the budget and even if it would go over, it

would still go over within the allowed £25,000 because everything else was just provided to us not that we had to buy it. Thank you!

**6.27** Javed - Firstly, I would like to concur with the comments that have been to congratulate you as an EC for putting in all the hard work, we have no idea how much hard work has gone in the background. There's huge commitment all of you are family people and you know you've kind of compromised your family life and everything to do what you've done and only Allah can really pay that back insha'Allah and we pray that Baraka is there for all of you insha'Allah. There's a couple of kind of statements I want to just make, the first is regarding quality over quantity, so what do I mean by that? I believe that what you've done here when it comes to trying to have a building, a community center which is bigger is fantastic, you've kind of from what I understand and maybe I'm completely wrong, you promoted it to the community. In two ways, one, insha'Allah, if we get the planning it's going to be incredible for the community if we don't get the planning, it's a great investment. This is what I would of the understanding of and it was pitched to me and what when I say quality over quantity whilst it's incredible with the six acres of land and space that we have here. You've just mentioned just a few moments ago that you're planning for the future of the community from the point of view of servicing the loan, looking at Flats, looking at development opportunities, to pay down, to invest. I'm going to just kind of extend to what Sheikh Abbas just spoke about just now. What are we doing to fortify the community from internally, from spiritually? It's very important to have foresight and planning but I believe that planning for the inner soul of the community is more important than planning financially for the community. I've been a Madrasa Teacher for over two decades now and when you look at the quality of religious grounding within the Madrassa, you can see all the different kind of noise that has been create has been created in in all the social media, etc., that is really tarnishing the soul of our children and when we look at it from the point of view of how much Iman they have what their Aqida is like, all of this has been really shaken heavily and we try our best as Madrassa teachers, I know there's loads of Madrassa teachers here have come from Madrasa today, after their commitments, we try our best to fortify this and I'm in the slightly higher age group in Madrasa especially at the age of, so you know, we need a serious strategy, a serious strategy to fortify the spiritual heart of the community. I know we talk about all the elders, it's not about the elders, it is about the elders because the elders brought us here this is one thing. Second thing is it's about the youth, what is it about the youth? I, together with my colleagues here also deal with the Youth of the community weekly and one day a week is not enough, we have an incredible syllabus in Madrasa but is impossible and this is not from Stanmore's point of view, it's from a worldwide point of view. It's impossible to implement even a fraction of that syllabus because of the time constraints that we have with the children. We haven't even brushed the surface of the potential there so whilst I really appreciate obviously the foresight and all the planning and the financial kind of strategies that are in place with all strategy teams, it is so important, I remember, it's got to be over two decades ago, Marhum Mulla Asgher had a vision to produce students that were going to come he had planned in Syria at the time to invest in a university types Hawza setting in Shaam to then promote within the community the youth, like here you have the financial people. You can see them around us, the financial brains to make money, the guys that are going to be promoted who have this natural love inside them that needs to be nurtured and taken to the next level he wanted to have that in Sham and he wanted to inculcate that and grow that so that they can then service the community and not only our community, all the other communities as well. There was a strategy, a clear strategy. He wasn't able to basically together with the obviously the presidents at the time and the ECS at the time able to kind of fortify a prime location which may be catered for the next 20-50 decades, whatever it is because that was more important and I feel that maybe I'm wrong here but the numbers here today, Yes I'm sure everyone's very interested in everything that's



happened up to date for sure I am and I'm very glad I came early to listen to this but a lot of people are very interested in the aqida that is going to be upheld within the community that I'm sure is going to be coming and we're going to discuss further down this meeting insha'Allah. So, my question is to the new EC that what is it that you are planning like you guys, put a lot of effort and a lot of energy into getting a centre, we're sitting in that centre today, what is the energy and the strategy Sheikh Abbas has just told me, I'm unaware of it I've never spoken to him about this strategy that, he's spoken to you about but where is that long-term Vision to promote students of the Hawza for example that are going to come back who understand what are facing on the ground daily, our children are facing on the ground, it's not only this committee it's worldwide so if you go my respected friends to the likes of Oman or wherever else in the world where you feel that you're going to be more safe 100% is probably more safer than this country without a doubt but don't think that you're going to be safe and immune from all the pollution out there because the pollution is worldwide, it's no longer in one country or a set of countries. So quality, I going to come back sorry to quality over quantity. I'm so glad that you basically developed Hujjat Stanmore, to the calibre and to the level of you know like excellence that you've done so I congratulate you so we have a base, like you said it makes a big difference you know when the youth come to the community and they see a beautiful mosque, it helps with the spirituality for sure and you've done a great job for that but I think I'm concerned on this side because the value of this premises as it was sold to me and the likes of others as well, was it was almost immune from loss of value because we were told that it was valued and the value was an incredible investment and God forbid, if we don't get the planning for a community centre, we're immune don't worry because we got the value that's going to stack up and we can sell it on the open market and make more money potentially by developing flats, etc. to increase asset value but you know I thinks it's important, a good friend of mine Asgar, talked about the fact that there's now obviously tangible assets and there's asset value because it's investment it's important to talk about these things because the investment value was what the security was of this project and God forbid, insha'Allah. We pray you know, genuinely pray that we get, because there's a huge potential in this premises, that we get the planning but should we not get the planning we're in limbo because now potentially I'm talking here without any kind of you know statistics in terms of the valuation, current valuation you know. What is it valued? How much potential, negative equity or increased asset value are we in?

We don't know, we need to be aware of this. I've said a few things, here the most important thing is as I said I want to draw back the attention to what are we planning for our children hence who are the future of the community and the community at large from a spiritual point of view and this must be discussed at some point if not today, formally kind of discussed to make sure that we've got an active plan of action really and this is my opinion. Maybe, people will disagree but the resident alim's position I believe is not a backseat position and just kind of brought in when we are looking ahkam and just confirming is this okay or that okay and all this kind of stuff. He's the guy who should be leading the way and he should be giving clear foresight about where we should be going and if it means that it's going to be at the loss of you know, an asset value increasing in the future then so be it because that's more important, that's quality, that's trying to save the essence of our deen of our akida. This is very important, and I hope that's noted, thank you!

**6.28** Sibtain Allibhai - Thank you Javed bhai for insightful talk so there is Hujjat Constitution is built on faith, okay? We're not here to have a social club or anything it's not that so the focus point is always going to be faith everything that we do is built around Faith what we have done and everything that we do is always to make sure that we give enough importance to our religious values, that's across the board whether it is doing a majalis, whether doing any other classes, whether it is welfare, whether it is Eid, anything that we do, religion is the foremost so at no stage has it been left at the back burner. The fact is that

we were without a resident Alim for I think a couple of years to then actively look for someone who can lead this community and to find him and to get him on board is a testament to say that we value the importance of a resident Alim who will lead the community forward on the terms that he is there for in terms of all religious values. The resident Alim is not only reached out by the EC when we need any Ehkam issues, he is invited to all EC meetings and he in in most cases he is present, he listens to the deliberation, he gives his guidance wherever there is required and where we need to reach out to we always do. And this is of course very important that we should work on that but just one request it is very easy for you to make that comment and it is 100% valid comment but you have to understand the EC are a 14 man and 14 people, gents and ladies combined sometimes there is not enough resource in there to do what for example what you are saying, what Sheikh is saying. We had the blessing in our previous EC where in the EC was an Alim with us it makes a big difference, and he did play a double role as an EC member and a guide a lot of things and he is here to verify that statement. So now what I would like to see and not me I'll be sitting here after tonight but for the new EC would like to see I'm sure is for people like you to come forward and offer your services in whatever areas of expertise that you have, whether it is Faith, whether it is accounting, whether it is engagements, whether it is fundraising. Please do not think that the 14 people sitting here has got answers for everything, We don't and I have said multiple times that please come forward and if there are people coming forward and if there is an example that you can show to me at least in this EC that you came forward to offer your service and I said, no, we don't need you then give me one single example like that. We have always valued that you come forward, support us in anything. Muhammad Asif gave a good introduction on the council that we have created and from all the youths that we are creating to create this religiosity within the community it's extremely important there is nobody sitting here can deny that faith comes second, that's always first and it will always be first and no matter who the EC is they will always be projecting that only and we as members will keep them on check because this is why we are here for and to always promote that. Javed, let's try if you have, please. Somebody else please if there's any other comment on that?

**6.29 Sajjad Tejani** - Can I just add as well that when we hadn't completed yet but there was a World Federation constitutional meeting last year and so all the delegates from the world came here, they saw the site they said beautiful. The next step is you need a secondary school. Now okay so after that we've had in fact, we met with some secondary school teachers before the month of Ramadan, After the month of Ramadan, we had an EC meeting where we invited them and subsequent to that they also met the leadership of the WF before the triennial conference so we're working on because if you see where Toronto is at the moment. Toronto have got a school and fantastic they're probably 15, 20 years ahead of us but we are in the process we have got a donor in place. He said bring me bring me 50 classes and here is the money. What is happening in the schools at the moment is very worrying. As you mentioned, you know people are migrating. Why are they migrating? Because of the school. Now, if you tell me that the school will happen tomorrow so I was talking to one of the teachers is no it's not going to happen in 2024, not in 25, not in 26, maybe in 27. So we are working on it and when insha'Allah, Murtaza Bhai will speak he's also got a strategy, a religious strategy for a 10-year plan insha'Allah, he's working on. Insha'Allah that will be presented to members and of course you can share your feedback with that. So there is work happening in behind the scenes but it's going to take time it's not going to happen overnight, thank you.

**6.30 Sibtain Allibhai** - Sorry, I wanted to add this one point is that remember everything needs space so when we've acquired a space like this it is not just the to increase space so additional people can be accommodated. It's to accommodate all the other ancillary facilities services that this community demands from us today otherwise we are losing community to

go either to Oman or to other places, because we cannot offer in-house. so insha'Allah if we can somehow give this to the members of the community then hopefully there should be reverse migration back to Stanmore. There's a comment from the ladies please.

**6.31** - Lady (04:59:04) - I just wanted to say thank you very much for everything to Hujjat for everything you've done and I'm very proud to be part of this community. I have to say that first and foremost, in regards to what the brother mentioned about the future for our kids and I want to second that because I think that is extremely important and part of that I think is not just to do with our religious duties or education but also with what is happening in the current affairs of the world and sadly I think that in that aspect, I've seen a massive lack in our community and more sadly from our leadership when you spoke about volunteers coming up, you are very much aware that we came to you with our team, I was part of the team, we came forward, we wanted to discuss events there was so much that we had in plan. Unfortunately, we had but it was completely silent we did not hear and those, the emotions or the support was not reciprocated so that was very hard to see. I want to say that with the way things are, in the world that's going on, not only do we need to be religiously aware of our faith, we also need to know where we are standing, what are our rights and duties and having been told all the time that if we do this and if we do that our charity commission rights will be taken away. We have lawyers, we have people who are very educated in our community, who know what the laws are, who know where we can stretch ourselves and what we can do. So, I honestly and I earnestly request I understand this is the end of your term but the upcoming EC to kindly look into this, it's very important for our future and the future of our coming generations. Thank you.

**6.32** – Sibtain Allibhai - Thank you very much. Just a point on correction on that is the way this EC has been set up and this is for everyone's knowledge. From the day one, the way we've started this that we have appointed an EC member to look after every particular element or activity of Hujjat basically. So, in your case as you mentioned when you reached out to that we have allocated or requested one of our very capable EC member which is Muhammad Asif, who is very much in tuned with the political side of the community rather than anybody else so we gave you the best within the EC to lead on behalf of the EC. So whether the president or the secretary is active on that group he is on that group to observe how things are going and where needed we will make a comment. But there is an EC member to look after that activity of yours. It is you know we all wish that we can float the Palestine flag, left right and all of that but we have to be mindful of our responsibilities as trustees because if I go out of line and say certain things and if things are picked up wrongly then it is all of us will be in trouble and then all of you will be pointing at me that why did you do that so it is within the we have we have a political guide group where we get guidance on anything and anytime if there is a statement that he needs to go out or any activity that needs to be done we take guidance from them and based on that, we align our activities so I hope you understand my limitations on how much we can say and how much we can do.

**6.33** Lady - We never expected that because obviously we were communicating with him but when there was a period of complete silence from him for three weeks where we were very close to planning an event and we didn't hear at that point. We would have expected you guys to at least respond to us and say sorry you know Muhammad is maybe going through this or that you know. We've been unable to you know his, whatever it is. This is the case, so that's just a point I want to clarify and put it right there. Thank you

**6.34** – Gentleman - Assalamu'alaikum. First, I just want to commend and thank you for the work that you've been doing as well for the community in the past two years as well. There's one thing that I just want to touch upon because it adds to this conversation quite nicely I think. You do mention that you've got a political aspect in your committee and they do guide you in certain decisions but I just want to ask you one thing that you know all of the things

that you do on the side very good but if you do something that compromises the Izza of Islam the Dignity of Islam, then, I think that's unforgivable.

I just want to ask you one question in terms of you know raising the flag of Shi'ism and being representatives of Shi'ism I want to ask you one question in terms of there were a few pictures that came you know out a few while a while ago about you with the EC team standing with Boris Johnson playing ping pong with him and you know laughing and taking pictures with him, someone who we speak against in our aqida as well, someone who has funded the genocide in Palestine, someone who's funded the genocide in Yemen, someone who we speak against but when we see our leadership take pictures with him and smile and play ping pong with him then naturally you expect the youths to lose confidence in this EC team. So I think this when such things compromise Islam then I think there must be a bigger question on this and I think that's a little bit unforgivable so if you could explain and shed light on why you stood with him and played ping pong and you know smiled and sacrificed the Izza of Islam. I think that would be a good question to ask please.

**6.35** Muhammad Abbas Jaffer - Again, thank you for all the work you've done. My comment comes from the back of what Javed uncle has said about nurturing our next generation and also comments by Sajjad uncle about a Hujjat secondary school which on the surface I think is a very good idea. I work in education background and my question is around Hujjat Primary and how much involvement we still have in, or if it's been passed over and it's finished. I don't have any direct involvement with Hujjat Primary, but I know people who go there who send their children, who work there as well and it feels like it's been a massive missed opportunity. Hujjat Primary has our Imam's name on it and I know there's red tape in terms of how many children we can take from our community and how much of our faith we can practice, but it feels like there isn't that much faith there from what I've heard so I just want, my question is around how much involvement do we have still in Hujjat Primary and is there a way to shift it back in line with our faith and also in terms of Hujjat Primary, we know that there's a new head teacher coming in, head teacher, deputy head teacher are both from a different faith to ours, I think this has a massive impact. I lead a school, it has a massive impact on the policies on the staff that are recruited I know staff from our faith are leaving, certain children from our faith are leaving. Is there a way we can step in before it's too late?

**6.36** Sibtainbhai Allibhai - Okay, so I will answer about Boris. So I think I've mentioned that in the past as well but again I will mention it we never invited Boris, Boris wanted to come and see us as the MP that he is of the of the council where Ruislip our ground is and they have been after us to give us a long lease and we have been in negotiation with them. He wanted to come and see the EC to discuss this matter so he came. We had a very nice meeting of course. It's when an MP calls upon to meet, it's only fair that we meet him and we exchange information we talk to him about that. I'll come to you. I know where you are getting to. We had a very informal discussion. We took photographs, that's all part of the protocol. However, I particularly do not see anything wrong. This is my personal opinion: to meet an MP who is an MP for example of tomorrow if a Harefield MP wants to come and speak to us that you have applied for planning permission I want to come and see or speak to you about what your plans are. At that stage, I am not going to distinguish him or her whether he is a supporter of Islam or not, because he is your MP. You have bought land in this particular building in this area so tomorrow an MP of Stanmore. For example, he could have such opinions does not mean that you do not engage with him, yes, let me finish playing table tennis with him again it's not something that I told him let's have a game. The table just happened to be there, and it just prompted that let's have a shot at that and yes I could you could say that that is something that could have easily been avoided and was not required considering the sentiments that we have of him. However, in regard to meeting and sharing a smile there is in my eyes there is nothing wrong in how the meeting was managed.

**6.37** Akhtar Jaffer - Mr. Chairman, you give your observation on this issue. I would like to give my observation and I'm sure members here would like to give their observation as well. Mr. Chairman, number one, he came for Ruislip he didn't come for Harefield. Number two you can or we can as a community decide who we do invite and who we don't invite. Okay number two. Number three, he had nothing to do with the planning permission Harefield.

**6.38** Sibtain Allibhai - I never mentioned anything about planning permission of Harefield. I'm giving you an example.

**6.39** Akhtar Jaffer - If an MP wanted to. I'm coming to that point. If an MP tomorrow who has openly criticized Muslims and Palestine were to be the MP of Harefield, we would not go begging Mr. Chairman. We never did and we should, no we never did is that's going to the future, I'm saying we should never in the future have to reach that point right regardless it has to be clear. This is again my observation like you gave your observation which does not, which does not tie the EC. I fully agree, it is not incumbent on the EC but as a member of the community I think it is very clear that we have to decide whether we are going to take the charity as a priority or our faith as the priority thank you.

**6.40** Sibtain Allibhai - Your observations are noted.

**6.41** Arifali Hirji - Assalamu'alaikum. Two points, one of the assets of the community is called digital footprint. The social media channels are belonging to this Jamat that means that Twitter, Instagram, Facebook website all of these belong to KSIMC of London. That means that these are tools which belong to this community under this Constitution which is an Islamic organization. Even though you have a meeting with a person who is absolutely against our Muslim sisters calling them post box and other things it does not mean that it is our right, no it is absolutely our right not to show that on our social media. So beside my honorable brother Akhtar who said through the chairman all those points there is an additional item that why did we publicize. We should not publicize when there is a person who sets the wrong tone and the wrong propaganda and the community has reacted accordingly so I think we should have a specific protocol that what we go out and which parties which people we go out and show photos and who can tag us and who we allow us and who we give space as well. These are not part and do not follow and do not represent. I look around here. I don't think that those politicians represent us, be that internal or the one who we spoke externally. Thank you.

**6.42** Zamir Nazerali - Assalamu'alaikum. First and foremost, Mr. Chairman and your team I just wanted to congratulate you for coming through the last few years we really from the bottom of our heart really appreciate all the efforts. Having sat in the EC I know it's not an easy task so thank you to all of you and you know we pray for the incoming EC as well, I think look there's a sentiment here that there's a line between political, religious and faith-based activities and how that can send the right or wrong messages depending what the community want to reflect and I think that's why it's so important and I was really glad that you said that Sajjad bhai said Murtaza bhai will be outlining a 10-year vision because I think we need to hear out the leadership and we need to also understand the direction before we start the questions. Arifali bhai you've made a fantastic point in that there needs to be more strategic thinking and I would just say two points one is when people are standing on the EC we shouldn't assume that they know everything about everything. You know Alhamdulillah you've come, you've given your time, it's a voluntary position. Perhaps the way forward is also equipping the EC members with the right training both secular and faith-based so that we can have those skill sets and that knowledge I think secondly as well we need to look at the world we're within as well our Ahlul Bayt also worked within a oppressive difficult regimes and they also had to interact and engage.

