

Minutes of AGM

Date: Saturday 11th of May 2024

Time: 2:00pm

Venue: St .Paul's Centre, London

Present: Mokhtar Hussain, Zahirul Hoque, Sayadul Khaled, Aysha Lucky Akhter, Benjamin Clackson, Margaret Hakim, Glen McGhee, Karim Miah, Mohammed Islam (Munir)

Apology: Helen Mortimer, Jahangir Alam, Dr. Mohammed Sakel was absent without any apology.

Item	
1. Welcome and Chairman's Report	<p>Chairman Mr. Mokhtar Hussain welcomed all trustees, members, and supporters in attendance and proceeded the meeting. He noted that fundraising had been particularly challenging this year due to the current financial difficulties and the impact of the pandemic. He also mentioned that VTT has not engaged anyone for fundraising since the last contract with Mr. Farhan Masud Khan. The Chair thanked Mr. Khan for his assistance in raising funds to acquire 45 custom-designed and manufactured wheelchairs from CRP's workshop. These wheelchairs and assistive devices were distributed to very poor and needy individuals.</p> <p>The Chair highlighted that since VTT's foundation in 2007, it has raised and transferred £3 million to CRP. He expressed gratitude to Mr. Anwar Hussain and his team for providing delicious Indian food, and thanked Aysha and Ben for preparing the Annual Report for the AGM. Special thanks were also given to Helen and Ben for their work on the newsletter. He concluded his speech by thanking all the old and new trustees for their attendance and contributions, which made the AGM a great success.</p>

<p>2. Accounts and Annual Report</p>	<p>Our treasurer, Mr. Sayadul Khaled, presented the financial report. He stated that the total income for the period was £98,231. This included £80,009 from donations and subscriptions, £7,583 from reclaimed tax as Gift Aid, £1,936 from other activities, and £7,831 from companies. A total of £85,000 was transferred to support CRP, leaving a cash fund balance of £7,938.</p>
<p>3. Election of Trustees</p>	<p>At the 2024 Annual General Meeting, three members of the management committee stood down. While one was willing to be re-elected, Zahirul Hoque and Dr. Sakel chose not to continue, resulting in two vacancies on the Board of Trustees. The Chairman proposed Mr. Mohammed Shahinoor Islam and Mr. Karim Miah, both of whom had been co-opted previously, to fill these positions. Mr. Benjamin Clackson seconded the proposal, and both Mr. Islam and Mr. Miah were duly elected to the Board of Trustees.</p> <p>As Zahirul Hoque stepped down as secretary, Chairman Mr. Mukhtar Hussain proposed Mr. Mohammed Shahinoor Islam for the role. Mr. Benjamin Clackson seconded this proposal, and Mr. Islam was appointed as the new secretary by the Board of Trustees.</p>
<p>4. Speakers</p>	<p>Glen McGhee, an orthotist and our Scottish Trustee, recently returned from Bangladesh, where he spent six weeks working at CRP Savar. Glen shared his work and experiences in Bangladesh through an excellent PowerPoint presentation. Representing VTT, he attended Valerie Taylor's 80th birthday celebration and presented her with a small gift and card.</p> <p>The second speaker, Fatema Tuj Johra (Iris), shared her journey. Fatema was a student at BHPI, and after graduating, she became an occupational therapist. She served at CRP for a long time before coming to England for further education.</p>

5. Speech from Valerie Taylor

Valerie provided an update on CRP's activities, programs, and future plans. She explained how the organisation assists in the treatment, care, and rehabilitation of disabled individuals in Bangladesh and shared her vision to reduce poverty in the country. Following the meeting, everyone enjoyed a surprise belated celebration of Valerie's 80th birthday. Valerie and her younger daughter, Poppy, cut a cake provided by Aysha Hussain.