



asian resource centre
croydon

Annual General Meeting (AGM) - Minutes, Tuesday 13th December 2022

Grand Sapphire Hotel & Banqueting, 45 Imperial Way, Croydon, CR0 4RR

1. Welcome

- a. ARCC Vice-Chair, Mrs Dilly Surelia opened the meeting by welcoming all the attendees.
- b. This is followed with a short video presentation showing highlights from the 2022 Navratri event.

2. Housekeeping/Agenda

- a. ARCC CEO, Ima Miah welcomed the dignitaries, guests, and members to our AGM.
- b. After going through the housekeeping announcements, the meeting was informed of the agenda for the AGM.

3. Message from The Deputy Mayor of Croydon & Cabinet Member for Homes

- a. The Deputy Mayor of Croydon, Cllr. Lynne Hale expressed gratitude for the invitation to the AGM and for the opportunity to learn about the organisation's achievements over the past year. Apologised on behalf of Mayor Jason Perry for his absence, conveyed his best wishes, and mentioned her presence as the deputy in his place.
- b. She highlighted the long-standing and positive relationship between the council and the organisation, emphasising their collaborative efforts to support local communities. Cited recent collaborations, such as the organisation's involvement in the Covid Vaccine Champion project and as a lead partner in developing the local voluntary partnership.
- c. Cllr Lynne Hale concluded by extending heartfelt gratitude to ARCC for their dedication to the residents of Croydon and offered best wishes.

4. Chair's Address

- a. ARCC Chair, Mr Jay Patel welcomed and thanked everyone for their trust & support to ARCC.
- b. The Chair expressed gratitude to Grand Sapphire CEO, Suleman Raza, for ongoing support and hosting events for ARCC.

- c. He highlighted key issues the community faced due to Covid-19 pandemic and how ARCC tackled these issues in-partnership with NHS to support the community.
- d. The Chair thanked funding organisations for continuous support in delivering essential community services.
- e. The Chair noted an increase in staff as a result of collective team efforts to expand and thanked them for their dedication.
- f. The Chair expressed gratitude to trustees for their support during challenging decisions.
- g. The Chair thanked community members for their engagement and utilisation of ARCC's services.
- h. He shared the vision for a cohesive community, expanding business forum membership, and building an ARCC community centre.
- i. The Chair paid respect to the memory of two individuals closely associated with ARCC, Mashhood Ahmed and Cllr Mike Selva who passed away this year.

5. Dr. Neil Goldbourne (Director of Strategy, Croydon NHS)

- a. Dr Neil emphasised the vital role of the voluntary sector in improving the lives of their communities at home.
- b. Dr Neil expressed gratitude to ARCC for their support in addressing health issues through various projects, including those for long-term health conditions, the Covid Vaccination project, and the expert patient program.
- c. He thanked the ARCC board for their trust and support in pursuing the organisation's goals under Ima and the team's leadership.

6. Cllr. Andy Stranack (Cabinet Member for Communities & Culture)

- a. Cllr Stranack expressed gratitude to Ima and Jay for embracing his suggestion to launch health-related projects during his tenure as shadow cabinet member, highlighting their proactive approach and collaborative work.
- b. Councillor showed continued support in finding a suitable property for ARCC to establish a community centre.
- c. He expressed enthusiasm for working with Ima and Jay to ensure that Croydon remains a diverse and exciting place to live, emphasising a commitment to the community's vibrancy.

7. Minutes of the last AGM

- a. Minutes of the last AGM were approved without any correction.

8. Secretary's Report

- a. Sahadat Hossain the Secretary of ARCC emphasised the crucial role played by the voluntary sector in the social, political, and economic life of the UK.
- b. The Secretary assured that ARCC meets its governance requirements as a charitable organisation, having established systems and processes along with a dedicated team of trustees and staff to fulfil its charitable objectives.
- c. He highlighted ARCC's impressive growth, expanding its reach into the South-West London region, with a commitment to further growth to enhance the lives of communities in various regions.
- d. The Secretary expressed gratitude to ARCC Trustees, staff, funding partners, businesses, community members, and volunteers for their contributions.
- e. He encouraged attendees to review the Annual Report for 2021/22, which was subsequently approved.

9. Video Message, Rumel Jahur ARCC Treasurer

- a. Rumel apologised for not being able to attend the AGM in person.
- b. Treasurer highlighted a significant milestone, with the organisation crossing the half-million mark in income for the first time.
- c. Treasurer acknowledged the dedication and the hard work of the staff team and volunteers, and expressed gratitude for the support and leadership provided by the board and trustees in achieving the organisation's goals.