Let me finish my point if you don't mind. And they had to face these challenges I'm not saying that they worked for them, I'm saying they worked within these difficult circumstances so surely we can learn from those lessons they've given us and learn more strategically. I



don't feel that we're in a world of black and white I feel there's a lot of grey areas. I'm not saying we should intrude on our faith, but we also need to understand how to live within the world and engage better with the people around us, that's the only point I wanted to make. Thank you.

**6.43** Sibtain Allibhai - Thank you, Zamir.

**6.44** Altaf Daya - I wanted to sort of come to Sibtainbhai's defense and echo more of Zamir's points of view and just recollect on some of our time in office. Sorry, some of our time in office during our term we had Bob Blackman who was the Harrow East councilor. Now for those who don't know Bob Blackman, he is not a fan of Islam either, he has invited, you know very sort of right-wing Indian politicians Tapan Gosh to the house of parliament and he has very much not been a supporter of our Centre but we did invite him for our annual iftar that we invite all the politicians to we took that as an opportunity to I think there was a queue of EC members to take punches in a polite manner but to engage with him and to show with him that we don't agree with your sentiment we have invited you we want to engage with you and that is the political process. We also had the Labour candidate. It was election year, and she was there but I think just by simply inviting or sitting down with Boris is not necessarily a bad thing. It is the opportunity to engage in the political process. It is the opportunity to speak and be heard by the people at the top. So I don't disagree with sentiment looking back on that situation personally speaking we could have done more, could we have had further conversations, could we have engaged better, yes 100% like we didn't do a fantastic job ourselves. And I'm speaking of myself and I'm sure Sibtainbhai will reflect as well that there is learnings that he can take from this right. I don't think not engaging is the right way I think we do need to engage. I think we need to seek the opportunities where we get them and we happen to get it through Ruislip, brilliant but we should take those opportunities make sure we represent our religion make sure we make that point and maybe we could have done that better. Maybe that's feedback to note but I don't necessarily think just by engaging with him or not engaging with him that would be the right approach that is my humble opinion. Thank you.

**6.45** Sibtain Allibhai Thank you. I would just request the members we we've heard the sentiments from everyone or quite a few of you on Boris so we are not taking any further observations will be noted, I think if another 10 20 30 people will speak it will not add anything further to the minutes that is already there the sentiments, I'll come to you, have been taken down have been noted. If there is anything other than that that we want to discuss on any other point you're welcome to but I will give Sheikh in your respect to have a last word on this please if you can be brief.

**6.46** Habib Mukhtar - So don't expect me to thank you guys. I pray for you to get the reward from Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala. Once upon a time, I was sitting with Sajjadbhai. By sitting I know how it works but let me just come to the point where Zamir mentioned that have worked with them I'm sorry to say let me correct you here the Ahlul Bayt has never gone to the Fasiqeen to ask help. Number one, always whenever they needed, they have come to the door of. And the world he's talking about that we must live within that world let us live I agree with you that if you want to live here so let us differentiate that there is a time now of being them as a them and we as we have to be different than them. And there is a Hadith, correct me there are sitting here around me, that there will be a time when the sun will rise from the West before the Dhuhur of the Imam. What do you mean, what do you know about this the sun is rising in the West. We came here and I'm not, if I'm not, wrong in saying this that our forefathers have moved to this place in West and I just heard in the conversation that there's a time now that we have to migrate again. If it happens so yes we will migrate. We all know why we migrated here for the future for the better future, the betterment of the community everything I agree with you but there's a time limit and we have to understand

where do we stand as a Shia Ithna Asheri so let us not tarnish the word Shia which is the Izzah of Islam today. Thank you.

**6.47** Zamir Nazerali - Absolutely, I won't take any time and I know this is not the form of debate. Just to amend the minutes I didn't mean that they worked for the Ahlul Bayt. I meant they worked within the times and I think that's an important distinction to me. I actually agree with Habibbhai but I just wanted to clarify the point. Thank you.

**6.48** Gulamhusein Sumar - This is done, I'm not going there but I'm just saying it's still the last thing we do meet leaders of different Interfaith, and politicians will not go away from that. We do not go away from CoEJ & World Federation, and I don't know other they have a guideline where they have experts in politics to guide them, I'm sure we can adopt that kind of thing. We have heard all that but just not to forget there's a sister here who pointed out and we went to another that despite approaching an allocated EC member to address the there was no response at all and she repeated saying it did not nobody responded so what do membership do when the guy who is at the head table doesn't respond. This could be one case. I've heard one or two other cases so that leads to the downfall and the bad name of the community and all that so what happens then is there another machinery that those people who have been asked to do the work, if member from the EC doesn't respond where do they go? Are you or the vice president or the secretary available to 24-7 without any hindrance or reprimand to come back openly and discuss the matter? I'm sure there must be a way to solve this. Thank you.

**6.49** Muhammad Asif - Just to respond to the point there was a period of time so this team was set up in response to the ongoing crisis in Palestine some members felt that the Hujjat Jamaat or as a EC we haven't done enough. So we outlined the things and steps that we have taken and we took them on board to try and help us engage more with the community. And they proposed a few events that we wanted to support them with. There was a period of time that I was unfortunately unavailable, so I didn't respond for about 2 to 3 weeks. In response to you Uncle usually yes, we have other members who can respond, but as Uncle mentioned earlier it is a resource constraint and this was a new team so those guidelines were being put in place. We have since responded so this was a couple of months ago. We have since responded on multiple occasions. Unfortunately, we haven't received any further update but Insha'Allah this is a team that can be continued under uncle's team thank you.

**6.50** Gentleman - You mentioned that you have consulted the political group. Which members are in the political group for everyone to know?

**6.51** - Muhammad Asif - Thank you. So after the Boris Johnson post there was a post by the queen, there were a few different issues that had to come to light. There was an appreciation at the level of the EC when reviewing these situations that we need a bit more of a strategic and appropriate approach to address in these situations both from a religious perspective and a political perspective. So we spoke to a few members of the community we haven't sought their permission to speak. I'm not sure if I can mention their names. We haven't sought their permission to yeah so we haven't sought the permission to mention their name. They're all people who have worked as previous Trustees of our community, people who are politically aware and people who are working in organisations, We haven't sought their permission, they're not an official body under the Hujjat Jamaat and also they are a strategic body for guidance so unless the chair agrees for us to share their names, I'm not willing to.

**6.52** Akil Kanani - I think in the best interest that we have sought the permission we move forward yeah. I think the next team if they want to formalize this team of experts or as guide as guide to them I'm sure they can do so and then let them and then inform the the public accordingly again in the interest of time we going to move on to agenda items G.

**6.53** Lady - Mohammad Asif as this is directly to you, so thank you for coming and responding back to us. I'm aware that your very last message which was almost was when the EC was going to exit the idea was for us to get an event together but by that time

alhamdulillah I'm very proud to say sitting here that we already I am in support and I pray that inshallah members of our community will also support Sabira Lakha who standing as independent candidate for Harrow West and that is Harrow East sorry not Harrow West Harrow East and this is obviously contending Bob Blackman. So, I hope that and pray that all of you will support her and I'm sorry I got busy into that project campaigning and all of that so I didn't respond back to you. I hope you'll forgive me and inshallah I pray that our community support. Thank you very much.

**6.54** Akil Kanani - Thank you very much. Okay, so we move on to item number seven which is to approve the budget for the forthcoming financial year, and I will pass on to the treasurer but for your ease if you can refer to the consolidated budget document for the year ending 31st December 2024 as part of the AGM pack. I will switch to it on my computer so that you can see but because the numbers are quite small you may not be able to see everything on there.

## **7. Approve the Budget for the following year**

**7.1** Mushtak Kassam - Must thank you very much ail. I thought you might say we'll take adjourn the meeting and being a nice day, we'll all go outside and enjoy the weather. It has been honour to serve as a treasurer of our Hujjat Jamat for the last two years and look after the finances of our Jamat. it has been hard but all worth it. Now I'll come to the budget 2024 of which there are eight and we'll start with the main Hujjat budget. Start with the income side This is December 2024, and we have 2023 and actual 2023 as well donations income subscription income for the year is expected for at £100,000; general fund donations 180,000; Insurance recoverable. I'll put down a number of £468,472 - There is nothing on the screen but we have got insurance recoverable coming up to £468,472; other income that is 14 Masumeen Alam Julia Haz Abbas Etc £80,000; gift Aid of £120,000, this is the gift that we claim on donations; Nyaz donations expected £200,000; grants income £450,000; donation on Harefield, I have noticed that we are getting some donations on Harefield coming in sitting on the desk at the jamaat and I'm expect we are expecting about £100,000 Harefield donations; then donations from other activities announcements in Adverts £8,000; income from Parking shuttle Services £20,000; income from Hujjat catering and other services 60,000; income from directory calendar budgeted at £8,000; income from burial facilities budgeted at half a million, Hujjat activities income £5,000, investment income interest received 10,000 budget; Ruislip rent receivable is £65,000 which is a true figure which we are going to get; Harefield rental income £1.36 million; Hujjat rental income £28,100; FUTR income £40,000; and the total number we get at the bottom, the total income comes to £4,802,472

And I'm now I'll go on to the expenditure side is food and catering cost £250,000; burial activities £300,000; Hujjat activity expenses £40,000; fundraising expenses £25,000; advertising £3,000; postage printing stationery £8,000; light and heat 180,000 - but maybe that is expected to become low because we have switched over to the new suppliers. Now telephone and internet cost 10,000; rates and water 75,000; insurance is £15,000; reciters expenditure 50,000; resident Alim expenses £35,000; Mayfield flat expenses £3,000; salaries and Social Security £255,000; cleaning and refuse collection budget at £50,000; repairs and maintenance we have budgeted at £1,300,000; IT audio and visual cost £10,000; motor vehicle £15,000; subscription £35,000; Security expenses 2,000; Sundry expenses £15,000; education training £5,000; Marquee higher this time is going to be low so the budget is for about £20,000; bank and other similar charges £30,000; Legal Professional £60,000; donations 5,000; car parking that we pay to rugby budgeted at £15,000; pension fund £3,000; accountancy audit fees £15,000; children's gift £4,000; depreciation £50,000.

Now we come to Harefield expenses - Rate Insurance light and heat budget £40,000; telephone internet £6,000; professional fees £150,000; Sundry expenses Harefield £10,000; Bank charges £500; Bank interest £1,200,000, but that is maybe will come down depending on the base rate of interest; service charges that is the management company £250,000; marketing and communication £10,000; FUTR expenses £42,000; and the net Surplus is expected to be budgeted at £310,000. End of the day that's the main Hujjat budget

Next okay now I'll come to the Bujus yeah okay Bujus. The burial fund we'll take on the burial fund income total income expected is about £200,000; the expenditure is £2 to £7 so we'll be going into the deficit of about £20 in the tune of £20 to £27,600, that is burial fund budget and this is the budget given by the Buju itself. We come to Madrassah again yeah the total expected income is going to be £232,000, expense is going to be £275,000, and we'll end up with a deficit of £42,000 that is Madrassah. The next one is Saturday Workshop again income expected £12,000, expenditure of £14,000 a net deficit of £2,000. Montessori total income with the grant is going to be about £255,000, expenditure £237,000, and surplus of £17,750 Montessori. After that we go to Bookshop again the turnover is going up expected turnover is £65,000, cost £58,000, net profit £6,600 that is Bookshop. After Bookshop we got Al Hadi Youth. Sorry I'll come Seniors mustn't forget them seniors expected income is £23,000 expenditure £19,900 surplus of £3,400; We come to Al Hadi Youth income £62,100, expenditure £56,000, net surplus of £5,365. that is the end of budget 2024. Any questions? Otherwise, I'll recommend this budget to the house.

**7.2 Akhtar Jaffer** - Thank you very much for the budget, a few questions please? Income from sadka is not separately shown. Shall we assume that it is part of 14 masum Alam julahas Etc.

**7.2.1 Mushtaq Kassam** - Yes, it is yeah, it is with that and general fund yeah and part of general fund.

**7.3 Akhtar Jaffer** - Question number two if I may. You have that there is an expenditure for burial activities, yes, is that to do with burial fund payments that you make or is that something other than that the burial. There's an expenditure showing but there's no income showing so if it is going to be shown in the burial fund budget then it should be plus minus no?.

**7.3.1 Mushtaq Kassam** - Income from burial facilities half a million, income. Income from activities from general funds? If you look at income directly in the calendar there's the next line is income from a burial facility, half a million.

**7.3.2 Akhtar Jaffer** - So, income from burial facility is half a million yes and expenditure is 300,000 now the dilemma is if you go to that budget of burial fund, they are showing a negative.

**7.3.3 Mushtaq Kassam** - No, that is a different part of the budget. The burial fund budget.

**7.3.4 Sibtain Allibhai** - The burial fund is only talking about burial fund members, okay and this line item is all the burial activities, because we do a non-burial fund activities as well so there is an income from let's say some Pakistani guy who passed away and then there is expense for that so it's different. BF only talks about community members only, talks about community members is that what you're say BF members, not community members, BF members.

**7.4 Akhtar Jaffer** - Finally, the rental question. Was there a rental income that was shown hold on a second— Sorry, my apologies give me a second please. It's just it's not clarified and then at the bottom they give the name of the income is from rental income is that yeah.

**7.4.1 Mushtaq Kassam** - Hujjat rental income? It is £28,100 it's made up of—

**7.4.2 Sibtain Allibhai** - Brothers please if I can we can listen to the response thank you so much. Can everyone please respect the questions that are being asked and the answer I think it's beneficial to everyone.

**7.4.3 Mushtaq Kassam** - That income covers the rent from the flat that we have which is 18,100 okay and the kiosk that we have in the mosque that's number two and the number three will be what is number Ali number three please, no Ruislips 65 is separate Hall higher sorry Hall hire should be higher, shouldn't it? Hujjat rental is three parts yeah the flat. Ruislip is different 65 is different.

**7.4.4 Akhtar Jaffer** - So, you've shown FUTR is Limited. Correct you've shown Harefield rental separate.

**7.4.5 Mushtaq Kassam** - That's correct.

**7.4.6 Akhtar Jaffer** - Then you've shown the Ruislip rental separately.

**7.4.7 Mushtaq Kassam** - Correct, it's the flat rental that yeah see flat rental is in the 28,100 Plus kiosk that we have yeah and there is a third item there but I have to know there isn't.

**7.4.8 Akhtar Jaffer** - Is it broken down on the expenditure side?

**7.4.9 Mushtaq Kassam** - No, sorry it consists of two then flat and kiosks.

**7.4.10 Akhtar Jaffer** - Okay, thank you.

**7.5 Mohamed Damji** - Sorry, just a quick one. According to this budget for 24, it says that the rental income for the FUTR is outweighed by the expenses so are we saying that the future is not a profit-making entity?

**7.5.1 Mushtaq Kassam** - We hope to make. Sorry, I'll give it to the president.

**7.5.2 Sibtain Allibhai** - So, at the time of putting this budget together, we had almost 50% of the offices which were vacant but I have just been informed by the FUTR core team member that Alhamdulillah there are now all offices have been occupied in the last maybe four weeks or 6 weeks that this from the date of this thing so Alhamdulillah we are anticipating future to be a profitable thing.

**7.5.3 Mohamed Damji** - Okay, that's really good news. Do we know what the net profit is per annum assuming that it's fully rented out do we have that on file?

**7.5.4 Sibtain Allibhai** - The rental income is likely to be 10,000 a month from the income of the thing but again this needs to be validated, the statement. Once I sit down with them and all of that but what I've been informed that the rental income now from the offices let, from the co-working station and the meeting rooms is likely to be 10K a month. Thank you.

**7.6 Akhtar Jaffer** - Sorry, do we dictate the rental amounts? Like, do we have a fix to say FUTR you owe us x amount for this space, how they raise it is their job or do they come to us to say so and so wants a room and what should you do you think. We should set the fee at to dictate the income basically.

**7.6.1 Sibtain Allibhai** - So, FUTR is a Buju for Hujjat okay, so we treat it as another Buju EC sits on the board and there are members of the FUTR team who are operating it so they we collectively agree on okay office rates. Buju and what are we doing and they work on those guidelines. Thank you.

**7.7 Faiyaz Nurmohamed** - Firstly, I want to take the opportunity because I haven't done it up to now to thank the outgoing EC for all the hard work and the sacrifices, they have done to serve the community so thank you very much. Thank you for calling me Haji and it's true um So I wanted the budget seems as if the numbers have been picked up from thin air. So for example the light and heat so £120 to £180,000 is massive £60,000. I think the Treasurer will have to justify that or if I may suggest that the treasurer reviews that and maybe presents a more realistic budget as far as figures are concerns because there seem to be I mean there's no underlying explanation that can satisfy from what I'm looking at it and I and I practice as an accountant so that's my first comment

Second comment I think to present a budget in June when our financial year is in December does not make sense we already five months we finished into the 24 year so my request recommendation in whichever way is best to do whether it's Constitution or any other mechanisms to change the date where we present the budget



Going into the numbers if you can tell me why it's a small amount but I want to know the reason Education and Training says £5,000, there was nothing budgeted for but what does it cover this Education and Training

Sorry yeah that's one second thing is Harefield expenses rates insurance light and heat so the I can see that this is one example why the budgets need to be realistic December 23 budget £211,230, actual £163,000 and now the provision is for £40,000 so that's a low figure I'm just thinking whether that is there there's a basis for that.

**7.7.1** Sibtain Allibhai - Under which head?

**7.7.2** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - Harefield expenses the first line rates insurance and light and heat.

**7.7.3** Mushtak Kassam - The explanation is that, you know when we in 2023, December 2023, the budget was £211 the reason being that that time we were receiving the bills from the management company and I Incorporated all those bills into the system yeah and then the management company charged to our clients and we go to rebate back you know they reimburse all the money back to us so that's why it came back to us and that's why this year the budgeted number is £40,000 and that will be to the clients that are going to you know reimburse us after reimbursing us the net amount will be approx £40,000 And you are mentioning that we are in the month of June we prepared this budget in May and we have accountant for all the five months in advance which were gone past so that budget has been accounted for the in the numbers yeah

**7.8** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - Okay, a couple of more questions. Why has the rental income, Harefield rental income going down from £1.6 to £1.3? What has happened there?

**7.8.1** Sibtain Allibhai : So, the obvious as I mentioned in my talk is that the tenants are leaving, so we have lost tenants and that is always going to happen, and this rental income is likely to drop even further next year.

**7.8.2** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - Okay so that will mean that Harefield will increase its losses which means that it will put pressure Financial pressure on the charity and its Freehold assets. Is that correct or am I missing something?

**7.8.3** Sibtain Allibhai - So currently as I said that the loan is for 3 years which now is as even Hasnain mentioned is October next year is the time. So, before that we must all put hands in our pocket and come up with 14 million to pay off this thing because the tenants will most likely be out by that time and that would be a good situation to have because we want to utilize the space Inshallah because by that time we would have had change of views for us to completely migrate to Harefield inshallah.

