

*In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful*

## Al-Barakah Welfare Trust Australia

37 Douglas Road, Quakers Hill NSW 2763

[www.quakershillmasjid.org](http://www.quakershillmasjid.org)

### Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2019

**Date:** Sunday, 21 June 2020 **Time:** 10.00 am

**Venue:** Quakers Hill Masjid

Attendees:

1	Arif Ahmed	24	Mohammad Shahidur Rahman
2	Arshadul Huq	25	Mohammad Shiblee
3	Ashfaquul Haq	26	Mohammed Jahangir Alam
4	Faruk Choudhury	27	Mohammed Mamun
5	Fateh Rafi	28	Mohammed Nurullah
6	Fatema Aziza	29	Mohammed Shamsul Haque
7	Joysree Mitra	30	Mohammed Wahidul Hoque
8	Kamal Uzzaman	31	Mollah Muhammad Ibrahim
9	Kazi Rashid Tarif	32	Motiur Rahman
10	Khurshid Alam	33	Nishat Alam
11	Kishwar Rahman	34	Quazi Bushra Khatun
12	Laila Haq	35	Rafiqul Islam
13	M Javed Ibne Ejaz	36	Rafiq Hasan
14	Masud Hossain	37	Sabrina Aziz Hasan
15	MD Tarikul Hauque	38	Sadia Afreen
16	Mohammad Abdul Haque	39	Sajibul Haque
17	Mohammad Abdullah	40	Sayeda A Islam
18	Mohammad Abdur Rahman	41	Shabbir Kharodia
19	Mohammad Alamgir Kabir Chowdhury	42	Shafiur Rahman
20	Mohammad Al-Amin	43	Sirajul Islam
21	Mohammad Arifur Rahman	44	Syed Shahidul Ahsan
22	Mohammad Azom	45	Syeda Choudhury
23	Mohammad Mostafizur Rahman	46	Tariqur R Bhuiyan

Apology:

1	Muhammad Mahabub Akhtar Khan	4	Sadeque Ahmed
2	Aftabuddin Ahmed	5	Shafiqur Rahman
3	Faruk Ahmed		

Meeting proceeded to business on time as a quorum of 25 members were present. Secretary Mr Mohammad Azom welcomed everyone and the meeting started with recitation of the Holy Quran by Imam of Quakers Hill Masjid Sheikh Youssef Hassan.

Draft minutes of AGM 2018 was read by the Chairman Mr Rafiq Hasan. Mr Khurshid Alam proposed small changes to the minutes which was agreed by everyone present at the meeting. Minutes of the AGM 2018 was approved by the members with the amendments proposed by Mr Alam. This was followed by the Annual Report of the Chairman.

Secretary's report was presented by the Secretary Mr Mohammad Azom.

Financial report for the year 2018-19 was presented by the Treasurer Mr Sirajul Islam.

In response to a question from Mr Tariqur Bhuiyan members were informed that construction expenditure shown on the Financial Report was not the total cost, but the expenses incurred during last year (FY 2018-2019) only. Interior renovation of the Masjid was not done by any Construction Company. It was done by individual tradespersons under the supervision of the Directors and a volunteer brother who is a builder by profession.

In response to a question from Mr Faruk Chowdhury, Directors confirmed that more than one quotes were taken where appropriate before allocating renovation works to a tradesperson.

Responding to Mr Shahidur Rahman's question it was mentioned that earnings from Membership Subscription shown in report does not reflect the current number of active Members because the report covers last financial year only.

To answer the questions of Mr Khurshid Alam and Mr Javed Ezaz, members were informed that the construction work done by AAA Rapid Homes is under warranty and recent rain damage of the ceiling and wall of the ladies' area will be repaired by them. Funds available in CBA account might be invested in any profitable project or with a Financial Institution similar to ICFAL if a suitable proposal comes from anyone. Brother who were keen on investing were requested to provide details of any investment options.

Concerns were raised about Masjid staff remuneration including PAYG tax withholding and Superannuation Guarantee Payments due to the staff by Mr Alamgir Chowdhury and Mr Jahangir Alam. It was also questioned whether Masjid is availing Australian Government COVID-19 related stimulus payments including Job keeper Payments and Cash Flow Boost. Directors advised that all these matters will be referred to the Auditor and the Accountant of the Trust and appropriate action will be taken immediately.

Mr Mohammed Shamsul Haque proposed that the Financial Report for the year 2018-19 be adopted which was seconded by Mr Mohammad Abdur Rahman. Financial report was unanimously adopted by the members present. Mr Mohammed Shamsul Haque thanked Treasurer for preparation of the report and his good work.

#### **Questions and Answers:**

Mr Faruk Choudhury made a general statement that he was shocked to here that two members were sacked (in his words). He first thought that those decisions were taken against the Deed of Trust, but he has later found out that it was done according to the Deed. In his opinion the Deed of Trust is a terrible piece of document and it will not stand in a court of law. In his opinion Directors should involve others before making any decision about somebody's misconduct but that was not done in this case. Lot of resentment has been going on in the community because of that. If no action is taken, this will continue and harm the organization. In his 45 years association with various religious organization he has seen organizations were destroyed because of one person's arrogance. To avoid occurrence of similar incidents he suggested that Deed of Trust should be changed, and members should be given more power. He did not wish to be member of an organization where he can only vote and elect the Directors (Trustees) and not have any other right. Deed of Trust has given lots of powers to Trustees. He questioned why they should have so much power. If anyone does anything, a decision against him should be done through the general body. In his opinion Directors (Trustees) have been doing good job but they need to resolve the current issue by extending their hand of friendship.