10. Treasurers report presented by Mamun & Deba

- a. ARCC's Programme manager, Mamun Khan and Finance manager, Debahuti Chakraborty jointly presented the treasurer's report.
- b. Mamun reported the total income for the year was £622,117 and shared details of the amounts contributed by each funder.
- c. Debahuti reported that total expenditure for the year was £514,206 and provided an explanation of how and where the money was spent.
- d. Mamun presented a chart showcasing income for the past five years, with 2022 being the year with the highest income and expressed hope to sustain and further increase the income.
- e. Mamun shared the income projection for the upcoming year, with a total income of £825,000.
- f. The Chair requested the meeting to approve ARCC's Annual Accounts and adoption of Independent Examiners; Begg Williamson & Co. Without any objections, both proposals were duly approved and adopted.

11. Cancer Awareness Project Promo Video

- a. The meeting showcased the promotional video for Cancer Awareness Project launched in collaboration with CBME forum, RM Partners and NHS.
- b. The video emphasised the significance of raising cancer awareness within the Asian and Black community.

12. Organisational Update

- a. Ima provided an update on the organisation's achievements and challenges over the past year.
- b. She noted the need to adapt during the pandemic and the current efforts to transition back to face-to-face services as things return to normal.
- c. She highlighted ARCC's partnerships with the NHS and other local charity organisations to deliver crucial services.
- d. She also mentioned the funding of 24 grassroot projects to provide a wide range of services across the borough.
- e. She discussed the challenge of accommodating the growing team and the ongoing efforts to find a new office location.
- f. Ima outlined the strategic priorities, including building partnerships with health, council, and VCS, securing a community centre, aligning delivery with local needs, and engaging with businesses for corporate social responsibility and economic benefit.
- g. She emphasised the importance of partnering with other VCS organisations to maintain vital services during council financial difficulties.
- h. Ima concluded by expressing gratitude to ARCC staff, volunteers, trustees, VCS organisations, funders, partners, community members, and stakeholders.

13. Andrew Brown, CEO of CBME

- a. Mr. Andrew Brown expressed gratitude to the staff, volunteers, trustees, board members, and The Chair for their dedicated efforts.
- b. He stressed the significance of collaboration between the Croydon BME Forum and ARCC in delivering essential services to the community. He also highlighted the strength of the relationship between the two organisations.

14. Sue Mcvicker, CEO of CNCA

- a. Sue Mcvicker emphasised the significance of local organisations collaborating to deliver projects, as opposed to national organisations.

- b. She expressed gratitude to ARCC for their ongoing support and conveyed the hope for continued collaboration.

15. Message from Cllr Humayun Kabir

- a. Councillor expressed delight at being present and commended the remarkable growth of the organisation, progressing from having no funds to the hopeful anticipation of reaching a million pounds in funding next year.
- b. He showed remorse and paid respect to Mashhood Ahmed and Cllr Mike Selva.
- c. Cllr Humayun Kabir conveyed gratitude to The Chair, trustees, board members, and staff for their consistent and dedicated efforts.

16. CEO of Legacy Youth Centre - Barnabas Shelbourne

- a. Barnabas Shelbourne he emphasised the value of voluntary sector organisations and stressed the need for continued efforts to assist the community.
- b. He encouraged the CEO of ARCC Ima, to persist in her current efforts and expressed gratitude to all board members, trustees, and staff for their dedication and hard work.

17. Project Updates

- a. Gifty Njamu, EPP Coordinator gave an overview of the Expert Patient Programme and the impact of the project on local residents in the borough.
- b. Nasreen Syeda, Community Facilitator provided an update on the Community Facilitator Project and spoke about developing community hubs in different localities.
- c. Beena Ali, Project Coordinator for our Mental Health 'Hear to Talk' project gave an update on the work we have done so far, outcomes achieved and future plans.

18. Business Forum

- a. The Business Forum initiative, initiated last year to foster community engagement, collaboration, and partnerships for the common good, has experienced substantial growth over the past year. The Business Forum now boasts 30 partners.
- b. Jay Patel introduced the latest addition to the Business Forum, SLS Wills and More, providing an overview of the services they offer and sharing an informational video about the business.

19. Vote of Thanks

- a. ARCC Trustee, Ash Balakrishanan, extended a vote of thanks to all involved with ARCC, the guest speakers, and attendees of the AGM. He also expressed gratitude to Grand Sapphire for generously hosting the event and providing the venue and food.