**7.9** Akil Kanani - Sorry to interject here registration desks will close at 4:30 p.m., so there's 10 minutes if you haven't registered and got your voting slips and you will not be able to vote in going forward if you haven't registered and got your voting slips so there are two desks at the back one for the ladies one for the gents you've got 10 minutes or 11 minutes please register. Thank you.

**7.10** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - Final question, if I may, service charges has gone up by £75,000. Can you help me on that?

**7.10.1** Sibtain Allibhai - Of Harefield? It's because we will start slowly occupying the space because if the tenant leaves the service charges remain on square footage our expense will go up because we will be paying. For example this empty space and service charges utilities is on us basically.

**7.10.2** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - Okay so when the big tenant if you like I don't know the details yeah finally departs I think or doesn't renew yes in 2025 yes what will our service charges become.

**7.10.3** Sibtain Allibhai - What will our service charge be for the whole thing?

**7.10.4** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - Because we will occupy the whole place so what would be the full service charge on this place?

**7.10.5** Sibtain Allibhai - According to treasury the total budget is £250,000 approximately to manage the entire site

**7.10.6** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - So, the £250,000 in the budget accounts for full usage of the site

**7.10.7** Sibtain Allibhai - Yes.

**7.10.8** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - Okay thank you.

**7.10.9** Sibtain Allibhai - Thank you.

**7.11** Mushtaq Kassam - Can I come back to you on that one education one yeah. There is an answer to that, but we'll have to look at you know.

**7.12** Akil Kanani - Any further questions on the budget?

**7.13** Muntazir - There was £450,000 there in income from grants, could you let us know what those numbers are? Secondly when you add up all the Bujus and KSIMC, you'll see that there's a £300,000 deficit that's been proposed. What I can see from the accounts is that we have unrestricted cash of only half a million to £600,000? So, by this time next year if this budget is right we'll be down to about £250 or £300 of unrestricted cash so I think it's for the next committee to think of a plan because we are seriously running out of cash sorry.

**7.13.1** Sibtainbhai Allibhai - I agree Muntazir, the situation is something that we need to take stock of and we will pass it on to the next EC to somehow come up with a campaign where we can fundraise and I think in one of my speeches I have mentioned that we should all come in with a view every time you come to the mosque we put £5, £10 that's the only way we're going to keep going otherwise we'll keep begging to the few that we know of and to answer your first question about the grant so as you know that we did announce I think it was the Eid or around that time that we had applied for Stanmore a grant which we have been successful and that's what you reflect here no it's nothing it's not VAT refund but it is place of worship in the council had a grant that you could claim for the monies that you've spend on refurbishing it so in link to that.

**7.14** Akhtar Jaffer - Mr. President, this is to the treasurer in and Treasurer coming in, if we are going to have the AGM in June which is one of the discussions that is coming further down the meeting therefore would wouldn't it be prudent to have the following Year's budget here as well because although you're presenting 2023 accounts and giving 2024 budget but because we already halfway through the year you're technically giving half year actuals and half budget which is very difficult to budget really to be very honest to use the word the reason being is Faiyaz bhai has just highlighted a very interesting point on the service charge, for example, which is going to be applicable from next year so if the community is aware what are the commitments for us next year because of certain elements of change in use of Harefield it would be prudent to have 2025 budget presented. The opportunity can be utilized Mr. Chairman when the audited accounts are being produced so if the house here is in agreement the general Body is in agreement, we can request that the treasurer sit with the incoming treasure the new treasure rather than the incoming Treasurer and have the 2025 budget presented when the 2023 accounts audited accounts are presented. Thank you.

**7.14.1** Sibtain Allibhai - Thank you, I will pass the request on.

**7.15** Gentleman – The Ahle Sunna Religiously pass a bucket after every Jumma during prayers, why don't we do that?

**7.15.1** Akil Kanani - Thank you, that's a point to be taken. So, if the Ahle Sunna pass on a bucket regularly after Juma prayers for people to donate so it's something that we can look at yeah it's a valid point. Thank you

**7.16** Akil Kanani - right I think we've taken enough questions on the budget um we need a proposal we need a second before we move on so can I have someone to propose the budget as presented.

**7.17** The 2024 budget was approved after having been proposed by Akhtar Jaffer and seconded by Mushtaq Kassam.

**8. Note the retirement of those members of the Executive Committee who wish to retire or are retiring at the end of their term**

**8.1** We have the following EC members, and I will just name them so that it's recorded for minute purposes. The following EC members are to retire after this AGM – Sibtain Allibhai, Akil Kanani, Assad Abdullah, Mushtaq Kassam, Ali Ali, Nasima Karim, Tahera Kassam, Dr Aliabbas Hashim, Hasnain Mamdani, Mohamed Asif Rajabali, and Salim Hamir  
That was the quickest agenda item.

**9. Note the election of a new Executive Committee**

**9.1** so the Electoral Commission of the KSIMC announced the following positions which were unopposed in the April 2024 elections which are on the screen  
Again, just for minute purposes I will just read the names out:

President Brother Murtaza Gulamhusein; Vice President Brother Sajjad Tejani; Hon Secretary Brother Bashir Mohamedtaki Pirbhai; Assistant Secretary Sister Sukaina Nurmohamed; Hon Treasurer Brother Arifali Punjani; Assistant Treasurer vacant; Chairlady Sister Doureine Hiridji; Executive Committee members Sister Samana Fazel, Brother Mohammed Ghoghai, Brother Shiraz Jessa, Brother Arif Hussein, Sister Soukeina Premdjee, Brother Ilyas Govani, Brother Asad Hamir

**9.2** So the electoral commissioner confirmed the above members met the eligibility criteria to stand as the executive committee Team for the term 2024 2026

**9.3** They requested the jamaat to carry out DBS checks to be completed by the jamaat prior to the AGM. We have undertaken the DBS checks for 13 individuals. Four are still pending and once received appointment will be subject to the eligibility criteria under rules 2.1 of the Constitution being met. Can we have one salawat?

**9.4** Akhtar Jaffer - For individuals who have not had the DBS clarified, what is the standing on this on Constitution basis?

**9.4.1** Akil Kanani - Thank you. I've spoken to the chair of the electoral commission and this is subject to the other four coming back so we are accepting the entire list that we have I've just read out and what I've been told is that the Electoral commission will probably send a statement out once those DBS's have come through to just confirm and rubber stamp the appointment. Failing which if they do not meet the criteria then I suspect there will still be a statement that comes out with the position being vacant. That's the way this constitution stands.

**9.5** Sibtain Allibhai - Can I request all those names that have come in as the new EC if they can please stand so that everyone can see the new EC members, please if you don't mind. And with a loud Salawat for all those please standing here, thank you very much. I'm on holiday from now. With all due respect with the new EC, can I request - I know the president elect of the president s is not here because he had to attend his son's valima in Birmingham so can I request in his absence Secretary Sab to please come forward and take a position in the chair here please and also the Chair Lady to please come forward and be here on the top table, please thank you.

**9.6** Akil Kanani – Thank you.

**10. Appoint an auditor for the Jamaat**

**10.1** Akil Kanani - I have put this as pending because the audit hasn't been completed so this will be discussed at the EGM when the accounts are adopted.

## 11. Set the amount of subscriptions

**11.1** Akil Kanani - The recommendation by the EC is to update the subscription rates as below under rules section 6.3

**11.2** Akil Kanani - The executive committee recommends the following levels of subscription so we have currently single at £72 the proposal is £90; student current is £6 proposed is £7.50; family, current is £120 proposal is to £150, Senior, single is £6 proposal is £7.50, senior family current is £12 proposal is £15 per annum.

**11.3** Akil Kanani - Now, just before we go into these I have done a little summary as to some comparables and you will see that Hujjat is actually the cheapest or one of the cheap in terms of subscriptions if we look at, for example Birmingham, their single membership is 150 family membership of 80, if you look at Milton Keynes it's currently double our family membership. So this is just an idea, gives you an idea of what the current rates are so our proposal is a 25% increase in line with the constitution, so this is the final proposal on your screen £72 to £90, £120 to £150, £6 to £7.50 £12 to £15 and £6 to £7.50

**11.4** Akhtar Jaffer - In principle agreement with the increase but point with comparison I always have a issue we are three times or three and a half times bigger than all the Jamaats You put in in fact Milton Keynes we can't even start calculating how much bigger we are hence they need to cover their expenses. The only question I'd like you to answer, I think I know the answer but I'd like clarification is in the event that somebody cannot pay the full amount upfront does the jamaat have an arrangement where a member can pay in installments number one, and the second one was in the event of arrears, can that also be paid to try and get as many people I'm sure we would we would have got much more participation because there are quite a few people who have gone into areas and are struggling to catch up so they did start with good heart but unfortunately due to economic circumstances have lagged behind and therefore there is an areas that has to be paid up. Is there a facility or mechanism in place so that these members know and they can participate and take advantage of? Thank you.

**11.4.1** Akil Kanani - Thank you. Sorry just remind – so regarding installments, so we demand the payment to be made upfront. now if there if there are individuals that who may not be able to they would go via welfare and the welfare would basically pay up front and then they would make the installments just so that the payment has come in and that membership has been activated because what you don't want is to say I'm going to pay £10 per month. Just out of out of example and in February you've only pay £20 and in March there's an EGM or SGM okay well I haven't covered my £200 or £120 that I've supposed to have covered then you know so what welfare would do is if I reached out to welfare they would say that's fine okay we'll pay you 120 or 150 up front you then pay the jamaat in you know in set up a standing order and hopefully that's so that way you don't compromise on your membership fees. Are we quite happy with that? That is the current policy. In my understanding of the Constitution, you will clear your arrears at the rates that they were due. It's not like burial fund where you basically clear the arrears at the current rate, you would clear your arrears so if you had three years that you had you were a student and you did, you had areas as a student then you were single for three years. You clear the student rate, the single rate and then you then you got married and then you're now a family and say you had two years of family so sequentially you will clear your areas based on you know status at the time.

**11.4.2** Akhtar Jaffer - In principle agreement with what you're saying that they do owe the money in retrospective to whatever they were then due to pay what I'm saying is there a facility to allow them to pay it in installments?

**11.4.3** Akil Kanani - Yes, there is there has been precedent in fact if people even have areas with burial fund where they suddenly have to pay £200 and they've got five years outstanding so they have to pay £1,000 they can go to welfare and the welfare would cover

them and then they would pay the installments so the installment policy is there but it's has to go via welfare.

**11.4.4 Akhtar Jaffer** - What is the capping figure on welfare?

**11.4.5 Akil Kanani** - I think it's on a case-by case basis.

**11.4.6 Akhtar Jaffer** - Thank you.

**11.5 Sibtain Allibhai** - Just on one point to add is that as you probably all aware that CoEJ has a very fantastic Imam Ridha (A) hardship fund as well so those members if you know are hard up of money to pay whether they need it for themselves or they need to pay for subscription they are welcome to apply very confidentiality to CoEJ and those funds are then remitted to them privately through Hujjat. Thank you.

**11.6 Akil Kanani** - Can I have the mic to Mehdi bhai and then after that Muahmood bhai

**11.7 Mehdi Fazal** - Sorry, I just wanted to ask why 25% when inflation is much less and secondly, what is it going to raise for you in the next year extra?

**11.7.1 Akil Kanani** - I don't. It is necessarily about we don't rely heavily on the subscription income it's just that we want to be in line that. We haven't changed our subscription rates we are offering a lot more in terms of services activities, our utility costs are high, so I think it's only fair that we look at you know raising. In the past if I remember correctly, we used to change subscription rates at that time it wasn't it didn't have to come to the AGM it you know you could changes were being made. It is just that we haven't had a change on these rates for quite a while now so I think we're almost playing a little bit of catch up. In the past I think last year I mentioned this that you know we would like to keep it the same rate but this year certainly we've got the refurbishment done at Stanmore you know we've got costs here so a it's just a little bit extra that's going to create some income towards the community. We are not reliant on subscription because if you look at the subscription income it's probably what 80-100,000 roughly per annum.

**11.7.2 Ali Ali** - Just to add to that 25% increase is an arbitrary percentage. If the members want to increase 100% then go for it. I'm happy to do it. This is our recommendation yes.

**11.8 Mahmood Padhani** - With regard to your statement about this person being in strained circumstances, if they are then surely you must cover that you must not embellish their shame in not being able to pay the subscription if they come to you and approach you and pay instalments why would you want them to go through hoops and go through welfare so other people know about it Islamic ways to cover their shame take the instalments and let them go you should not do this

**11.8.1 Akil Kanani**- That's something that we've inherited as far as an internal policy is concerned, I'm happy for

**11.8.2 Mahmood Padhani** - What you inherit you can disinherit inherit as well and like

**11.8.3 Akil Kanani** -: I'm sure the new secretary here will take on your recommendations and they will set systems in that this is the religious way, Allhamdulillah.

Salam any further questions on this?

**11.9 Faiyaz Nurmohamed** - This is just a request and a recommendation. I think we need to review the policy on collection of arears. I think we need to be kinder to our membership. We need to encourage more members to become members or more non-members to become members so I think compassion, sympathy, welcoming I think those things are critical so that's my com.

**11.9.1 Akil Kanani** - These are all points that I am very happy with. Okay so these are the rates on the table what the executive committee has proposed this. Are there any objections please raise your hand, otherwise, I'll take this as a unanimous vote. Any objections?

**11.10** The subscription rates were confirmed as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025

## **12. Amendments to the Constitution per Clause 18.2 by the Executive Committee**



**12.1 Akil Kanani** – The Executive Committee wishes to put some Constitutional amendments, the first being the date and the timing of the AGM so if you see the current clause in the Constitution 6.8 is that an AGM must be held every year on the first Sunday of June and shall commence at 10:30 and conclude by 19:30 unless it is not possible because of the reasons that are listed okay. For the avoidance of doubt the AGM shall always take place in the month of June so I know there have been many questions as to why today why is it the same time at, for example, the Madrassah is going on etc. So this is one of the reasons why we have brought this constitutional amendment so the executive committee has proposed or is proposing that we give a little bit of flexibility as to the time frame that is given for the AGM to be called and doesn't have to be specific for the first Sunday of June in that it will still be held every year but it will be held between the 1st of June and 31st of July and the day and time to be determined by the executive ensuring that at least 5 hours are reserved for it and that it should not coincide with a public holiday either the Friday before or the Monday after or any auspicious day according to the Shia Ithna Asheri calendar and the reasons that we've set out for this is again just allowing a little bit of flexibility again the current date is coinciding with the Madrassah. Last year if I'm not mistaken or the year before there was a public holiday on the Monday after the June because of the King's current was it the Jubilee yes it was Queen's Jubilee so things like that. Typically, the May half term falls just before this so many are away and travelling so if you keep this the AGM on a fixed day being the first Sunday of June most likely it's going to impact for example families who are travelling etc so this is the proposal for the amendment it's on the floor for any debate and then we will take we will proceed with getting you know a vote on this so I open the floor for any queries questions or comments.

**12.1.1 Zamir Nazerali** - Just a quick question so I actually think this is a really good suggestion. But if a current EC is serving a 2-year term per the Constitution and the meeting date goes over the 2-year term if we're saying between June and the end of July maybe we just add an amendment to say if there's an election that shouldn't be held after the two-year term expires because I assume that would cause some constitutional kaffuffle.

**12.1.2 Akil Kanani** - From what I understand is the incoming EC would take office at the AGM right so if there is an overlap it's possibly if they came into office say 1st of June in 2024 and say they not in 25 but in 26 when the term ends they decided to call the AGM on the 31st of July so in essence they've got extra two months that's fine because the incoming EC will take office at the AGM whenever that AGM is so they will continue in office until the day of the AGM and I think that's why that's how initially when we did the Constitutional review back in 15 this is what we wanted that the incoming EC takes office at after the AGM and not once they've been elected in because then there will be changes in terms of um Dr.

**12.1.3 Dr Munir Datoo** - If you remember we go 2 and a half years in the EC because the term starts from AGM to AGM and we came in 6 month before the AGM so we go 2 and a half years but the point I wanted to raise was the reason why the first Sunday of June was brought up because in those days the election used to happen at the day of the AGM and now the election is happens at least 4 weeks before the AGM so the flexibility does not make is it's mute you can do whatever you want to do because the reason why it was done so people know that day is the election so people know if they want to extend they should not plan their holidays

**12.1.4 Faiyaz Nurmohamed** - So this amendment talks about at least 5 hours are reserve for it but it doesn't provide the other side the maximum so for example if things are not finished in 5 hours and say like today there is so much to discuss and we don't know how long each part of it will last we need to have an amendment there to incorporate situations where we may not finish the AGM on the day or you know we extend it to a time that is reasonable for maximum participation to still be available.

**12.1.5** Akil Kanani - Yeah, I'm happy to take friendly amendments on that the current Constitution says that we need to finish for example today's meeting by 7:30.

**12.1.6** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - So, if my motion about a constitutional review is passed as a resolution then we will be in a better position because this will be one of the additions that will be talked about.

**12.1.7** Akil Kanani - It's possible yes but that's subject to what we're doing is to try to bring this forward because this is it has been flagged up as an issue especially for today and today is a prime example where we've started at 10:30 but we've alienated mainly 300 people you know in terms of volunteers plus parents who weren't able to attend from right from the beginning now if we so the idea is to because your proposal of a review could take months we know that in 15 we started in 15 we ended in 17 it took two almost two years for the amendment for the review to the last review to be undertaken. Sure we can have an amendment I'm happy to take a friendly Amendment maybe we put at least I don't know 7 hours or at least nine hours or we can put at least 12 hours that way what you're doing is you're then making sure that the EC who calls the AGM will call it on a day where it's not at 8:00 p.m. at night for example because that's impractical right yeah so a friendly used to have that yes so I'm happy to take a friendly Amendment if you if you craft it or draft it yeah before you know whilst you're doing that Afta Bai has a point.

**12.1.8** Akhtar Jaffer - Just for clarification in the event today we do not finish the agenda by 19:30 what is the directive from the Constitution

**12.1.9** Akil Kanani - Inshallah we will finish by 19:30,

**12.1.10** Akhtar Jaffer - What is the direction from

**12.1.11** Akil Kanani - I don't have a direction there is no direction

**12.1.12** Akhtar Jaffer - the reason I'm asking is because then it determines on the limitations of hours we're putting on there but

**12.1.13** Akil Kanani - I think I would say the practice would be would be to adjourn because in the past the precedent has been that we've had EGMs that you know we've had you know for example Mahmud bhai and Faiyaz bhai they've attended those Constitution review meetings and if you remember we would adjourn to say we will now adjourn for another and as long as the due notice has been served for the adjourned date I think then you're in line so yes that's the way it would work if we didn't finish at 19:30.

There is a mechanism for adjourning a general meeting. Yes there is that's the important thing, it's just not explicitly stated in the Constitution or the rules but I think it's more like assumed that that's how you would enact in that scenario okay.

**14 12.1** Akhtar Jaffer - I say it myself a stupid question if I finish the meeting in 3 hours I still got to sit here for two more hours because it says at least 5 hours.