Mr Rafiq Hasan started responding to the issues raised by Mr Chowdhury, but he was interjected by Mr Mohammed Nurullah with a strong voice stating that there was no time for debate and Mr Hasan should come to the point and the point being reinstating the membership of two brothers whose membership was cancelled. Mr Nurullah continued repeating the same proposition of whether the Directors could do something about their membership today or if necessary, take the initiative to change the Deed of Trust. Mr Rafiq Hasan Stated that the Directors are not proposing any change in the Deed of Trust therefore if the members wish to make any change they should put forward their proposal.

Mr Khurshid Alam stated that there are two issues that need to be addressed. First one being removal of Mr Nawshad Shah from the position of the Director and the second one being removal of Mr Nawshad Shah and Mr Kazi Emranul Haque from the membership of the Trust.

Mr Rafiq Hasan started responding to Mr Alam's request however mentioned whether it would be appropriate to talk about those brothers in their absence. Mr Ibrahim Mollah expressed his opinion that it will not be appropriate to talk about those brothers in their absence.

Mr Alam proposed that if permission is given, he could call those brothers to be present in the meeting. Permission was given to call the brothers to attend the meeting and Mr Alam obtained permission from Mr Nawshad Shah and Mr Kazi Emranul Haque to discuss about their matters in the meeting and also invited both of them to attend the meeting.

Mr Rafiqul Islam stated that he was surprised how the conversation about Directors (Trustees) having too much power has shifted to discussions about Mr Nawshad Shah and Mr Kazi Emranul Haque. He was not in favour of discussing about those matters in a fashion as if members were there to judge who is right or wrong. Mr Islam described himself as having lots of experience in community organizations and particularly mentioned about his role and experience as the Secretary of Bangladesh Islamic Center in Sefton and ICFAL. He claimed that he had the opportunity to review the Deed of Trust before it was adopted. He apparently made some comments for change at initial stage which according to him was not accepted. He urged to adopt a simple resolution in the meeting that the Deed of Trust should be changed to reflect the sentiment and demand of the members and the community. He urged everyone to refrain from any kind of fight and remain steadfast as brothers.

Chairman Mr Rafiq Hasan responded to the question of changing the Deed of Trust. He explained in detail the procedure for changing the Deed of Trust and procedure for calling Special General Meeting, if required. Mr Hasan explained the following four concerns raised by Mr Khurshid Alam. He quoted all the relevant sections of the Deed of Trust and Deed of Variation and mentioned that all these matters are adequately addressed in those deeds.

1. Availability of current member list, criteria of life membership, cancellation of membership, reinstatement of cancelled membership.
2. Publication of trustee meeting minutes, major decisions, issues, whether current trust deed was updated and retiring trustees list before the AGM.
3. Decision Making Process: Fiqh Matters (Ramadan, EID etc)/ Administrative Matters.
4. How the number of Directors is decided.

Mr Hasan was interjected few times by Mr Jahangir Alam, Mr Faruk Chowdhury and Mr Mohammed Nurullah. Supplementary questions were asked by Mr Fateh Rafi and Mr Khurshid Alam.

Mrs Fatema Aziza (wife of Mr Nawshad Shah) delivered a written speech in Bangla describing how upset her family was because of the cancellation of her husbands Membership and removal from the position of the Director. She alleged that the Directors have misused their power and she questioned why those decisions were taken. Mrs Kishwar Rahman also delivered a short speech in Bangla regarding the above matters and expressed her dissatisfaction with the decision of the Board of Directors. Mrs Quazi Bushra Khatun (wife of Mr Kazi Emranul Haque) also delivered a long speech describing the cancellation process as unfair and called for changes in the Deed of Trust.

Mrs Sabrina Aziz Hasan spoke for few minutes describing current unpleasant situation in the Masjid is not just affected families of two brothers but also the families of the current Directors. She requested everyone not to take Masjid matters personally and destroy personal relationship and friendship. She was interjected by other sisters and Imam Sheikh Youssef Hassan had to intervene to calm everyone down.

Imam Sheikh Youssef Hassan mentioned that we must be able to resolve any issue amicably maintain our brotherhood. He gave examples of how our beloved prophet (pbuh) used to resolve any conflict in the society. Meeting was then adjourned for Dhuhr Prayer.

Meeting resumed after Dhuhr Prayer and a lengthy discussion to place regarding cancellation of Membership of Mr Nawshad Shah and Mr Kazi Emranul Haque and how their membership can be reinstated. Mr Rafiqul Islam, Mr Khurshid Alam, Mr Jahangir Alam, Sheikh Yousuf Hassan, Dr Motiur Rahman, Mr Mollah Ibrahim, Mr Mohammad Al-Amin and Tariqur R Bhuiyan took part in the discussion. Mr Rafiq Hasan advised that there is no provision for reinstatement of cancelled membership in the Deed of Trust, however they can apply for their membership and the Board will decide based on the Deed of Trust. Members who took part in the discussion decided that they would prepare an amendment to the Deed of Trust and call for a Special General Meeting where they would propose the amendment to the Members for ratification.

Mr Rafiq Hasan asked the attendees once again whether they would like to know the reasons why the membership of Mr Nawshad Shah and Mr Kazi Emranul Haque was terminated. Mr Shabbir Kharodia stated that he would like to know the reasons, but Sheikh Youssef Hassan was not in favour of having that conversation. Meeting was adjourned again for Lunch Break.

After Lunch Break meeting resumed and Mr Rafiq Hasan briefly touched on the reasons why the membership of Mr Nawshad Shah and Mr Kazi Emranul Haque was terminated. Most of the members present were not comfortable with listening to the full details of the reasons. No further questions were raised.

Meeting concluded with the decision to have the next Annual General Meeting tentatively on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020.

Mohammad Azom  
Secretary