



Minutes from Meeting on 20th February 2010

Location

Positive East, 159 Mile End Road, London E1

Attendees:

Tawseef Khan – Secretary
Mujahid
Royston Ford – IT Co-ordinator
Bilal Patel
Mohammed
Vepkho Mchedlishvili
Mukhtar Yassin
Qurra Hussain
Faeem Ahmed
Mobeen Azhar
Jihad Yusef Gojikian
Abdul Azeem Ahmed
Jawad Amjad
Farzana Fiaz
Zubair
Fazal Mahmood – Independent Chair

Duration – 1-3pm

Apologies:

Dervla
Ludovic Lofti Mohamed
Zaheer
Shaqil
Shoab Uddin
Armine Capel
Asif Quraishi



1. Introduction

- Independent Chair thanks attendees and introduces self as manager of Positive East. Asks attendees if they are happy for him to continue chairing the meeting. All vote in favour.
- With regard to the non-presence of the Chair at the meeting, the attendees are happy to continue. Additionally, with the validity of the current constitution under dispute, the attendees agree to continue the meeting under the 2007 constitution.

2. Motion of No Confidence in the Chair

- The implications of a motion of no confidence in the Chair are explained at the meeting; that if the motion is passed, the Chair will be asked to leave, an Interim Chair will be agreed upon and the process for re-elections begun.
- The proposer of the motion M., presents the motion for no confidence, explaining his list of reasons. The reasons include:
 - the lack of independence of the Returning Officer of the previous election, who is technically a member of Imaan;
 - several conflicts of interest, including the Chair's nomination by a member in return for a written court report and the treasurer's election without the nature of the Chair and Treasurer's relationship being declared prior to that;
 - not following democratic procedures and principles;
 - the non-continuation of monthly meetings;
 - excluding BOT members from BOT meetings;
 - a disconnection between the Chair and the membership and the Chair and other Trustee members;
 - a collapse of Imaan involving and supporting members, Imaan has become a vehicle for the Chair, for his own purposes.
 - a lack of support for welfare issues and providing welfare services;
 - promises made have not been achieved; and
 - a lack of clarity of the financial report from 2008/2009.
- This is balanced with F.F. identifying the achievements of the Chair, including the attempts to work with the Muslim Council of Britain and improve the visibility of Imaan. Attendees echo the need to extend a hand to the Chair, given the skills



and networks that he has. However, R.F. also points out the numerous efforts that have been made to reach out to the Chair.

- The motion is voted upon, with 14 votes in favour, 7 proxy votes in favour and 1 abstention. The motion is duly carried.

3. Action

- It is decided that the Independent Chair and Secretary will email the Chair, explaining the decisions made during this meeting and extending a hand of friendship. The results of the meeting will also be emailed to the membership.
- For the sake of continuity and in the absence of the Chair, it is agreed by the attendees that the Secretary will continue as the Interim Chair.

4. Outline of New Elections

- It is emphasised that the motion of confidence was in the Chair and not the Treasurer or Event's Officer, who remain valid Trustees. Thus it is agreed that they will be given the opportunity to continue as Trustees and participate in the organisation of fresh elections.
- In order to avoid delay and in the event that the existing Trustees refuse to continue, an interim board are nominated and approved in order to assist the Interim Chair with organising the new elections. These are: Dervla Sara; Qurra Hussein, Abdul Azeem and Mohammed.
- The need for elections as a matter of urgency is identified by the attendees, tempered by the equally important need to apply and follow a structure. It is thus agreed that 10 working days be given for the Interim Board to arrange a Board Meeting and that the election process must begin 25 days from now, the format to be decided by the Board. It is also agreed that the Independent Chair can act as the Returning Officer for the purposes of this election.

5. Action

- The remaining two Trustees will be emailed by the Interim Chair to see if they wish to continue. The Interim Board will meet and decide upon the election procedure, according to the suggestions made by attendees at this meeting.



- In the event that the other trustees do not wish to continue, the former Chair and Treasurer will be requested to transfer the Imaan bank account to the Interim Board. If this is not done, the bank will be informed that the account holders are no longer trustees.
- 6. Discussion on Constitution**
- It is pointed out to the attendees that there will be another meeting to discuss and amend the draft constitution that has been distributed amongst the attendees. One week before the next meeting, the draft will be emailed to the membership and made available through the forum. In the meantime, the attendees will be free to email their proposed amendments to the Interim Chair.
 - It is also mentioned that the constitution must emphasise that Imaan is a member-led organisation.
- 7. Future of Imaan**
- The attendees identify the need for more faith based events, for concerted efforts to diversify the membership and to aspire towards charity status.
- 8. Action**
- The Interim Board must prepare an action plan for Imaan, covering the next 3 years. It must also prepare a document describing the intended structure of Imaan.