**12.1.15** Akil Kanani - I'm happy to make a friendly amendment. if it's at least 5 hours so we maybe we word it slightly that between 3 and 12 hours or something like that happy to take a friendly amendment. We can change this, I will just highlight this

**12.1.16** Akhtar Jaffer - A friendly amendment suggestion secretary, changed the word at least to up to and change 5 hours to 8 hours so it could be less than 8 hours and up to 8 hours from the commencement time.

**12.1.17** Akil Kanani - Okay so isn't that the same here we're allocating at least or rather than at least a minimum of 3 hours

**12.1.18** Akhtar Jaffer - up to 8 hours probable

**12.1.19** Akil Kanani - allocating up to 8 hours

**12.1.20** Aktar Jaffer - So, you could finish in three and not exceed eight that's what I mean technically that's what we are offering at-

**12.1.21** Akil Kanani - an AGM must be held between 1st June and 31st July at a day and time determined by the executive committee allocating up to 8 hours for it because you don't need to reserve it if you've already said that you're allocating up to 8 hours for it.

**12.1.22** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - Just another thought, if we say that it is subject to the commencement time of the meeting number one. Number two whether at that original time there is enough Quorum what so it's all those

**12.1.23** Akil Kanani - The Quorum issue is already stated in the Constitution. That there has to maintain a set a certain amount of Quorum, for example on motions you need to have a certain amount of Quorum present if you read the current constitution.

**12.1.24** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - Yes, but that Quorum is I think it's 50 at 10:30 or start time.

**12.1.25** Akil Kanani - No, but when motions are discussed if you if you go on further in the Constitution it does mention the exact the amount of people that you still need to maintain because otherwise you could have five people passing a motion that when motions with notice was given I think when a motion with notice is given the required Quorum is still needs to be held.

**12.1.26** Ali Panju - I would like to take a moment to argue against the proposed motion fundamentally this is changing the flexibility the date of the AGM and I would like like to argue for the benefit of having it fixed and fixed in time for certainty for clarity and to do so I just want to talk about notice for a moment we argue over how much notice was provided how many clear days of notice was provided for meetings there been various debates in the past about this the best notice I can give for next year's AGM is today right if I gave notice today for an AGM in 5 years time there can't be any argument of you know I didn't know when it was I was unaware notice wasn't provided. The Constitution has been drafted so that we give Clarity around exactly when the AGMs are going to be all other events can be planned around that Clarity by providing flexibility we lose the benefit of that Clarity so fundamentally I think this is a step in the wrong direction around us I hear Arguments for flexibility today there was a wedding we could have moved it but there's never going to be a good day I've been in the secretary's shoes there's never a good day we're always going to conflict with something else and so the only thing we can do I think as a community is provide certainty and clarity for the future and then other dates can be planned around that and so I would argue that we should not change the Constitution for providing flexibility but we should allow us to have clarity for the community going forward. Thank you.

**12.1.27** Akil Kanani - Thank you. Any other comments, queries?

**12.1.28** Mahmood Padhani - I disagree with Ali Panju said simply on the basis that if there is a wafat or khushali on that day and if you certain put the certain clarity in place today. What are you going to do then? We're going to miss the budget for the AGM. No way, so we can't do that.

**12.1.29** Ali Panju - Thank you, it's a very good point around religious observance the current Constitution already provides for this and allows it to be moved to a following day in the Constitution. I believe it's a Saturday thereafter and then it provides additional opportunity for it to be moved so I think there's enough flexibility there for religious observance which is super important providing additional flexibility to the Secretariat to to pick a day allows you know further headache for the Secretariat frankly more than more than actually provides benefit in my view and I think that's the current constitution is fine for this regard.

**12.1.30** Muntazir - Just on the day, what do we have? June and July, I mean if you had a meeting on the 31st of July regarding If the previous financial year or the previous year that's a good seven months to get prepared why not May and June? I mean think about you get to the end of July and the accounts are not ready or something else is not ready now we have to go into August so it's leaving it into the second half of the year it's better to say by 30th of June there will be a a meeting if we need that flexibility then whether that's in April or May but by 30th June, it needs to be done. Thank you.

**12.1.31** Akil Kanani - Okay, point taken.

**12.1.32** Akhtar Jaffer - Mr. President, my respectable member forgets that our kids mine not now but our kids have exams in May it's difficult June I think the proposal here the

Secretariat has taken a lot of time to think about the date structure and the Constitution has been applied on what it was and have to come back with a counter proposal for us here the date side of it we're happy with it was just the timing that we felt that at least 8 hours or up to 8 hours is given so that fair representation of all the various subjects is made and that everybody has an opportunity a fair opportunity to speak so yes a requesting for 1st June to 31st July gives a lot of bandwidth and takes all the other points into consideration because school closing is also another issue end of term exams or end of term whatever so we've got to take the whole community on board and I think it's it's a fair request with the friendly amendment. I for one would back it. Thank you

**12.1.33** Akil Kanani - Thank you. Okay if there are no more further comments on this which I don't think there are because I do not see any hand. We go with the proposed with the friendly Amendment which is on the screens. I'll read it out we're replacing 6.8 to say:

*An AGM must be held every year between 1st June and 31st July at a day and time determined by the executive committee allocating up to 8 hours for it. The day should not coincide with a public holiday in the UK either the Friday before and or the Monday after or an auspicious day according to the Shia Ithna Asheri calendar*

**12.1.34** The amendment was adopted after having been proposed by Sibtain Allibhai and seconded by Akil Kanani. Voting was 3 against, 1 abstention and 161 for the amendment.

Voting met the 2/3 required for this amendment to go through so this amendment has now been adopted.

**12.1.35** Akil Kanani - You can still keep that okay please keep your voting slips with you just a point of order someone raised these amendments are now being enshrined into the Constitution when and if a constitution review is carried out based on a motion that may come later this can still be subject to change and debate okay but it will have to be brought to an EGM to have 2/3 majority override where we are at the moment we are all clear on that. Thank you

**12.2** Akil Kanani - okay we go to the second amendment and this is to reduce the age of membership from 18 to 16 so again it impacts closes 5.1 and rules 6.2.1 6.2.2 and 6.2.4 so what we're doing or what we're proposing simply is to reduce the age when a youth can become a member of the KSMC from the age of 18 down to the age of 16 there has been a lot of talk in terms of getting youth involved getting me getting more members in right if we reduce the entry down to 16 inshallah we'll get more members becoming members and then they can also partake in the executive committee going forward so that is the rationale. We want to basically promote new membership and promote the youth to be members of our jamaat. I put the resolution on the floor and I'll take questions so Sabirabai first and then Inquilab.

**12.2.1** Sabira Lakha - Thank you. Have you sought legal advice as to the impact that would have on the ability of a 16-year-old assuming trusteeship upon becoming an executive counselor?

**12.2.2** Akil Kanani - So, if you look at the rules section, it says that you have to be a member for two years so yeah.

**12.2.3** Sabira Lakha - Thank you. The Constitution says anybody who is an executive committee member automatically is a trustee now you've just given an explanation that you want 16year olds potentially to stand for elections and become executive councillors yes join the committee yes, therefore, they would be becoming trustees yes? So what are the ramifications legally of all of a 16-year old being a trustee given the fact that a 16year old is not an adult in this country?

**12.2.4** Akil Kanani - My answer to that is that the 16-year-old would not be able to be to stand as an executive committee member at the age of 16 because they would need to have

had two years of membership thereby, they would be at least 18 when they join the executive.

**12.2.5** Sabira Lakha - Okay so then does this state that?

**12.2.6** Akil Kanani - This doesn't have to state that because this is just saying membership shall be open to any person who is called a Shia Ithna Asheri who has attained the age of 16 okay to stand in the executive, a requirement is that you have had to be a member of the organization for at least two years before you can nominate yourself forward to be part of the executive committee.

**12.2.7** Sabira Lakha - So that's how you're circumventing that problem?

**12.2.8** Akil Kanani - okay so that's already got that so although you can enter at 16 you can't join the EC until you're 18 okay.

**12.2.9** Sabira Lakha - So then bring me to the second query and these are just points of information. The second issue is that we would be then potentially granting the right to vote to 16 year olds which this country doesn't do so here for general elections you have to be 18 yet we would be giving 16year olds potentially the right to choose whoever EC is going to be what life experience will they have to be able to select our trustees whereas can they not become members of the community at 18, gain life experience as adults, having lived two years of an adult life then join the EC with some experience and knowledge and you know some kind of maturity. They have not even finished schooling at 16 so we're potentially asking school kids to vote for a president. I mean how I just want to understand your rationale because I'm sure you would have thought through this process before bringing it to us. Thank you.

**12.2.10** Akil Kanani - Yeah, that's fine I I'll take more comments.

**12.2.11** Inqilab - I have a similar thing comment person who 16 is probably thinking about football and you know he's not even had that maturity of being able to be a member 16 to 18 who's realistically going to be paying it's probably their parents they're not even going to be working at that age so I honestly, I don't understand why this motion has actually was put forward. This country itself you start becoming a voting age at the age of 18 16 to 18 as you said they were membership we have Al Hadi youths they can easily join that and be part of that they're doing a fantastic job so 16 to 18 I personally don't see any value of this motion and I personally would just cancel it.

**12.2.12** Akil Kanani - Thank you. That's your personal opinion.

**12.2.13** Suhail Nasser - Just for my understanding if somebody is a member under family membership it says that there' be two voting rights for the main members, the spouse and the children will be included under that. Being included does that mean they are a member or be without a voting right in which case the two years doesn't really matter because they would have been members under their parents

**12.2.14** Akil Kanani - The voting rights are only given to two members the lead member and the spouse. Children are not considered members per se, they're just part of a household but they don't they're not members in the voting sense they can't vote and they can't necessarily attend an a general meeting and and partake as it stands currently at the age of 16.

**12.2.15** Suhail Nasser - But then for the purpose of your example to say that they'd have to be a member from 16 to 18 or for two years would they still be considered a member despite this Constitution.

**12.2.16** Akil Kanani - This constitutional change is going to impact not only on the Constitution 5.1 but also the rules so the rules will change that the single membership will now be age 16 or over, right? the family will say it will include their children under the age of 16 right so it has knock on effect anywhere that the word 18 was will now change to 16.

**12.2.17** Suhail Nasser - I appreciate I just mean from the ages of 14 to 16 just the word included is that where you get from that they're not counted as being members.



**12.2.18** Akil Kanani - Yeah, they're not counted as members.

**12.2.19** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - First, my thoughts are that 16-year-olds will be part of a family membership, so for that reason, I don't see any value in this amendment. Thank you.

**12.2.20** Akil Kanani - Okay thank you.

**12.2.21** Akil Kanani - I'll be very honest with you, we just wanted to basically reduce it to 16 to just allow more people to be part of and feel part of the community. That's all there is no kind of motive or you know necessarily sort of reasoning. I felt and we felt that at 16 you'd become a member but you couldn't serve until you were 18 so you had that two year restriction anyway so you know but it's just feeling part of the membership now I take all your points that 16-year olds are more interested in football than they are community but then this is our chance now that we start bringing them in we start giving them membership we start empowering them we want to empower youth. Can't we start at 16? I think there are points for there are points against you know and I'm happy to take more viewpoints as well.

**12.2.22** Hussein Asaria - Sorry, I'm just with the motivation if the motivation is solely to get them more involved and to be part of it and it's not to raise revenue albeit tiny so the revenue for a student is very very small then I think it also should be included that between 16 and 18 they do not as long as they're part they were previously part of a family they do not need to pay because otherwise this could be construed as a way of trying to increase Revenue although it's a small amount so I think it's a we kind of have to say is it what's the motivation is it just purely that or is it to raise revenue as well as bringing that in because for example if the student membership then raises to £150 then we've just increased that for a lot of households in the future so just safeguarding the future for and adding an extra two years burden because at the end of the day 16 year will not be able to pay this thank you

**12.2.23** Akil Kanani - Just to answer your point on raising the fees, I think there are guidelines of how much you can raise and when you can raise subscription rates.

**12.2.24** Sheikh Afzal Merali - Thank you very much. First of all I personally I'm in agreement with this proposed amendment to the Constitution because of the fact that if you were to look at this from an Islamic perspective a person if you were to look at a boy for example you become baaligh at the solar age of 14 years and approximately 78 months correct that if of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala considers that a person of this age if it's a boy and a girl far younger is mentally fit for me to hold him accountable for his grave which is such Grand fate then for just the matter of voting and membership we should have such a commotion or such fear. On the contrary, what we need to consider is the fact that first of all this could be considered as a training phase for them to understand what community life is especially becoming involved within the community within the you know different Bujus that exist as volunteers etc. On top of that as well right it's this is a debate that is currently being had even in politics, correct? there are so many things that are shifting the paradigms are shifting that should we be people who are just going to follow what is being adopted and what is being passed on us by the wide and non-Muslim Society be it you know the general politics etc or should we take our Islamic ethos and actually forward and to be those people are becoming proactive so with that being said I would say no this actually would increase their involvement Revenue etc these kind of considerations on a side but our 16-year olds this would actually help them become more mature at a younger age. I myself have lived in many different parts of the world. Whatever circumstances you give to a child let alone an adult let alone an adolescent their maturity will be reflective of those circumstances. I have seen children 12 13-year-olds unfortunately in different parts of the world where child labour laws are not like we have over here. I kid you not that they have a stronger and more mature personality than adults I've seen at 30 years of age why because of the circumstances that if we create something that is fruitful towards this engagement, I think we can only expect positive leadership results in thank you. Thank you.

**12.2.25** Akil Kanani - Shukran. Who is next? Mahmud Bhai is next then Akhtar.

**12.2.26** Mahmood Padhani - Notwithstanding the very fine things that Sheikh has mentioned I have to respectfully disagree on the basis this is this is an altruistic Amendment at the age of 16 we were busy being told off by our parents and to go do our homework we were children and if it's if the reason sole motivation is for them to come to the Husaynia then the parents should bring the children in earlier it's a voluntary thing I used to come to stanmore jamat when I was 8 and 10 right after 16 I did not need any membership values imposed upon me to be fill part of that jamat it's a voluntary thing and if that's the case then ladies at age of nine you should bring the Voting Rights down for the age of nine because they they've achieved their mental Islamic capacity there as well so the reverse should be corroborated as well as.

**12.2.27** Dr Munir Datto - Actually I'm a bit sort of not sure about your understanding of membership family member is a member so a child who's part of the family is actually a member so I don't think the rule of the two-year rules apply because they are already a member as part of the family member so when they become a paid member at 16 they can stand for a post at any time because they are not new members they have just changed the membership from a family membership to a paid membership, that's my understanding.

**12.2.28** Ali Panju - Can I just bring the committee's attention to rule 6.8 just ask them to ensure it's been taken into consideration rule 6.8 is around the technicalities of changing Clause 5.1 of the Constitution and I just want to make sure

**12.2.29** Akil Kanani - It says that without approval at a general meeting of three quarters of all eligible members. Are you saying that all are eligible members to vote?

**12.2.30** Ali Panju All eligible members, not just those who turned up today.

**12.2.31** Akil Kanani - Okay, fair enough. So, Ali can I just ask from your expertise on the Constitution if that is the case, then, you're saying that 5.1 cannot be changed until three quarters of all legible members are present so we will never be able to change this clause in essence, correct? But to change that clause, you couldn't change that clause oh no unless you change the clause so you change the rule

**12.2.32** Ali Panju - I just read it out for those who don't have the Constitution to hand so rule so the Constitution is in two documents. There is the Constitution and then there are the rules and both make up the rules of the jamat. Rule 6.8 says notwithstanding Clause 18 of the Constitution right no amendment may be made to the membership criteria as set out in Clause 5.1 of the Constitution without approval at a general meeting of three quarters of all eligible members. So, this is an additional requirement on changing this particular clause. It we may be able to pass it as long as we have I don't know what the numbers.

**12.2.33** Akil Kanani - No, we don't so to change clause for so just for my understanding to change Clause 5.1 in the future you would need to change rule 6.8 which you could change in the which you could change technically in an EGM with two thirds majority yes?

**12.2.34** Ali Panju - Yes, we could change our own rules to allow us to change our own rules correct yes or we can just ensure that we have two-thirds, three-quarters of the yeah either that an yeah exactly right so on that basis

**12.2.35** Akil Kanani – On that basis, I will then withdraw this particular amendment. We are withdrawing this.

**12.2.36** Akhtar Jaffer - I have a lot of more things to say in the future as well so I don't mind occasionally being overlooked, although it's difficult with my size. Anyway, the point here with all due respect to Ali Panju is three quarters of the meeting present.

**12.2.37** Ali Panju - No, it says all eligible members. All eligible members.

**12.2.38** Akhtar Jaffer - No, all eligible members, then, they not this Clause could never have been included in because all eligible members would not be able to, I think there is a discussion on interpretation of this particular Clause barring to 5.1 because it wouldn't allow for just any number to say yes if three-quarters of the eligible members did not vote for it

would not carry forward. However, this is a point of interpretation that has just been brought up by Ali Panju my point was not to start off with that, but it is something that has to be looked into legally because if I remember correctly it would otherwise become it would tie the shackles and not allow you to change anything in the Constitution.

**12.2.39** Akil Kanani - No, no only this Clause. Only this Clause everything else needs two-thirds majority of those present only this clause and I remember in those Constitution meetings that we put this in specifically to tighten up membership criteria so that it wouldn't just be because two-thirds of members present technically we could have 30 people and two-thirds of 30 is whatever and only a handful are changing the whole membership

**12.2.40** Akhtar Jaffer – In the light of moving forward and not taking up more time because there's a lot of other pressing issues. I will forego whatever I wanted to say

**12.2.41** Akil Kanani - Thank you and we have a question for the ladies. I'll take that.

**12.2.42** Taswira Jessa - More than a question, asalamu alikum. Once this discrepancy has been dealt with, I just wanted to offer a suggestion that in future for the membership for the 16-year olds the 16 to 18 we should form a voluntary program that they join and thereby they get the training of how to be part of the community they feel they are part of the community and they get the training for becoming role models as they grow so as opposed to allowing them to become members from the age of 16 and then they wait till they're 18 to start voting they have an a taste for what is involved in being part of the community so we should set up a voluntary program for that age group.

**12.2.43** Akil Kanani - Brilliant, thank you, that's very valid. Thank you and I think the next EC will hopefully take that on. We are dropping this particular item we'll move on to the next

**12.2.44** This proposed constitution amendment was withdrawn

**12.3** Akil Kanani - The next Clause to change is to do with the notice of calling an EC meeting. So currently the EC has to hold 10 meetings each year and each meeting shall be called on at least five clear days notice sorry, 10 clear days notice and what the proposal is to basically give five clear days notice so it's just again allowing flexibility for the notice period to be served for the executive committee to hold their meetings so rather than have 10 clear days sometimes matters can be a little bit urgent, you can't wait 10 clear days so you know if you give five clear days notice it's still almost like a week's notice that you've given then you can convene and have an executive committee meeting so that's the rationale for changing this particular Clause again. The floor is open for points and discussion. Thank you.

**12.3.1** Akil Kanani - Any objections on this? None?

**12.3.2** The amendment was adopted unanimously after having been proposed by Sibtain Allibhai and seconded Dr Munir Datoo.

