

IPSWICH FAITH AND COMMUNITY FORUM
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
7.00 pm 16th NOVEMBER 2020
(by Zoom video conference)

1. Opening and welcome. The chair, Gurmeet Sually opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He said that as this was a Zoom meeting it would automatically stop after 40 minutes but that if more time were required members should reconnect by repeating the login. 12 members were present and there was 1 apology.

2. Approval of the minutes of 2019 AGM

The minutes were approved without amendment. Proposed Punna Athwall , seconded Paul Hodgkin.

3. Chair's report to members.

Gurmeet Sually read out the chair's report concluding by thanking those present for their help and support.

4. Presentation of Annual Accounts

PA presented the accounts. Charles Croydon asked why membership had fallen. Paul Hodgkin said that the trustees had discussed this in depth but the future of IFCF was in question and that until our purpose was clearer and we had a plan in place it was not right to solicit membership fees. Gurmeet Sually said that we had had a programme in place starting in April and we would have proceeded with that and subscription collection had the Covid pandemic not hit.

5. Membership and affiliation fees

Charles Croydon asked about why people had left and what was in their resignation letters. Paul Hodgkin said that no resignation letters had been received. He was sure that when we are in a position to meet and had contacted the 28 or so members on the database the number would increase. Gurmeet Sually said that at the moment it was not possible to theorise on when we could do this. In a non-covid situation it would be different.

Charles Jenkins clarified further saying that it was not that people had left but that subscriptions had not been sought and that this temporary dip can be fixed.

Paul Hodgkin said that similarly affiliation fees had neither been requested nor paid.

6. Nominations and elections for trustees

The chair said that three trustees Gurmeet Sually, Denis Johnston and Paul Hodgkin were required to stand down this year. All three were willing to stand again with Paul Hodgkin adding a caveat that his continuation was subject to clarification over the future.

There were no nominations for new trustees.

Charles Croydon asked what the chair would contribute in future with relation to climate change. Punna Athwall said that individual faith groups had done something – the Gurdwara had planted 500 trees. Charles Croydon asked that the original question be answered - “What have you done concerning climate change?”

Charles Jenkins responded saying that our focus was on bringing communities together. Climate change was important but we were not a group set up to campaign for that.

Charles Jenkins moved to proceed with the (re)election of trustees.
Gurmeet Sually – proposed Charles Jenkins, seconded Punna Athwall
Paul Hodgkin – proposed Charles Jenkins, seconded Robin Hearne
Denis Johnston- proposed Barbara Richardson-Todd, seconded Martin Spettigue.

This was put to an en-bloc vote resulting in a show of hands 12 for, 1 against.

7. Any Other Business

Charles Croydon asked about another letter he had sent concerning the need to minute invited speaker contributions at the AGM as very important issues e.g. treatment of the Rohingya people had been raised there and there was no way for this to be communicated to members. Gurmeet Sually said that this had been raised, discussed and dealt with at the 2019 AGM. Charles Croydon said that his concern was that it had not been dealt with. PA requested that Charles Croydon present a formal proposal to be minuted. Charles Croydon proposed that issues raised at AGMs including those of follow on events be recorded.

This was to go to vote but Denis Johnston said it was not clear what should be included in such cases. For example if (as typically happens elsewhere) the post-AGM event was a free flowing discussion over wine and cheese would this have to be recorded?

Shamim Mahbub Alam said that we can do things differently. We also need to respect speakers wishes and we don't have the resources.

Charles Jenkins proposed an amendment that a decision to minute post-AGM speakers views and subsequent discussion should be decided at each AGM. Shamim Mahbub Alam said that we didn't have the resources to record every point raised .

Martin Spettigue said that he understood the point that Charles Croydon was making but that the trustees were working hard with limited resources, and that for members to decide (at AGMS) what to do on each occasion was reasonable. Shamim Mahbub Alam invited Charles Croydon to come along to the mosque and discuss.

GS closed the meeting at 7.40pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Present : Martin Spettigue, Shamim Mahbub Alam, Punna Athwall, Charles Croydon, Charles Jenkin, Paul Hodgkin, Beverley Levy, Denis Johnston, Gurmeet Sually, Daba Chowdhury, Robin Herne , Barbara RichardsonTodd.

Apologies: Linda Sheppard