

Consortium of Gujarati Schools (SE England)

Notes of the General Meeting held at Kadwa Patidar Samaj (KPS) Centre on Friday, 30th October 2015 at 7.00pm.

Members present: Madhu Kalaria, Jayant Tanna, Vijya Bhanderi, Vibha Rawal and 34 representatives from 13 Gujarati schools / organisations (**List attached**).

Apologies received: From 8 individual teachers/members from some organisations (**List attached**).

1 Refreshments and Registration

Volunteers from KPS kindly assisted with registration and refreshments donated by KPS.

2. Lighting the Deepak followed by Prayers

Manojbhai Ardeshna, The President of Kadwa Patidar Samaj, lit the Deepak. This was followed by Sarasvati prayers.

3. Welcome Address

Due to late arrivals of most invitees, the meeting was commenced at 7.30 pm instead of scheduled time. Madhuben welcomed all and went briefly through the domestics.

4. Report from the Committee

Jayantilal Tanna – went through the brief outline of the report reflecting on the activities of committee to-date. Briefly, the committee:

- Examined reasons given by OCR – Low uptake, assessment, examiners, funding
- Agreed to fight really hard to ensure Gujarati is retained at least at GCSE.
- Wrote to OCR and MPs to express our views (The govt. agreed to postpone final decisions about GCSE in Gujarati etc. to 2018).
- Made a presentation at NCGO committee meeting
- Discussed the role NCGO could play in facilitating student exchange between UK and Gujarat
- Agreed that the updated action plan was a good one but needed completing.
- Decided to get the views of the general membership on the plan at the next General meeting
- Agreed to formalise CGS through a Constitution, Membership, and Finance etc.
- Discussed the draft Rules, made some changes and agreed the final draft.
- Agreed to call a meeting of all members to update them on the progress made and to approve the Rules to form a new body.

The members accepted the Report after some questions and discussion.

5. Matters Arising

It was suggested that CGS should not be restricted to SE England but should be open to all schools nationwide. Following a short debate it was agreed to start with SE England so that it would be easier to approach Local MPs. Later on when we are more established we can contact other schools nationwide who can form similar groups in their locality which can then lead to may Confederation of Gujarati Schools, UK.

6. Discussion and adoption of the Rules of CGS – Jayantilal Tanna

After discussions and recommendations from some members present, it was agreed that following changes will be made to the Rules of CGS :

Objects

Following a short debate it was agreed to start with SE England so that it would be easier to approach Local MPs. Later on when we are more established we can contact other schools/organisations nationwide who can form similar consortiums in their regions/locality, which can then lead to may Confederation of Gujarati Schools, UK.

It was also suggested “**to increase the number of children in Gujarati schools**” should be included as one of the objects.

Membership

Amend the last sentence of the 1st para – The member organisations may nominate **three** of their members to represent them at the General Meetings of the Consortium.

Committee

Amend the last sentence of the 3rd para – ‘The nomination form must reach the **Auditor** not less than three days before the date of the General Meeting’ replacing ‘**Auditor**’ by ‘**Independent Examiner**’.

Duties of Officers - Treasurer

Amend the last para – ‘The committee shall appoint an **Auditor**. The **Auditor** shall not be an Officer or a member of the committee’ replacing ‘**Auditor**’ by ‘**Independent Examiner**’.

Finance

Amend the 2nd para – ‘All accounts of CGS shall be open for perusal and inspection by the **Auditor** at any time’ replacing ‘**Auditor**’ by ‘**Independent Examiner**’.

Meetings

Amend the last sentence – ‘**General Meetings** may be held as required’ by ‘Annual General Meeting will be held every year. Special General Meetings may be held as required’.

7. Election of the committee 2015-2017

The committee had received nominations for the positions of Chairperson – Jayantilal Tanna, Secretary – Vijayaben Bhandari and Treasurer – Vibhaben Rawal - and two committee members, Alpeshbhai Patel and Rekhaben Patel. They were all elected unopposed. However, as there were five committee places unfilled, nominations were invited from the floor. Eight nominations were received for 5 places. Instead of having long winded elections, it was unanimously agreed that the additional 3 would be co-opted. In total therefore, there were ten committee members of which 3 were co-opted members (**List attached**).

8. School Information Form

Due to lack of time, the forms were handed out to organisations present for completion with their school details which would be used to collate data at the regional level.

9. Membership Form & Fee

Membership fees - Jayantbhai proposed a membership fee of £50 for organisations and £20 for individuals. After suggestions from the floor and brief discussions, it was agreed that the membership fee would be £25 for both organisations and individuals.

10. Any Other Business

It was suggested that CGS should be registered as a Charity. The new committee can look into that at a later stage.

Swaminarayan Mandir Willesden and Kingsbury offered their venues (if available) without cost for future General meetings or for trainings purposes. This was warmly received by the meeting.

11. Close

Jayantbhai thanked Kadwa Patidar Samaj for their generosity in hosting General meetings and committee meetings as well as in providing refreshments.

The meeting closed at approximately 10.00 pm.