**12.4** Akil Kanani - Next is to call is the notice calling a special meeting so the where the previous one was a normal executive meeting here to call a special meeting you need seven clear days so this is almost like an additional meeting that that is required and again we're saying two clear days because sometimes what can happen if there a letter that's come or a Court summons that's come and the EC needs to discuss it to have seven clear days to have a special meeting you might miss the deadline so here again it's to give that flexibility and allow say that look two-day two clear days notice and we have a special EC meeting again. Are there any objections to that? No? Are we happy with the proposal?

**12.4.1** This amendment was adopted unanimously after being proposed by Sibtain Allibhai and seconded by Sheikh Afzal Merali

### **13. Motions on which due notice is given in accordance with clause 7.3**

**13.1.1** Akil Kanani – So, we start off with the first motion and I'll read this out to you. Sorry, I'll read it out and then I'll ask the proposer to come forward and he has 10 minutes to make a presentation up to 10 minutes. Motion one it is hereby proposed that the constitution of the KSIMC of London jamat be reviewed in its entirety at meetings called by the secretary for this purpose and that all amendments agreed at such meetings be adopted at an EGM. Proposed by Brother Faiyaz Nurmohamed and seconded by Brother Makbul Jaffer

**13.1.2** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - Salam alaykum Faiyaz Nurmohamed for the record, I'm the proposer the seconder of this motion is not physically present here so the seconder or the new seconder who's physically present is brother Ali Ali here so if you could make a note of the seconder. I believe I've got 10 minutes to discuss this proposal that I'm putting forward The current constitution was originally adopted on 26th March 2017 and was subsequently updated four times and concluded at the AGM on 8 June 2019 which is almost 5 years ago. In my humble view the Constitution is a is an evolving document which needs regular update enhancements modifications to existing Clauses of new Clauses to take account of new events, new circumstances and I think this AGM has highlighted because if you look at the number of motions that are to be discussed that is a testament as to why the Constitution needs a review and a five-year period of reviews is very important so obviously on top of the examples of the Motions that we're going to talk about starting with this one there are certain recent events which took place where it has highlighted the fact that the Constitution as it stands is not fit for purpose. I'll give you an example so that those who may not have thought about it, they will re recall the events that transpired so the first one is there was the Constitution in the last AGM which the general body in the main thought was unconstitutional and it was in that meeting an attempt was made to present draft 2022 accounts which were filed to the authorities without being adopted by the general body this should never happen again so this is one of the serious things that took place and I think that reviewing the Constitution will close that loophole and make it very clear as to the path that's to be followed the second thing that the current constitution does not provide a framework to the charity when undertaking acquisition and investment projects this was very clearly highlighted and continues to highlight the acquisition of Harefield, of this land Harefield, Hujjat Harefield. There is no suitable legal and operational structure to support the charity in in its current and planned future activities and it talks about strategies we don't have strategies and this was highlighted earlier in this AGM there is no full plan that we have in place the Harefield the speed with which Harefield was acquired subject to planning consents and other unknowns has put this charity in my view, in a very difficult situation as of today and we all know that within us but we have to take it as realistic and try make sure that this doesn't happen again so the Constitution Amendments and changes will help us achieve that then as highlighted by the Constitutional Amendments we need review the terms, rules, criteria of when we hold the different types of meetings for example we have the AGM, EGM, SGM with timelines, with notices and so on so we need to talk about that as well. I think these are three or four examples that I've stated so I'm requesting the general body members who are present here to support me and support my motion so that it can take effect and we can tighten up our Constitution better, thank you very much.

**13.1.3** Sibtain Allibhai - Thank you! If you can just wait for one second, sorry before you come in Akhtarbai, before I allow this motion to be tabled I would like to, you, with the guidance of the Constitutional experts sitting here. In terms of the spirit of this motion I'm fully aligned with you that the constitution most certainly needs a review and it's an ongoing thing if we read starting from here where it is it is hereby proposed the constitution of KSIMC of London Jamaat be reviewed in its entirety at the meetings called by the secretary for this purpose up to this point I'm absolutely fine and I need guidance from the Constitution expert from here on when it says and that all amendments agreed at such meetings be adopted at

an EGM to be held at 31st December 24 the Amendments that you will rather we all will sit and discuss can only be proposed at an EGM for it to then be adopted whereas the where the wording that you've used it says amendments agreed at such meetings be adopted. Would you like to make an amendment or a friendly amendment on that in terms of wording?

**13.1.4** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - Well, if I can get some comments from the General body, it seems to make sense but I'd like some confirmations on that.

**13.1.5** Akhtar Jaffer - The spirit as we mentioned president is understood, that the changes are required there are certain technicality issues and you've highlighted one of them is that the understanding should be that the proposals should come at a certain point correct right which. I have sought advice and it's approximately 6 weeks prior to it then being brought on to the EGM here on 31<sup>st</sup> December so we need to clarify that there so in essence we are in agreement or I as a member am in agreement that the constitution needs to be reviewed as highlighted by Brother Faiyaz. number one.

Number two is clarification has to be included there as a friendly Amendment on that so that members know by what date they have to submit correct the proposed amendments that they wish to see over and above the Amendments that Faiyaz and his team are going to also recommend yes at which point this goes the Secretariat informs the general body who go through the or read through the Amendments which would then be brought on proposal here to my understanding at the EGM on 31st December and then be voted on and if adopted there would then become part of the Constitution fine so taking all these points I think we just need to Tinker with the way the the motion is although the essence of which we are all in agreement with

**13.1.6** Sibtain Allibhai - Sure, thank you. MakbulBhai please and then there is Dr Munir then there's Altaf.

**13.1.7** Maqbul Rahim - I mean I think in principle this constitutional proposal is good. The thing is, what I was not even sure about was two things. Clearly, as the president has mentioned, you know, to say such meetings be adopted so clearly you misrepresented, yes? You don't mean adopted, present. You can't oblige, okay, yes. So, the other thing is, what kind of procedure do you have in mind? You want the future secretary to call meetings, right? Meetings to discuss constitutional changes, to go through the Constitution line by line. So, are you envisaging that this is an obligation if this is passed by the body here, on the new secretary that he should call, you know, a series of meetings to discuss the Constitution line by line? And you mentioned three things that you thought needed to be looked at. I mean, are you satisfied that going through the entire Constitution line by line is going to be practicable in terms of you already gone through a process, I believe, of having gone through the Constitution, you know, with the etc. So, I'm just wondering, are you, you know, because in my own experience, if I was doing this, I would say, okay, I'll ask myself the question: look, what are the issues that have arisen? You give three examples of the issues, and I prepare a list of issues. These are the issues that should be looked at. There may be more, you know, so now I have more, but I did not want to say it here because of time. So, you really envisage a series of meetings called by the secretary, yes, over a period until 31st December?

**13.1.8** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - I wouldn't say 31st December. I was going to suggest as an afterthought to extend that deadline. 31st December is too short a timeline. I was going to suggest a friendly amendment or such other date, maybe practical, whatever. Absolutely.

**13.1.9** Sibtain Allibhai - Thank you Makbul Bhai. Dr. Saheb please and then Altaf

**13.1.10** Dr. Munir Datto - Thank you, Makbul Bhai. You spoke as a lawyer; I'll speak as a layperson. Right, so I think the whole house agrees that the constitution needs to be looked at. Is the modus operandi that Makbul Bhai was saying in his legal term, yeah? The question is that with the last constitution, there were several meetings happening every fortnight. So, the question is, if you want to look at the entirety of the whole constitution, then I will suggest



that you look at forming a constitution committee who looks at the whole constitution and then you call an EGM to discuss and adopt if need be. Or, as Makbul bhai said, if you have already identified a number of shortcomings, then you bring those to the secretary, and then we only discuss those points that you think need to be looked at. But I agree that if you're looking at it, then look at the whole constitution. But for that, you need to have a committee who brings it up rather than every meeting we go line by line. Rather than that, this body can form a team, and then we come and do it.

**13.1.11** Sibtain Allibhai - Thank you Dr. Saheb.

**13.1.12** Altaf Daya - I think the date which you've spoken about—31st December—I think it might be worth having a friendly amendment to start it before the 31st December. It may go on; I think the last one took a couple of years. So, I don't think this is necessarily going to finish by that date. The second thing is, from our experience when we were in the EC, there were a certain number of clauses that conflicted with the law. So, before anything is adopted, can we make sure that whatever is presented has had legal opinion and review to sign off on it? So, I'd like to make a friendly amendment to put that in there as well. Whilst you can discuss all these things, once it's been written, at the end, before it's adopted, it should have legal sign-off as well.

**13.1.13** Mahmood Padhani - Salam. When we did the Constitution review in 2015, a body was set up from the grassroots, and it took us two years to accomplish that. We did it line by line, and we had no deadline or time limit at all. All the amendments made were adopted as a fait accompli at an Annual General Meeting or, I think, it was an EGM. So, whilst I agree with you—it's a great thing to do—December is not realistic. It's going to take a year or a year and a half to do it. We had lawyers on board and everything, and we went line by line on that. I think that's the way forward: allow it from the grassroots, not just a committee formed by the EC. Allow it from anybody who wants to come on the team. They would sit on the team and be there for as long as it takes.

**13.1.14** Mehdi Fazel - My experience with constitutions is that a review of such magnitude that you're talking about is too big for an organization, even if we are so big. You know, this type of process takes 10 years to be so comprehensive. The second thing is that in the process you have outlined—that the Jamaat is doing this, the secretary is calling meetings of members—that is not the right way to do it. Unless we are doing two or three amendments, the right way to do this is to appoint a committee, either directly from here, from the general meeting, some experts, or that the executive committee appoints in the future some members who then invite amendments or propose some things. They would come up with a document reflecting what the general body may wish. Then, that particular meeting would start looking at it. But the last time we did it, if I can remind people, after every 15 days, I think we went on for almost six months or more, just in meetings. That was a very comprehensive process. Since the comprehensive process has already taken place, where we really went through a lot, I would suggest that if you think there are so many things like this, we either appoint a committee to look at it or handle changes as they arise. We could invite suggestions for any constitutional amendments, let the committee review them to ensure they are legally sound, and then propose the amendment.

**13.1.15** Sibtain Allibhai - Thank you. Faiyazbhai, are you considering now a friendly amendment on this then?

**13.1.16** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - Yes, I'm open-minded. Obviously, the amendment—I'm happy with the extension of the time frame because we don't have a timeline that is reasonable, as we don't know how long it's going to go on for. I'm happy for suggestions. I'm also happy for the members to suggest amendments or the way forward, whether it's a CRC, whether it's grassroots involvement—I'm open-minded about that, to be honest. Sure, so I'm open to hearing the views of the members.

**13.1.17** Akil Kanani - I think we have this motion right. We are proposing a slight amendment to make sure that it's in line with the constitution. So, if you look at your screen, you will see that we are saying, "It is hereby resolved that we review the constitution in its entirety at meetings called by the secretary for this purpose, and that all amendments agreed at such meetings be proposed at an EGM." Because they can't be adopted, they have to be proposed to be adopted, right? So they have to be proposed at an EGM to be held, or to commence, by 31st December. So, we probably know that this EGM will not be just one EGM and it will require more meetings. What we can probably do is put here that the proposal be at an EGM to commence by 31st December. That way, you don't have a fixed end time. To commence by 31st December. That makes it constitutionally compliant.

**13.1.18** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - Can we add a proposed for adoption at an EGM? can we then add the word adoption in to be proposed for adoption for adoption because if the members don't vote for it

**13.1.19** – Akil Kanani - You can't adopt it; it has to be proposed. You're bringing it, and then you will discuss it at an EGM, and then based on that, the body will either adopt those changes or reject them.

**13.1.20** Akhtar Jaffer - We have past experience on how we did the 2017 to deliver 2019, yes, and alhamdulillah, in any standards, that is a great achievement. Alhamdulillah. In principle, the house, from the flavour of what people are saying, agree that the constitution needs to be reviewed. Five years or coming to six years is just about the right time to review it. In light of all the major changes that have taken place post-Covid, it does make sense. Why not adopt the same method we did previously, where we had a team? Because, if I'm not mistaken, at least three times today the EC tried to exonerate themselves because 14 people couldn't do all the jobs. To push this onto the incoming secretary would be grossly difficult, so with the honorary secretary being the head of it anyway, we would have a team who would look into this and therefore get members who wish to add or make any changes to the constitution. That should be done. So, the team should be made number one.

**13.1.21** Akil Kanani - Can I just come in? As far as the team is concerned, those are mechanics that don't need to be specified in the resolution. The general body can't create or form a team; it's only the executive committee that can create subcommittees. So we have an undertaking. The house here is already looking at proposing a constitution review. It has already empowered the secretary to call meetings for this purpose. Right? How those meetings are structured is up to the secretary. So, you give him a little bit of flexibility—whether it's focus groups, meetings with the BUJU, or meetings with different sections. You've already put that in. What you're saying is that those amendments that are then agreed upon, okay, or they might not be agreed on—there might be three different proposals for each clause—those all come as proposals at an EGM, which is to commence by the end of this year. When it completes, God will know, but what we're doing is we're giving the power to the secretary to say, "This is what's required. How it's done, whether there's a CRC or whatever, that's irrelevant. As far as my understanding, I think the motion is very clear. It's very explicit that he has to call meetings and the EGM has to be called by the 31st of December

**13.1.22** Akhtar Jaffer - Well, if the members are not made of the changes that by a certain date have to be in the hands of members

**13.1.23** Akil Kanani - Secretary (07:21:50): They will be because the notice period will automatically come with the change. He's not going to call an EGM with just 4 days' notice because it's specified. It's an EGM, so it's going to give you the 21 days' notice to review the proposals. No, no, it's 21 days because to call an EGM, you need 21 days' notice.

**13.1.24** Akhtar Jaffer - This is the technicality, Mr. Akil bhai. Constitutional amendments notice is 6 weeks, while EGM notice is 21 days. So, those are the things that you're assuming the incoming secretary will handle and notify the members accordingly. I come to

my last point: 31st December is too near. I propose that we stretch it for another 6 months, taking it to a year from now. This gives members enough time, and the Secretariat, once they get into office, enough time to notify the members that this motion has been proposed and that they are required to present whatever changes they wish to the Constitution by such and such a date. This way, it gives a wider time frame and more chance for participation.

**13.1.25 Akil Kanani** - To tackle your point, I would ask Faiyaz bhai to take the friendly amendment and say that we commence this by 31st March 2025. This gives you a slightly longer window to start, and then we proceed with the vote. Are you happy with that friendly amendment, to commence by 31st March 2025? I think you've covered pretty much everything we want to achieve. Dr. Saheb, do you have something extra to add? Very important?

**13.1.26 Dr Munir Datto** - I only say important stuff. There's a flow in this resolution motion. You are asking the community members to come twice to discuss the same thing line by line. If you look at it, it says it will be reviewed in its entirety at meetings called by the secretary. So the secretary will call all the members to go through the Constitution line by line. And those changes will then be brought at an EGM to be proposed and adopted, where we'll go through it again line by line. So, there's a flow there, and that's why what Makbulbhai said, or somebody else said, is that we should have a CRC or IRT. Even if you think that the EC has to appoint it, then you can do it here. Otherwise, what's going to happen is we won't finish this. I can say by 2027, it won't finish.

**13.1.27 Akhtar Jaffer** - Sorry, Dr. Saheb, with all due respect, the line-by-line review will be done before the EGM. Only the changes will be discussed at the EGM. You can't go line by line again at the EGM. The line-by-line review is done beforehand so that members attending the EGM are aware of the specific points that have been proposed for amendment, change, or inclusion. Thank you.

**13.1.28 Maqbul Rahim** - I just want to add one more point. You see, if you're going to ask the secretary to call the meetings, this really imposes quite a burden on the secretary. The best approach, I think, is to make the resolution clear by stating that the secretary will arrange for a body to review the amendments. The process of gathering feedback will be quite extensive—will they give notice to every member of the community, asking them to submit any constitutional amendments or concerns? The second point, which was extremely important and mentioned by Ali Panju, is that any proposed amendments must be vetted for legal validity and consistency with the Constitution. This ensures that we don't end up in a situation where we're proposing changes that aren't feasible or legally sound. So, if you're going to impose this responsibility on the new secretary to call the meetings, it's crucial that we clarify what exactly they're expected to do. Right now, it's not very clear what the secretary's role will entail.

**13.1.29 Akil Kanani** - Do you know, okay, so can I suggest another friendly amendment where it says: "It is hereby proposed that the Constitution be reviewed in its entirety by the executive committee," and that all amendments agreed at and to be proposed at an EGM to commence by 31st March. What you're doing is empowering the executive committee to do the review in whatever way they see fit, whether they do a CRC, workshops, or whatever approach they choose. So, I think you need to then propose a friendly amendment or an amendment to this.

**13.1.30 Altaf Daya** - Okay, just a couple of friendly amendments. I think, going on from Makbul Bhai's point, I think you need to add the words that it must be signed off by legal experts but also by the Charities Commission. We got in trouble last time for not pre-approving it with the Charities Commission before adopting it, so we need to pre-approve it, in its entirety, by the Charities Commission and from legal experts. Could you put some words around that for that basis. Then, I'll hand over to

**13.1.31** Akil Kanani - As it stands, this is the motion. If anyone wants to present friendly amendments, they need to be changed and then agreed on by the proposer, so by you. merely stating it, I can't do anything with it; it stands there. So, if you want to change it, make the change, and we ask the proposer to see whether he's going to accept this or not.

**13.1.32** Altaf Daya - Okay, can you add some words at the end: 'I'll commence by the 31st March 2025. Any proposed Constitution should be reviewed and approved by legal experts and the Charities commission prior to presentation.

**13.1.33** Akil Kanani - So, it is hereby proposed that the Constitution of the KSIMC of London Jamaat be reviewed in its entirety at meetings called by the secretary for this purpose and that all amendments agreed at such meetings to be proposed at an EGM to commence by 31st March 2025. Any proposed Constitution to be reviewed and approved by legal experts and the Charities commission prior to the presentation at the EGM.

**13.1.34** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - Correct me if I'm wrong, but I'm okay with this proposal. I just want to make sure, for clarity, that it's a proposal that we will be going through and discussing by the grassroots at constitutional meetings.

**13.1.35** Akil Kanani - I mean, that's an automatic right, I think it's understood that way, right? Just there was a mention of amendments agreed at such meetings. It's to be reviewed in its entirety at meetings, so these meetings will be with grassroots, I don't know, unless you want to...

**(07:31:41): [No Signal]** Some conversation was lost

**13.1.36** Akil Kanani - The friendly amendment by Makbul Bai says that it will be reviewed in its entirety at meetings with members, so that way it encompasses the members, the grassroots. Any proposed Constitutional amendments? Yup, is that correct?

Okay, so can I just read this out:

It is hereby proposed that the constitution of the KSIMC of London jamaat be reviewed in its entirety at meetings with members called by the secretary for this purpose, and that all amendments agreed at such meetings be proposed at an EGM to commence by 31st March 2025. Any proposed constitutional amendments be reviewed and approved by legal experts and the Charities Commission prior to the presentation at the EGM.

This is proposed by Brother Faiyaz Nurmohamed and seconded by Brother Ali Ali. Are we happy with that? That's on the table, right? Anyone against this motion? Raise your hand. One against, okay, so the motion is one against, two against, any ladies, no against, two abstentions. Anyone abstaining? One abstention, okay. For this motion, please put your white slip up again. It's fine, just hand it up and we'll get a head count. We have a point of order. Sorry, we have a point of order.

**13.1.37** Sabira Lakha - Zainab bai raised a valid point. What she's saying is that if we go to the Charity Commission before the membership has a vote on it, then will we not be obliged to send the final version again to the Charity Commission? I think having the clause stipulating advice from the Charity Commission makes us vulnerable, as we would then have to abide by their rules. At the moment, the Charity Commission gives us the freedom to not consult them if we don't include them, but by consulting them, we are tying ourselves down and will have to do it twice. Thank you. Secretary (07:36:09): Yeah, but he's saying it's approved prior to presentation.

**13.1.38** Altaf Daya - Yes, thank you. I'm only speaking from our experience. So last time around, when we did the 2-year review and everything went through, alhamdulillah, as we entered into office, we went to the Charity Commission to simply register this as our new constitution. They refused. They said these are the conflicts, and therefore we will not accept this amendment. They gave us a whole list, and it took us an entire process with a legal team, etc., to go through everything to represent all of the changes we needed to make.

There was a specific, pertinent issue, which ended up being a discussion around changes to clauses three and four, particularly around the Shia Ithna Asheri faith and the distribution of assets. It was a complicated scenario. In that process, the Charity Commission said to us that most charities normally do this: when they're about to propose something to their members and they've agreed everything, they run it past us for pre-approval to make sure there aren't any conflicts. Then it's simply a case of just registering it. That's what is meant and intended by this—step by step, we decide all the things and just have a check with them. Based on our previous experience, we messed up last time, so before we present it, we want to make sure it's all going to flow.

**13.1.39** Akil Kanani - so as it stands Akhtar bhai, we're on a vote there was just a point of order.

**13.1.40** Akhtar Jaffer - So, just to understand you correctly, are you saying that we could still come to the EGM and disagree on an amendment? So, it is not binding us in any way by it going through the Charity Commission? That's what I wanted to clarify.

**13.1.41** Akil Kanani - It's just I'll have the advice with Charities Commission when we come to discussing it, right? Against, same two, anyone changed?

**13.1.42** This motion was passed with 2 people against, 1 abstention, and 122 for the motion.

**13.2** Akil Kanani - Motion with number two. Again, I will ask the proposer to come forward. I'll just read it out. It is hereby proposed that the executive committee holds an interactive question and answer session to formally introduce the incoming executive committee and for them to answer any questions from members in connection with their vision for running this Khoja Shia Islamic charity for the next two years. Such a session to be called with seven clear days' notice and be held no later than Friday, 5th July at 8:00 p.m. The venue shall be Hujjat Stanmore. Proposed by Brother Faiyaz Nurmohamed seconded by Brother Mahmood Padhani. Faiyaz bhai do you want to just give a quick preamble? If you can maybe five minutes rather than 10?

**13.2.1** Faiyaz Nurmohamed - I was going to suggest that we can go through this motion quickly because we have subsequent motions to discuss, and I don't want those motions to be missed out. So, as far as my motion is concerned, the recent election, where there was no competition, only had one set of candidates who took office. The manifestos and CVs of the new incoming team took a very long time to be published, which I found very surprising. I understand that these manifestos and CVs were, let's call it, polished and not in the original format that would have been filed with the Electoral Commission. The core of my motion is that it's extremely important to know who the trustees are, who the people are going to represent us as Trustees for this charity. So, it is very critical that we have a platform where the incoming team members present themselves in front of the members and have an engagement, including a Q&A. Now, I had a look at the manifesto published by or for the incoming president, and unfortunately, I wouldn't call it a manifesto because it was two lines. I think the chair lady was far more impressive with her CV than the president's, so that's concerning to me. It gives us even more reason to have this meeting with the incoming team because I don't know what the incoming president's vision is. According to the Constitution, he has to provide a manifesto of 250 words, not 30. So, I think it's very critical because we are at a turning point where we are changing our EC. I would like the members to consider this point. One more thing, as far as timelines are concerned, just to give you an idea why it says 5th July 2024: this is only in this instance because we have a Muharram starting a couple of days later. This is to try and get to know the new team because the elections finished some six weeks ago, and we don't know who's on board. So, I would ask the members to please support me in this motion.

**13.2.2** Akil Kanani - Thank you. Any observations or comments on the floor?



**13.2.3** Dr Munir Datto - Salam. The EC might have been elected six weeks back, but they haven't taken office yet. The other thing is that it's no fault of the elected EC that they came unopposed; the community members who had the option of putting their name forward did not. I see no value in doing this meeting when they're already in office. So, I see no value at all. We'll be having 27 EGMs starting from after Muharram and I don't want an extra meeting just to do a Q&A with an EC that's already been elected unopposed. Thank you.

**13.2.4** Mahmood Padhani - I have to respectfully disagree. Unopposed, unelected—it's nice if you can get it. The grassroots should have the opportunity to interrogate, I mean, ask friendly questions of the EC about their vision for the next two years. They don't have many forums to question the EC; they see them individually, and all of them are very fine people, no doubt about it, but for their wish of what they're going to do with the Jamaat, the grassroots have the right. This is one of the facilitations of those rights that Faiyaz bhai is asking for, and I don't see anything wrong with that. We're not faulting them for coming in, as I said, it's nice if you can get it, but you know, we like to question them a little bit more, further and into the finer details.

**13.2.5** Muhammad Damji - I'm heavily in favor of this motion. I agree that the manifesto was very short, and as we can see from the engagement here, there are a lot of young people attending an AGM for the first time. It's clear that we want to engage with the community. I think if the general body votes in favour of this motion, then it's clear that we want to engage with the EC and work with them. There was no manifesto release prior to the election. I give credit to the ladies' EC because they released their manifesto months in advance, so we were aware of who they were and what they were looking to achieve. We had no awareness of who the incoming EC was until the election results were released. So, I think it's really, really essential that we are given a platform and an opportunity to engage with the EC, and to be honest, given how subjective this motion is, it's a yes and no argument. I think we should just go for a vote. Thank you.

**13.2.6** Akil Kanani - Thank you, I think we go forward. Voting started

**13.2.7** The motion was passed with 5 against, 8 abstentions, and 144 for the motion

**13.2.8** Dr Munir Datto - Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, 144 have agreed to this. I hope I see 144 there when the question and answer is done. I will be there if I'm in town; I'm always there. But I hope the 144 who have said that they want this should be there.

**13.3** Akil Kanani - motions with due notice, number three. If we can just have some silence because time is running short. Yeah, we hereby resolve that all information and updates for any property concerning KSIMC of London Hujjat Jamaat will be conveyed to members at a constitutionally compliant general meeting or by email. This is proposed by Sister Sabira Lakha and seconded by Sheikh Ali Hussein Datto. So, if I can ask Sister Sabira Lakha to present

**13.3.1** Sister Sabira Lakha - Okay, so I think this is quite self-explanatory, we did submit it last year. I did so with Akhtar bhai and the rationale behind that was because every time we buy a property, there is a need for it from the community. There are reasons for why we are doing that, and if we don't capture it in minutes or in an email, then we're losing critical data about our community. In the last two years, we've already done that. We bought Harefield, and very little of it was recorded in minutes. Most of it was updates that we got at Kushalis, which is great because we do want to go to Khushall and get wonderful news that we've put in our application, we've done this, we've done that. It's wonderful, but the critical information is not being recorded for prosperity, and we need that. So that when we look back 50 years, 60 years from now into our community, we can say, "At this time, this was the need of the community; this is why Harefield was built; these were the issues the community had; this is how the community overcame those issues." There's a learning from that, and there is history. We're losing our history by not having this recorded. It's not because the EC is doing

something wrong. It's not because we don't trust them. It's none of those negative things. For me, my motivation is simply, let's record this. That's why I said email, because it's not about questioning the EC or interrogating them; it's about recording. So, I would be more than happy if the next EC didn't have EGMs or SGMs or any form of general meeting whereby minutes are taken, provided they put something in writing to us. It's also easier to cross-reference if we're concerned about something; we don't have to constantly write to the Secretariat to get basic information. It's there, we can cross-reference our emails or the minutes. So, that's my motivation for proposing this. I'm happy to amend it. I'm happy for questions.

**13.3.2** Akil Kanani – Thank you. Any comments?

**13.3.3** Suhail Nasser - Just with regards to the email, depending on the nature of the emails, there are a lot of people that have eyes on this project, and every time an email is sent out, there are people watching. There are also emails going to people that are not in the community. So, I think that's just a consideration we have to have. If emails are sent out, whatever the nature, if it's sensitive

**13.3.4** Sabira Lakha - But if we do that, can I just ask for further clarification on that? Then how would you feel about the president standing at a Kushali and talking about it? Because it's on YouTube, it's open for everybody to see that update. So we lose that because it's not recorded anyway, because that's not a reliable recording. But it's even more open to the public than minutes and emails would be, because emails would only go to the membership.

**13.3.5** Akil Kanani - I think the Secretariat, from experience, would, whatever information they put out on email, they'll obviously be cognizant of how much information. I think the nature and the substance of this motion is to keep the updates coming via either meetings or in written format, not only just given on a speech. So, whatever information is relayed via email, for example, as long as it's as the then EC will decide how much and to what detail they want to put it on email, but the fact is it has come on email.

**13.3.6** Suhail Nasser - I agree with the nature of it, but just to answer the point, emails are, people can sign up to the list and so they'll automatically and definitely get it, whereas they might not watch YouTube.

**13.3.7** Mehdi Fazel - Salam, emails are no substitute for any constitutional requirement for approval of a project, so therefore the two things are being mixed in here. I think we just need to say we need more updates, and whatever is updated on announcements should also be updated by email as a record. We need to be cognizant that when emails are being written, the whole public in the world is going to see it. So, whatever is said in the announcement, he can say, "This particular thing, keep it in the community," and then that message is not recorded.

**13.3.8** Akil Kanani - I think the constitutionally compliant general meeting refers to the fact that an update is not only just given on the podium; it's actually given at a general meeting, either in an EGM or an SGM, not just a general meeting because you can have an ordinary shura meeting, for example, but that's not a constitutionally compliant general meeting. So I think it's saying here and giving you the flexibility either to do it at a meeting or via email, and that's up to the Secretariat to decide, but the flow of information is what's important.

That's okay, that's a personal opinion. So hence, it's given you the option either to do it at a meeting or...

**13.3.9** Mahmood Padhani - Salam. I think this is a great idea because this obviates the necessity of having shura meetings. If you remember, for the Greenfield purchase, all the updates came through the shura meetings, and not everybody could attend the shura meetings. Right, this will take this away from it and make it seamless. Thank you.

**13.3.10** Husein Asaria - I think by having both, you mitigate the sensitivity as well. So if there is a sensitive nature, then you can, and that is up to the EC at the time, they can call an SGM and have it without going on a public forum. But if there is an unsensitive update that

needs to go out, then an email is fine. So, by having both of them, I think you'll mitigate any risk that you should have.

**13.3.11** Abul Kassim - This is my first AGM. I've never ever attended one, and I've spoken to quite a few brothers here today, and I think for many that have attended today, it's their very first as well. My main reason for coming today is solely because of this—my concern about the incoming committee, their political alignment, their spiritual alignment, and, you know, considering what we've already gone through in the conversations we've had earlier, the reaction from everyone, you know, the Boris Perfum Johnson and the table tennis, all of that nonsense. Let me just give me a second. With the new committee, it's important for us, who are first-time attendees, to understand what the alignments are and where we want to go as a community, especially politically. One such example: recently appearing on social media with conservative friends of Israel and all of this, especially with new members—right, new members of the committee. It's already showing where we are aligned. I'm just I'm supporting this motion right now that's the reason why I think it's important to have these Q&A so someone like me who's never attended can ask you know what are these gatherings why are we promoting. So, that's just a comment, consider it a comment.

**13.3.12** Ali Panju - Salam, I wonder if the proposer has had any thoughts around materiality of the updates required. The way it's drafted, it could be interpreted as all information, which may include, I don't know, the cleaner turning up late 10 minutes, and now we need to send out an email to the whole community. I think there's an implied level of materiality to the updates to be shared, and I just wanted to know if we could codify that in some way for helpfulness.

**13.3.13** Sister Sabira Lakha - Sure, it's only pertaining to the properties. So it's regarding updates of properties. It would be like, for instance, Ruislip, Harefield, Stanmore. It's not pertaining to so we could we could talk ..

**13.3.14** Ali Panju - I wonder if something like any public presidential updates... Sorry, I wonder if wording such as "We hereby resolve that all public presidential updates relating to properties be..."

**13.3.15** Sister Sabira Lakha - Yeah, or purchase or investment, anything to do with respect to purchasing or investment, I'm happy to add those words in. Yes, thank you.

**13.3.16** Akil Kanani - Ali, can you propose something? I think it's more to do with ensuring it's not *all* information, but rather *material* information. We hereby resolve that material information and updates for any property concerning, so that gives a bit of flexibility; it's not saying every single detail.

**13.3.17** Ali Panju - If I heard correctly, the suggestion was for *\*information and updates\** regarding the purchase, investment, or sale of properties.

**13.3.18** Sabira Lakha - Well, it could also be development because ultimately we'll be developing this property. So, it could be the development of this property. It could be considering a contract for Ruislip. That's why I didn't want to define it just as a purchase because our long-term intention is more than that.

**13.3.19** Ali Panju - That's why I suggested something like public presidential updates, which implies a level of materiality.

**13.3.20** Sabira Lakha - I like Akil Bhai's suggestion of putting "material updates." Would you be happy with that? Thank you.

**13.3.21** Akil Kanani - So, it says here: *We hereby resolve that material information and updates for any property concerning will be conveyed.*

**13.3.22** Sabira Lakha - The only reason I said that is because the next EC may not choose for the president to give that update. The secretary might give that update, so whoever does it... Thank you.

**13.3.23** Imran Dewji - Very quickly, I agree with Al on materiality, but there's also a question of confidentiality. As it's currently drafted, all material information and updates must be

conveyed. However, some may still be confidential. Often, confidential discussions happen with advisers, which you wouldn't necessarily want to immediately update the membership about. You'd want that discretion built in, or there may be discussions held with counselors and other local stakeholders. It's important to recognize a level of discretion in what updates are provided. The motion's purpose is strong, but as currently drafted, it suggests all information, confidential or sensitive, must be immediately emailed to the membership. That's clearly not the intention

**13.3.24** Sabira Lakha - Can I suggest following that suggestion that we delete the words "all information" and just say "material updates"? So, whatever the EC wanted to give by way of an update, that update is then presented at a constitutional meeting or by email.

**13.3.25** Imran Dewji - I think that certainly helps removing the word "all." But at this stage, if it was confidential, it could still be material. If you are about to put in a planning application, that's a very material update for the community. But there may be confidentiality reasons or sensitivities, which is why you wouldn't do that immediately. I don't want to labor the point. I don't think we need to spend too long on this, but if at the moment, if you don't have a sensitivity threshold or confidentiality threshold or give a discretion to the EC, this puts an undue burden on the EC that almost makes it very, very difficult. If the EC are going to have a confidential discussion with local councillor, that would be a material update. They may have very good reasons why they don't want to immediately update the membership. They'll obviously update them in good time, but as the motion is currently drafted, they would be obligated to, and that would almost put at risk those discussions with the counselors that they may want to have in confidence for a while before updating the members.

**13.3.26** Sabira Lakha - Okay, Akil bhai, when you decide—so I accept the point that you're making about confidentiality. I just want to understand procedurally when these updates are going to be made. The EC decides what updates you want to make, so if the EC decides that something is sensitive and should not be released at that point in time, then that would not be an update. That would just be material information that they've not updated. So, in my mind, when we talk about updates, we're talking about what the EC is already ready and willing to share with us.

**13.3.27** Altaf Daya - I think that's the nuance. I think it's the word "update." So I think what you're saying, you're talking about some sort of announcement that the EC would give. So I think that's the point that I'm suggesting: that actually, that nuance of that word "update"—if you want to change that.

**13.3.28** Sabira Lakha - How about "any sharing of information"? Would the membership be agreeable to using the words "sharing of information" rather than "announcements"?

**13.3.29** Sheikh Afzal Merali - I'm just seeking some clarification. So Sabirabai, do you mean to say that the information or updates with respect to properties should solely be shared by email or the AGM, for example, all the constitutionally compliant general meetings? Or can the president or any other of the EC members also share them during such programs, etc.? Because they actually do add a positive flavour and atmosphere. Secondly, these events themselves also help generate whatever donations are necessary to upkeep these programs as well or maybe these initiatives to help them. So, do you mean solely through these two methods?

**13.3.30** Sabira Lakha - Okay, so yes, I agree. I appreciate the comment you're making. The intention is that, say, we got the planning permission, insha'Allah, and the president, of course, would want to make that announcement at a Khushali or an Eid, and that's when we would want to hear it. That announcement should then be followed by an email so that there is a record that yes, we got planning, we got it at this date, and these were the terms and conditions of the planning, or whatever information they're willing to share at the time. But that follow-up should take place. Then that's why I've said email. We don't want to burden

the EC with constantly having to call general meetings. But Akilbhai, I'm happy to amend that to say –

**13.3.31** Akil Kanani - If you look at it, it's here. Here it says, "We hereby resolve that announcements for any property concerning will be conveyed." So that may—

**13.3.32** Sabira Lakha - Rather than "announcements," why don't we say, "information to be shared"? Because there may be more information to share than merely an announcement.

**13.3.33** Akil Kanani - Okay, so hereby resolve that "information to be shared for any property concerning will be conveyed." Imran, do you think that's legally on okay footing? Or, "We hereby resolve that information be shared." Information to be shared.. Okay, we're hereby resolved that "information to be shared where appropriate...I think it defeats the purpose if you say "where appropriate," because then they totally can say, "We didn't think anything was appropriate for two years," and release nothing, right? So, I think that's probably not a friendly amendment.. Yeah, so here it says here, "information to be shared for any property." I think we go with this particular... Sabira bai, by this one. So, we hereby resolve that "information to be shared for any property concerning KSIMC of London" I will just make a slight adjustment there because it's "the KSIMC of London," because that's the way we are referred to—"concerning the KSIMC of London will be conveyed to members at a constitutionally compliant general meeting or by email. okay, brilliant. So we're going to voting

**13.3.34** Imran Dewji - Sorry, just very, very quickly. The point earlier was that it has to also be possible to share it in another format, right? At a Khushali or wherever. All you have to do is add the word "including." So if you add the word "conveyed to members, including at a constitutionally compliant general meeting or by email," that doesn't preclude you from doing it elsewhere in a speech as well. You can do both.

**13.3.35** Akil Kanani - So, where do I put including?

**13.3.36** Imran Dewji - "will be conveyed to members, including at a constitutionally compliant general meeting or by email." That means that the president can announce it with much fanfare and then send out the email afterward, and it achieves both purposes of everyone finding out.

**13.3.37** Akil Kanani - Okay, brilliant. Right, so here it is: "We hereby resolve that information be shared for any property concerning the KSIMC of London will be conveyed to members, including at a constitutionally compliant general meeting or by email." Okay, so this time, we're going to change colours. Motion put to vote

**13.3.38** Akil Kanani – the motion was passed with none against, 1 abstention and 171 for the motion

**13.4** Akil Kanani - We move on to motion four. We hereby resolve that members shall be informed at least 14 clear days in advance of any upcoming constitutional deadline affecting members such as proposing resolutions or Constitutional Amendments, proposed by Sister Sabira Lakha and seconded by Sheikh Ali Hussein Datoo

**13.4.1** Sabira Lakha - Yes, thank you. So, this is another resolution that we had brought at the last AGM and it's quite nice to see that the outgoing EC that now no longer needs to abide by these resolutions is supportive of it, but nonetheless we make progress. Right, so the intention of this motion is that it's something that I practiced when I was the SG of CoEJ. What happens is that the Secretariat has to calculate these dates for themselves, and then what happens is that they don't share these dates with the members. So, we, as members, also have to calculate these dates, and our calculation may not be the same as what the dates are to what the Secretariat has calculated, and that could raise a conflict because you could then submit your resolution or amendment, sorry Constitutional Amendment, a day late because you miscalculated the 14 days, or whatever the deadline is. So, it's much better for the Secretariat to work with the membership and to support the membership by sharing



these dates. So, if we know in advance what is the deadline for Constitutional Amendments, we put them in if we want to, and that will encourage more activity and engagement from the membership because the Secretariat will be actively seeking engagement from the membership, and that goes for Resolutions as well, which Akil bai did do this time, credit to him. Thank you.

**13.4.2** Akil Kanani - Sabirabai, just can I present to you a friendly amendment on this? Because the way it stands here, you must provide at least 14 clear days in advance. That means I could say, I could send you the notice tomorrow, not me, but I can send you the notice tomorrow, you'll forget about it, because... So, can we add at least 14 days and not more than 28 days in advance? Therefore, you've got that, they must within the month, whereas 14 days could be tomorrow because it's still that - So, I'm just making that amendment.

**13.4.3** Sabira Lakha (08:12:38): I accept that, thank you. Sheikh Ali Husein, excuse me, I forgot to ask you, are you in agreement with this amendment?

**13.4.4** Sheikh Ali Husein Datoo - Yes Thank you.

**13.4.5** Gulamhusein r Sumar - My question is, the last notice we got on there, it says that all the amendments need to be submitted by this date. Now, was that...

**13.4.6** Akil Kanani - So, that was for motions which we had written out. Okay, in good practice it would have been nice to have sent it out earlier and said that Constitutional Amendments need to come six weeks earlier so that wasn't clear. So here, what this is saying is that between 14 and 28 days in advance of those deadlines, a notice is sent out to members, so it kind of just prompts them that, if I've got a deadline to propose a Constitutional Amendment, I've got 28 days to just rack my brains if I want to present something, because at the moment I can present when the AGM notices come out, but I can't present a Constitutional Amendment because the AGM notice is only 21 days, and the Constitutional Amendment notice is six weeks. So, I'm already time-barred. So here, what you're doing is you're just giving that month in advance.

**13.4.7** Gulamhusein Sumar - But can we not have the two aligned then?

**13.4.8** Akil Kanani - That's something you can do in the Constitutional review when it's done, whether to think about having six weeks or change it to 28, 21 days. That's something that can be reviewed, but I think here it's just giving you a motion to say that for next AGM you've got this in place, where there's an extra reminder.

**13.4.9** - Hussein Asaria - Just a question here, will you be then... or who by will be listing each item to say, so Constitutional Amendments need to be in by this date, Resolutions need to be in by this date, and these are the motions that we'll be accepting at the following meeting?

**13.4.10** Akil Kanani - It's just, yeah, it's just as you say correctly, so in the AGM notice this year, right at the bottom, there was a statement that I had added to say, if you wanted to propose any amendments, please send them in by midnight, whatever date it was. So here, it would be the same, but it would just say if you want to propose any Constitutional Amendments, please send them by midnight, you know, whatever date.

Yeah, yeah, exactly. Exactly right. We go for a vote.

**13.4.11** Ali Panju - I'm just trying to do the mental maths in my head with regards to the emotion to make the date of the AGM flexible, and I do worry that 28 days' notice of a six-week deadline might limit you to have to pick the date of the AGM well in advance of that. And so, I wonder if three months would be a more flexible time period to ensure that once the date is selected for the AGM, the notice can be given without problem.

**13.4.12** Akil Kanani - So, you're saying not more than 60 clear days? 90 clear days.

**13.4.13** - Sabira Lakha- that's fine, because the EC would be thinking about the dates anyway because they would need to get us the accounts in time. So if they're going to be

preparing accounts in time to present them at the AGM, they will already know when they want to hold the AGM, even if they've not published that date to the members.

**13.4.14** Akil Kanani - Fine. Okay, so we have this amendment which is accepted. It says here, we hereby resolve that members shall be informed at least 14 clear days in advance and not more than 90 clear days in advance of any upcoming constitutional deadline affecting members, such as for proposing resolutions or Constitutional Amendments.

**13.4.15** – Moshin Kassam - Salam. What if the EC decides to have a meeting within the four weeks, as per the Constitution, then how will these 90 days become effective? It's impossible. You sometimes must call an AGM in less than the time allocated, so the 90 days rule should not be possible.

**13.4.16** Akil Kanani - No, but the AGM... we've already passed the Constitutional Amendment that the AGM will be from a window of 1st June to 31st July. Correct? Right? So, the sitting EC will decide when they want to call that, correct? They should know in advance when they're going to call that.

**13.4.17** Moshin Kassam - How will they know in advance when the accounts come in just four weeks before?

**13.4.18** Akil Kanani - It says 14 days. 90 days is just if you want to pre-plan, you've got a window of 14 to 90 days. Yeah, the minimum is 14 days, you have to... Right, you'll know which date you're going to keep the AGM. You work six weeks from that, and as long as whatever that date is, add another 14 days, and that's when you need to just let the members know. That your AGM is on 5th June, okay? Six weeks before that is, I don't know, 24th April. 14 days before 24th April is 10th April. So, by 10th April, all the Secretariat needs to do is just write an email to say our AGM is going to be on this date. Any Constitutional Amendments that need to be sent, please send them in by the 24th of April.

**13.4.19** Moshin Kassam - Will you have the date by 10th April, as per your example, to notify the public? Will you be ready by then? No, that's exactly it. So don't put something there which you cannot foresee, that there's going to be a problem

**13.4.20** Akil Kanani - But regardless of that, regardless of that, whatever date you call the AGM, right, you still need to give six weeks' notice for Constitutional Amendments.

**13.4.21** Moshin Kassam - six weeks, I'm happy. But then to add another 14 days to the six weeks is my issue.

**13.4.22** Akil Kanani - So then why don't we say at least seven clear days in advance? Is that...

**13.4.23** Moshin Kassam - make it shorter, not longer.

**13.4.24** Akil Kanani - So we have a friendly amendment. We hereby resolve that members shall be informed at least seven clear days in advance and not more than 90 clear days in advance of any upcoming constitutional deadline affecting members, such as for proposing resolutions or Constitutional Amendments. Right, proposed by Sister Sabira Lakha, seconded by Sheikh Ali Hussein Datoo.

**13.4.25** Akil Kanani - The motion is passed with none against, 2 abstentions and 197 for the motion

**13.5** Akil Kanani – Motion number 5 - We hereby resolve that each serving trustee must individually sign the following declaration at the commencement of his or her term: "I hereby declare to commit to upholding Clause 3 of the Constitution, promote and advance the Islamic religion in accordance with the principles of the Shia Ithna Asheri Sharia in my practice of it in public."

Proposed by Sheikh Ali Hussein, seconded by Sheikh Anwar Jafar, Sheikh Abas Jafar, Ali Mamas, Ali Alyah, ..., Hussein Yusufali, and Sister Sabira Lakha.

**13.5.1** Sheikh Ali Hussein Datoo - Mr. Chairman, it is a source of pleasure to see so many willing to engage, young and old, male and female, to make their voice heard for the

betterment of our community. I thank you for this opportunity to present this motion and I thank the members who, I trust, have seen the weight of this motion, as it is unprecedented that scholars of our Jamaat engage in this fashion.

Mr. Chairman, prevention is better than cure. I believe, as I feel do the members, that this is an Islamic centre which promotes and advances the Islamic religion in accordance with the principles of the Shia Ithna Asheri faith, where our faith and principles dictate every event and happening. This is the foundation of my motion.

Mr. Chairman, for over a month I've been engaging with some of the past, present, and future EC members, as well as sitting in focus discussion circles with members of this Jamaat, discussing what was initially a constitutional amendment and then became a personal declaration for trustees to uphold the first object of the Jamaat according to our constitution.

This motion seeks to declare our expectation as members to the trustees, the guardians, the decision-makers, the highest authority in this charity, that as members, we expect them to lead by example, as we rely on our leaders, as salt is used to preserve meat, what will we do on the day that even salt goes bad?

This motion is a prevention measure, Mr. Chairman; it is not a solution. Although already defined in the text of this motion, I take this opportunity to make it very clear that this motion is about the trustees, which means it does not include any other volunteer or employee of the Jamaat. It only seeks to make clear our expectations to the EC, which includes a maximum of 14 members.

Why only these individuals? Because, as per Clause 3.7 of the rules in this constitution, they are the decision-makers. And I quote:

"The executive committee shall be the only body that can make decisions."

Mr. Chairman, for every position of responsibility, there's a standard expected. This must not be limited to a standard only dictated by the Charity's commission or a financial standard, but a standard also set out by our faith. The Quran is clear when speaking to believers about a standard:

"Oh you who believe, why do you say that which you do not do? Allah hates it that you say that which you do not do."

The standard expected, in the most basic requirement, is that we expect our leaders to lead by example in speech and practice.

Mr. Chairman, your EC was kind enough to discuss our proposed motion with your council, and you informed us that there was a possibility that the motion may not be debated in its original form. The reason for this was that the original motion may add a layer of practice to the trustees which is not enshrined in the constitution. In simple words, our constitution can be read in absurdity to say that we do not require the trustees of this Jamaat to be practicing the Shia Ithna Asheri Shari'ah in public.

I thank you for this proactive engagement and the advice that your team also provided. Based on your email, we have provided you and your team with a friendly amendment to the motion, which still seeks to declare our expectation as members to the trustees. You kindly consulted your council and have confirmed that with the amendment, the motion can be tabled and debated. I want to record my gratitude to you and your team for this engagement on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, at this stage, with your permission, may I propose the friendly amendment to the original motion? The friendly amendment is:

"We hereby resolve to record our expectations of serving trustees as follows: It is the expectation of members that serving trustees uphold Clause 3 of the Constitution, namely promote and advance the Islamic religion in accordance with the principles of the Shia Ithna Asheri Sharia, in their practice of it in public.

Do we need this to be seconded, Mr. Chairman? May I continue?

Mr. Chairman, living in the environment we live in, year on year, we witness how one can become desensitized to certain transgressions of the Sharia, the Sharia which is rooted in the words of Allah in the Quran and the Hadith of Ahlul Beit. What was once a dark red line, dictated by our faith, can become lighter until it totally disappears.

There was a time when gambling was a major transgression. Yet, if you travel to certain Khoja communities, both in the East and the West, sports betting is rife amongst youngsters and adults alike. There was a time when sitting at a table where alcohol was present was seen as an act of belittling Allah, yet today it is justified by many men and women alike in order to make a sale.

Today, we are on our own journeys to God. We may be ashamed of committing acts that contradict the Sharia in public, but how long, Mr. Chairman, until we become desensitized to this? It has become evident from my discussions and research that the current constitution, by the letter of the law, allows for a visibly non-Sharia practicing Shia to take the reins of our Islamic center—one who sells and buys alcohol for his restaurant, who is not protected from scrutiny.

The current constitution has no grievance policy should a member believe that a trustee is falling short in their duties. There's no process to follow. The constitution also gives the entire EC, up to 14 members, the decision-making authority on all matters, including religious decisions. The EC has the power to make religious decisions for the Jamaat, not the resident Alim.

And, Mr. Chairman, as the constitution does not protect us at present from what I have mentioned, then this motion, if passed, I believe will serve as the first step to recalibrating the needle. If we are an Islamic center, then our leadership should also be a reflection of the same, and our metrics for progress should be about spiritual and religious progression first and foremost.

Based on the results of this vote, we can then begin to work towards enshrining a declaration, a code of conduct based on faith and legal duties of a trustee, as well as grievance policies. Discussion around operational and religious decision-making may also come to surface, and the role of the resident scholars as well.

With the friendly amendment proposed, the motion removes any ambiguity over who will oversee the Sharia being upheld. At this stage, it is left to the moral conscience of the Shia Ithna Asheri trustee, a follower of the Quran, and entrusted by the membership to promote and advance the religion of Islam, whether or not they believe the faith-based expectation of the members is worthy of being upheld.

As I conclude, Mr. Chairman, I remind the members once again that this motion ring-fences only the trustees with a strong expectation. As we are all on our infinite journeys toward God, if someone is working hard to reach the milestone of this journey, where they are working to uphold the fundamentals of our Sharia in public, that individual is always welcome to serve and volunteer in all other positions in our Jamaat.

But the expectation of a trustee, who is a guardian of this Islamic centre, who has a vote on matters operational and religious, who has been given the power as per Clauses 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 to encourage the practice of the Islamic religion and to spread knowledge of the Islamic religion—an individual who can set the vision for the community whilst they are in office, who can vote on the scholars invited and content of our Majalis—that level of trust, that honor, comes with responsibility and an expectation that a standard will be upheld. And that standard is that before one works to promote and advance the faith, they should be practicing the very basic Sharia themselves in their daily life, at least in public.

Therefore, if they do not uphold the Sharia in public, then, as per this motion, we do not expect them to be trustees. This motion is a declaration, a resolve of expectation from us as members to our trustees. I am well aware that this motion is not a solution to the problem; it

is a stop-gap. It is intended to be a shock to the current system where I believe we are sleepwalking into being desensitized to immorality under the guise of inclusivity.

I end by saying that the intent is to awaken or remind the moral conscience of each and every one of us here, but especially that of the trustees, that we, the members, believe Hujjat is and should be an Islamic center where everything we do is governed by our faith. Hence, we expect our leaders to lead by example in speech and in practice.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the platform. My preamble I would like for the record to be recorded should not be interpreted to say that I believe you or your EC have contravened the Sharia. As I mentioned very clearly, this is a preventive measure, a stop-gap, a conscious awakening, and the real work awaits us.

**13.5.2** Akil Kanani - Thank you, Sheikh. Thank you. So, the friendly amendment as received is tabled, and it's on the floor for any comments.

**13.5.3** Dr Munir Datto - Just a point of information and guidance before we get into any problem. The Constitution states that the AGM should finish by 7:30. So, what happens if the discussion goes beyond 7:30? We don't want any decision taken after 7:30 to be challenged, claiming that the decision was made after the closing time set by the Constitution. Just something to keep in mind, so that you don't have this issue tomorrow.

**13.5.4** Akil Kanani - So, thank you for that. My personal take on this would be that if the house is willing to accept that we continue the deliberations past 19:30, then I think we should continue the deliberations after 19:30.

**13.5.5** Dr Munir Datto - I think you need to read the Constitution first before you think that you can take the permission of the house to continue. It's a constitutional thing, and a constitutional amendment cannot happen without notice. So, have a look before you know—it's important that we are very clear about what we are getting into.

**13.5.6** Akil Kanani - so what would normally happen is that the meeting would be adjourned, correct? So, if we adjourn the meeting for, argument's sake, at 8:00 p.m. today, is that constitutionally valid or not? We have a couple of legal counsel here that we don't really want to come back again, right? I mean, we need to consider both the spirit of the Constitution as well as the practicalities.

**13.5.7** Zamir Nazerali - I think we may have a notice issue. I'm not a constitutional expert in that respect, but I think if we're adjourning, we would perhaps have to implement the right notice for the recommencement of the meeting. Okay?

**13.5.8** Akil Kanani - Thank you for that observation. Just on that point, as per the precedent, when we don't have quorum at the beginning of a meeting, we adjourn the meeting. We've adjourned meetings 5 or 10 minutes after so that we can get the reduced quorum. We've done that today as well because, at 10:30, we didn't have quorum. So, you allowed 30 minutes to get the quorum. Even at 30 minutes past, at 11:00 a.m., when we didn't have quorum, we adjourned the meeting. For the last few meetings, we've adjourned to 11:15 on the same day, and when we got the required quorum of 30, we commenced our proceedings. So, it could be argued that there was no notice for that meeting. However, because it was on the same day and the notice had already been served, you're already here, so the adjournment can hold.

**13.5.9** Sabira Lakha - If with the permission of the house, of course, the chair and the house, if the house is willing, we could just go straight to a vote. This is one resolution that has been extensively discussed in the community. We've had lots of WhatsApp messages, many meetings, and discussions. If it is agreeable, we can just proceed to the vote because ultimately, I don't think the discussion here is going to change the minds of those who have turned up to vote.

**13.5.10** Altaf Daya - So, Sabira bai, I vehemently disagree. I think the discussion and engagement in conversation between people with different opinions is the real value here. I would love a conversation and discussion around it, and if it can't be done today, then I



suggest we adjourn it to another day where it can be done. I think this is a very important topic that we need to address. If it can't be done today... I'm not a constitutional expert.

**13.5.11** Zamir Nazerali - Do we have someone on hand who can categorically answer whether the adjournment of this meeting would be considered a separate meeting? I take your point regarding quorum, but that's built into the Constitution. So technically, I'm not sure if we fall into the bounds of it being a separate meeting, a part two, or what. I don't know if there's someone who can categorically answer that.

**13.5.12** Akil Kanani - I think it will be an opinion. We could have five legal experts giving five different opinions.

**13.5.13** Akhtar Jaffer - I've got a point of order. I don't know whether it's a point of order, but Mr. Chairman, you're diverting from the conversation. I asked you this question when I first got in this morning: If we go beyond 19:30, what is the ruling? You told us exactly what you're telling us now again. Why are we diverting from the point being discussed? Can we come to 19:30 and then worry about it? At the moment, let's discuss this point. Sabira Bai has just said that enough has been discussed through various portals, and voting should be done. That is one of the recommendations. Altaf bhai has stood up and said another point of view. Rather than giving opinions, if anybody wants to say something on this point, do so now, and then we'll worry about 19:30.

**13.5.14** Akil Kanani - I'm happy with that, thank you.

**13.5.15** Jamil - I would agree with having a discussion, but I would ask the house and the chair to set a hard stop at 19:25. We must stop and get a vote to avoid further debate about whether it can proceed constitutionally. So, it's up to you if you want to debate it, but I think the house knows what they want to vote on. However, the point raised is very valid. Let's continue the discussion— you have 13 and a half minutes left, and I'm taking up more of your time. Let's move on. Thank you.

**13.5.16** Javad - Can I request a soft amendment to replace the word "expectation" with "requirement"?

**13.5.17** Sheikh Ali Hussein - As per the initial council advice given by the EC, we cannot add a layer of practice in public to the trustees which is not present in the Constitution. We cannot ask the trustees to be practicing Shia Ithna Asheri in public. It may seem absurd, but that is how the Constitution is as it stands currently. With all due respect, I wouldn't be able to take that on. Thank you.

**13.5.18** Sheikh Yaseen - First of all, you can tell by the accent I'm new here. I'm from Canada. I've lived here two years now, but I am no stranger to the Khoja community and the political structure. In coming here and being new, I want to express my gratitude to the community, especially to Sheik Anwar as a resident Alim, and all the youngsters who have embraced me. On the matter of the discussion, I'd like to share a story with you and expound on it, and perhaps it will bring some light to the discussion at hand.

Ayatullah Jawadi Amuli, who perhaps you know, scholar in Qum, was the Imam of Jumaat in Qum for a while in 2008 during the election fiasco, he gave a Khutba. And what he said in his khutba was very poignant. He said, or rather, differences of opinion and disagreement happen in three ways. The first is that it is a disagreement of intellectual principles. In the spirit of intellectual principles, in the 90s, someone who you all know, love, and cherish, Marhum Mulla Asger, Rehmatullah Alaih, attempted to enshrine the concept of taqwa in the World Federation Constitution. The motion was defeated for whatever reason, and unfortunately, instead of that becoming the beginning of a discussion, it was the end of the discussion. In 2000, Marhum Mulla passed away, and the discussion did not return in the form that it needed to. In fact, I would even argue that the world body went in another direction.

The second thing Ayatullah Jawadi said is that with regards to Ikhtilaf intellectual, it is important that we all come together to the table of conference and have these discussions.

Today, as Sheikh Ali Hussein said, is not the end but the beginning, a beginning of difficult conversations that the community must have, which will lead to other difficult conversations. These difficult conversations are necessary because they move towards creating the soul of the community without undermining the leadership. And this beautiful building you find yourself in, with due respect, buildings are but shells, and you can build as many shells as you want. I'm from Toronto; we have a big shell over there. But if we don't nourish the soul of the community, then what is the point of having a shell?

The second point Ayatullah Jawadi makes is he says the second reason for in a community is the difference between the hearts of the people. This resolution has brought about a lot of emotion and a lot of strong opinions. Again, I'm new here; I don't know the people involved in all of this, and it's not even important because I'm not here to judge anybody. But what I am here to say is that there has been a lot of hurt and pain on both sides, and I don't believe that that was the intention of it. The point is that the fact that it is a disagreement of the heart. We are all passionate about this community; we are all passionate about our religion, and it is an opportunity for us to come again to the table of conference, understanding between ourselves that our hearts are together in terms of the passion we have and the love we have for our communities.

In terms of the hurt and the pain people have felt, this should not be trivialized. Because if we look at the life of Ameer al Mu'mineen, SA, it is attributed to him that he met a widow of one of the shaheed in the street of Kufa. The widow told our Amir, expressing to her frustration at life of being without her husband, not knowing who the Amir was. When the widow was asked what is wrong, she said, "Ali took my husband to war, and he became Shahid, and now I'm living a hard life." In the spirit of Ali bin Abi Talib, Ali bin Abi Talib could have said to her that I'm the Khalifa, and it was his duty, and he had to do it. But what did Ali bin Abi Talib do? No, Ali bin Abi Talib gave her the space. He went back to her house and gave her the space to express what she wanted. Not only did he give her the space to express what she wanted to, but he helped out in the house. And very poignantly, the Amir says that as he's lighting the fire, he talks about feeling the fire of hell. So, anybody and everybody who has been affected on an emotional level should have the space to express their feelings and talk about their feelings about this.

But on the flip side, we also should not look at the lives of the Quranic in a vacuum, because the same Ali bin Abi Talib, who displayed so much compassion and kindness to this widow, is also the same Ali bin Abi Talib who, when it was time to appoint governors...

**13.5.19** Akil Kanani - Okay, Sheikh, if you can just wrap up because we are running out of time, and if we want to do a vote on this, can I just get you to wrap up within the minute please?

**13.5.20** Sheikh Yaseen - Fine, the last point Ayatullah Jawadi makes is that the third reason for ikhtilaf in a community is that Allah Himself puts ikhtilaf in a community. Why? Because that community has broken their covenant with God and Rasulullah. And my point is, my point is simply this: these two ikhtilaf can be dealt with in a mature and adult fashion, having these difficult conversations. But the third one is the red line. The third one is the red line, and these two have to happen in the spirit of that.

**13.5.21** Lady - Point of order, With respect to the Sheikh, I really value his opinions and words, but I would humbly request that, as part of this point of order, comments are limited to a maximum of two minutes each to allow everybody to engage. Thank you very much.

**13.5.22** Sheikh Yaseen - Just to finish the point, when Ayatullah Jawadi finished giving this Khutba, some members of the audience took turbans and threw it at him. So, my point is, let us not become like those people who threw turbans at him and afterwards never led Salaatul Jum'uah.

**13.5.23** Sheikh Afzal Merali - Thank you very much. With this respect, insha'Allah, I'll try to talk as fast as you may have heard me in the report in Islamic education—that was speeded

up, by the way. A few years ago, there were communications between the Islamic Education Department and the office of His Eminence Ayatullah Sistani with respect to this really similar issue. I will read just the English translation of it.

The question itself reads as follows: *With salams, duas, wishes, etc., we would respectfully like to inform you that the Khoja Shia Ithna Asheri organizations have local and regional communities in different cities around the world. These communities are associated either directly or indirectly through the regional federations to a global organization called The World Federation. Every few years, all these local, regional, and global institutions elect their office bearers through the general public of their community. Essentially, these institutions are religious institutions which require or which further religious education and guidance and provide services, etc.*

*The question: Taking into consideration the above, whilst the positions of the president, secretary, secretary general, treasurer, and the other office bearers of these communities and regional and global organizations are customary and administrative positions, can the condition of adala be made imperative for them to be able to hold such positions? If the condition of adala is not imperative for those holding these positions, what terms would you advise so that a sense of commitment to the Sharia is included in the constitutions of these organizations?*

*This is the answer - In the name of Allah, the Exalted: People who have undertaken the responsibilities mentioned above must be appropriately qualified for carrying out those responsibilities in terms of their religiousness, morals, and knowledge. Therefore, although adala is not an essential requirement for them, it is necessary that they at least accept the indisputable laws of the Sharia, be committed to them in practice, and refrain from openly going against the Sharia in speech and action.*

So, with this being said, the time is, insha'Allah, just a few minutes remaining. I would really propose that let us go to the vote. Thank you.

**13.5.24** Zainab Jaffer - I appreciate the motion. I just have a little question. I really think it's a good motion, and as a faith community, we should have something like this. However, how are we going to monitor people who do not promote and advance once they are in the EC or executive committees? And how will we deal with that?

**13.5.25** Sheikh Ali Hussein Datoo - Thank you very much for your concern. As for the amendment of the motion, there is no policing, and therefore, it's up to the moral conscience of the EC members themselves. The expectation is being made very clear with a very weighty vote hopefully, this is what we expect of you, and if you're not doing it, then it's quite clear that we do not expect you to be trustees. That's it.

**13.5.26** Zamir Nazerali - I just wanted to start by saying, Sheikh Ali Hussein, thank you because you've actually raised the Lawajam subscriptions this week, so amazing. But look, again, in all seriousness, I don't think the spirit of the idea that's been put on the table is wrong in any way. I think there is a legitimate debate to be had, and I think the essence is definitely there. I just think—and this is my humble opinion—I think the way in which it's been brought may have been reconsidered, and let me just explain. I ask you please hear me with a compassionate heart. I'm not having a shot at anyone, but it's important we hear the other side of the fence.

Look, this is a very complex and sensitive issue, and I think it's multi-layered. For example, if we're saying practice in public, are we then not requiring practice overall? I'm just saying these words can create misunderstanding. Extending it only to the EC I think is problematic because what about the volunteers who are front-facing towards the community members who are coming? Shouldn't aklak be across the board?

I also think EC leadership is very layered. Within the EC, you have the office bearers and project team leaders, so I think we have to define carefully what is leadership and what benchmark we're holding each person to. So, it does need deeper discussion. And why is

this? Because—and again I say this with compassion—the unfortunate consequences that have occurred this week are rumours going around, character assassination, scaremongering, and most of all, hurt. There has been hurt caused inadvertently for the volunteers who have very kindly stepped up to the plate to serve. And I'm not saying this was the intention in any way, shape, or form, but it needs to be said on the record. Inadvertently, I think we've also isolated some people and disengaged.

**13.5.27** Jamil - Can I have a point of order? There was a request to keep the discussion to two minutes. Yasin did it in two minutes. I did request that we go to a vote by 17:25. We don't want this debate to be about constitutionality or whether we got there or not. I completely understand your viewpoint. I think the house does want to take a vote, and we can continue the debate later.

**13.5.28** Zamir Nazerali - May I just respond? Because I think, respectfully, an issue like this can't just be squashed because of timing. I think it's really important.

**13.5.29** Jamil - We're not questioning this—everyone has a view to share. But everyone also wants to vote.

**13.5.30** Zamir Nazerali - Point of order. I would humbly request that I could have finished by now, honestly. I could have finished. Anyway, look, I'll wrap up quickly. All I'm saying is I think cool and calm minds need to prevail. We need to understand the consequences that have occurred, and let's strategize. Let's get the EC and the scholars to sit down calmly and work this out as a community initiative. Honestly, I think this is the way forward.

**13.5.31** Sibtain Allibhai - Okay, first of all, can I request everyone to please speak through the chair and not directly to the member? I think the bigger issue here, because even if we go to vote on this particular thing, the agenda is not finished. We've got one more resolution to go through, and then there is AOB. So, I think the pressing issue right now is whether we can continue after 7:30 or not. That is more important than anything else.

**13.5.32** Akil Kanani - We go for the vote.

**13.5.3** Sibtain Allibhai - We are going to vote. In five minutes, you cannot vote, and then you have another resolution. There is no point. The solution is for this meeting to determine whether we can extend or not. I am going to ask the experts of the Constitution to give guidance to the chairman whether we can -

**13.5.34** Gentleman - You need a proper, full discussion on it. There are a lot of things that are not correct with this motion.

**13.5.35** Nasima Karim - Sorry, I think when Dr. Munir respectfully reminded us that 7:30 is a hard stop, the guidance was clear. The collective room advice was put forward that 7:30 is a hard stop after discussion, and the chair allowed it. With that in mind, we are now past it—it's almost 7:30, with a minute to go. Now you're saying we go back to the same issue that Dr. Munir raised. I don't think that's acceptable, and I think the majority of the floor is here to vote, and that's what we should be accepting.

**13.5.36** Sajjad Tejani - Can I just mention something? Look, listen to me. I know we are time-bound, but what I'm proposing is this: We've got a resolution after this, and there's AOB. With the consent of the majority, we extend the meeting. I know 7:30 is the deadline, but if there's no objection from the public, we will extend the meeting. We'll follow the procedure and finish the meeting because we don't want to come back next week or the following week. If you're all in agreement, let's confirm it by a show of hands, and we will minute this. It's not about trying to short-change anyone. If there are discussions to take place on this motion, there will be discussions. But we want to extend this meeting and complete it today. What I'm proposing is to extend the meeting. Let us finish the meeting today.

**13.5.37** Lady - I have two suggestions. Suggestion number one: we see how many people are ready to vote and how many are not ready to vote. That's number one. The second suggestion: if you're saying that we extend the meeting, then there has to be a hard line as

to what time this particular motion will be discussed. We can't keep going on and on—you'll maybe come to 8:00.

**13.5.38** Sajjad Tejani - No, no, so we are extending the meeting until we finish it, yeah. So, okay, if you are agreeing, if all of you are agreeing, we'll continue, insha'Allah. We will try and manage. We will try and manage, yeah. Look, we are at a situation where if we go and vote, then what happens to Resolution Six? What happens to the AOB?

**13.5.39** Dr Munir Dato - Please, you know, we are all very emotional, but let's not make a decision emotionally. You cannot just extend the meeting because we feel like it. It has to be constitutional. If the Constitution does not allow you to extend, please do not extend it, because tomorrow whatever you pass beyond 7:30 will be challenged and will not be abiding. But please take this advice: 7:30 has already passed. If you can continue, please do; otherwise, tomorrow this resolution will not be valid.

**13.5.40** Sajjad Tejani - So we have a constitution. Clause 6.5 states: "Except where otherwise provided by this Constitution, every issue at a general meeting shall be determined by a simple majority of votes cast by the members present in person." So, as far as Constitution Point 6.5, I'm trying to get the consent of the majority here that we want to continue in the spirit of going for a vote and respecting everybody's wishes. If there is no objection, we will continue with this motion.

**13.5.41** Ali Panju - With the greatest respect, Mr. Chairman, the clause just referenced states, "Unless provided for by the Constitution." The Constitution is very clear that the meeting must adjourn. We cannot vote to overrule the Constitution on a simple majority basis.

**13.5.42** - Maqbul Rahim - I've reviewed two provisions of the Constitution. Clause 6.8 provides no leeway except for exceptions related to a public holiday or an auspicious day according to the calendar. Apart from those two exceptions, there is an absolute requirement that the meeting conclude by 7:30. This is highly impractical and difficult to implement, and I don't understand why it was written this way. However, if we seek to make an amendment, Clause 6.5 makes it clear that everything is subject to the Constitution. Anything discussed or passed beyond the specified time could be legally challenged.

The subject is critical, and while it is tempting to simply extend the meeting, we cannot do so without adhering to the rules. My suggestion is to adjourn the meeting because many agenda items remain unfinished. We can reconvene after giving the proper notice period.

**13.5.43** – Sibtain Allibhai - Thank you. We are looking for a solution here. Please, let us resolve this matter. We are taking opinions, and we must make a decision. There are hands raised at the back

**13.5.44** Nasima Karim - I'd just like to make a comment first. It is absolutely shocking that, in the last few weeks I've been part of these conversations to see that the Constitution is being placed above the Sharia in an Islamic organization. Now, putting that aside, I come back to the point: as chair, you had agreed to a hard stop at 19:25. This has now continued till—I don't even know what time, as my phones there. I feel it is the right time to have a vote because you, as chair, did not keep to your word. You should have objected when Jawad mentioned the 19:25 hard stop, yet it was allowed to carry on. Therefore, I think the house should now be led to a vote.

**13.5.45** Sibtain Allibhai - Nasima Bai, I have been in constant discussion with the vice president and the secretary and with Makbul Bhai, trying to find a solution for the last one hour because we know we are leading towards the hard stop. As much as we want to finish at 7:30, everyone wants to go home, but we have a position that we cannot finish. You're just simplifying that this vote—let's do it and come out of it. There is another resolution after this; there is AOB. It cannot be just done on one vote.

**13.5.46** Akhtar Jaffer - Mr. President, emotions have gone high. Discussion is warranted on this particular issue. We are not trying to stop anybody from saying anything. We are tied by



the Constitution; 19:30 was the deadline, and we have crossed the deadline. Therefore, my suggestion is that, because the house is here and people are present, it would be very difficult to get the same number of people to come back again. My suggestion would be to apply the adjournment clause and adjourn the meeting for 15 minutes, then call back and complete the rest of the meeting. If the rest of the members are happy about it, we can go ahead because you're allowed to adjourn the meeting. You have to. Well, we don't have a choice now because the 19:30 time has passed, so we adjourn the meeting and agree on a time—say, 15 minutes from now—to recall the meeting and complete the proceedings of this meeting.

**13.5.47** Sibtain Allibhai - I am in agreement, but let's just hear a few more points before we make a decision. There were hands raised at the back. Do you want to speak? No? Anyone else?

**13.5.48** Mohamed Datto - I just wanted to say that we started this motion I know you're saying that we still have another one after, and we have AOB, but seeing as this has started, it only makes sense to finish this and then you can do the other two after. So I think with what Akhtar bhai was saying.

**13.5.49** Mahmood Padhani - Ali Panju and Akhtar are absolutely correct. You have to adjourn this meeting, then give a time frame, and come back in 15 or 20 minutes. That's the best solution for everybody, I think.

**13.5.50** Zamir Nazerali - I do agree as well, and believe me, I would like to finish the meeting today, but I don't think we should proceed with caution. I don't think the Constitution allows a mechanism for adjournment overtly. So, is there any way, if we are to adjourn, we can take an actual legal opinion rather than rely on the members? Because I think we're straying into very dangerous waters in terms of the Constitution. But that's just one.

**13.5.51** Mehdi Fazel - I think that the subject matter has shown that it is quite a big subject. I would myself vote against it. So I'm really saying to you that there are so many points that have not been mentioned properly. So, this is a subject that requires a whole day or half a day, so let's adjourn. When I first started as being president of Birmingham Jamaat, I didn't wear a beard, okay?

**13.5.52** Akil Kanani - No, but we're not discussing the merit of the Constitution. What we're talking about is how are we going to extend this meeting.

**13.5.53** Mehdi Fazel - I'm saying this is a subject matter which requires a half day, and therefore I am saying that it's not something you can resolve, even if the legal issue, as Maqbul Rahim quite rightly pointed out, quite beautifully pointed out, the legal issues. In my view, that is the paramount issue.

**13.5.54** Akil Kanani - Thank you Mehdi bhai, I, take your point.

**13.5.55** Lady - I want to say Salam to everyone, and this is my first time attending an AGM. It's been a very good experience, a bit shocked by the number of people. I didn't realize AGMs were attended by this many people. The only thing I wanted to say is the fact that the emotions are very high in the room. I wonder where it's come from, I wonder why it's like this. In Gujarati she said "We are new, we do not know anything, we have not even come yet, today is the day we expect welcome from you, have mercy on us, so we can work with full confidence. Give us an opportunity, you have not given us the opportunity, we have not even in come in yet emotions are so high. I ask where this emotions have come from. Give us support

Back in English she said - All I'm saying is we haven't even started, we haven't even entered the arena, and we're already being attacked. So I'm just saying, if the emotions are this high, I wonder where it's come from. That's all I'm saying. Thank you.

**13.5.56** – Sibtain Allibhai - Members of the community, we are going to adjourn this meeting and take legal advice. We'll reconvene at 8:00 p.m. So hopefully by that time we would have taken advice that we can continue this meeting after 8:00 p.m. Thank you.'

**13.5.57** Sibtain Allibhai reconvened the meeting after taking a 30 minute break

**13.5.58** Sibtain Allibhai - Okay, as we mentioned, we will take legal advice on the position because I am mindful of the position of this EC and myself as chair to not make any decision which is against the Constitution. Everyone has got both sides of opinion—the meeting can continue, cannot continue, adjourn, reconvene—but it is only fair that I take legal opinion.

**13.5.59** Sibtain Allibhai - The legal opinion that we've taken, me and the trustees, is that at 7:30 p.m. this AGM has come to an end completely. All those points on the agenda which could not be deliberated or voted on are no longer there, so it's finished. The meeting is finished.

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