

KMA AGM Meeting – 4th Sep 2022

KMA - Annual General Meeting 2022 Minutes Date: 4th September 2022

Agenda

1. Update on BoT strategy and its delivery
2. Financial update
3. Appointment of auditors
4. BoT and MC Elections
5. Election Officers appointment
6. Update on governance
7. Approvals from KMA members

Attendees

From the board of trustees

- Bilal Ahmad (BA) - Chair
- Shoaib Khan (SK)
- Tahmur Huq (TH)
- Adnan Aly (AA)
- Osman Ali (OA)

Apologies

- Atif Bhatti (AB)

Members

- Member were signed in against the membership list; the total membership has 339 people
- We reached a quorum of 10% of membership needed and 14:25 with 36 members later reaching 48 members in attendance ahead of any motions to the membership

Minutes of the meeting

Opening - The meeting is opened by Bilal Ahmed

- Welcome to members and non-members and reminder that this is the Annual General Meeting for the KMA as per our constitution.

- Started with a dua

- A few housekeeping matters

- This is the Annual General Meeting, an annual event in line with the constitution

- Normally the chair of the board will attend and chair the meeting but regrettably Atif could not join today due to a personal emergency. He sends his apologies. The Kingston Muslim Youth Club will also not be able to present today.

- We have an important agenda to get through and the members are asked two votes on two motions: appointment of EROs and Auditors. We have a quorum to have this AGM - This AGM is coming on the back of a difficult period; it has taken a toll on all of us. We have had numerous unsavoury incidents. We have had two attempts at changing locks to the masjid building. The masjid is every person's, no person has any more right than the other whether it is a member or non-member as a place of worship. We are holding this AGM offsite, having postponed it in March after having safety concerns for our staff.

- It is imperative that we have this meeting in an orderly, respectful, and peaceful fashion. Any non-compliance will result in the KMA asking the person to leave and if necessary, the security will be asked to remove the person.

- This is our last AGM as a board.

- We will first go through our slides we have prepared and at the end we will have a Q&A session.

While we are going through our slides, please keep your questions to the end for the Q&A session. If we can get through our slides, then we will have plenty of time for addressing questions.

All praise is due to Allah. We praise him, we seek His help, we seek His forgiveness, and we seek refuge in Allah from the evil within ourselves and our evil deeds. Whoever Allah guides, there is none to misguide him. Whoever Allah leads astray, there is none to guide him. I testify there is no God but Allah alone, without any partners, and that Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, is His servant and His messenger.

Agenda – SK starts to introduce the agenda on the slides.

1. Update on BoT strategy and its delivery [SK] [10 minutes]
2. Financial update [TH] minutes]
3. Appointment of auditors [TH]
[10 [5 minutes]
4. BoT and MC Elections [SK]
5. Election Officers appointment [SK]
6. Update on governance [SK]
7. Q&A

Update on BoT strategy and its delivery

[10 minutes] [5 minutes] [10 minutes]

SK starts with the content of the AGM slides. SK clarifies that Murtaza Bukhari has resigned earlier this year.

SK recaps with the Mission Statements and iterates that it is the same as 2018. Of the three points in the mission statements, two are related to governance.

SK walks through the 'Working through the common goals' and talks through the responsibilities. SK makes the point that the term of the management committee had come to an end in 2020. As per 18.1 of the constitution the responsibilities of the management committee fall with the board of trustees.

SK re-iterates that this is the final AGM and walks through the checklist. Key points are

- COVID - we should be proud of how we have managed through the pandemic.
- Completed the Ghush (funeral) facilities which we feel are the best in London and credit to the previous board for starting the build of the facility.
- Purchased a funeral van and are proud of the funeral service we provide.
- We have built our presence on social media channels.
- KMA Outreach is one objective where we have not fully delivered. We are in conversation with external organisation on how this need can be fulfilled: including the Kingston Muslim Youth Club.
- We have hired Shaykh Suleyman Van Ael as an eminent scholar
- Expanded the rear of the mosque

To end, we would not have been able to deliver any of this without the support of the members

Financial update

TH starts the highlights of the accounts

- Accounts are fully audited to 31st March 2021.
- We didn't have Jumu'ah collections due to COVID, but we had generous donors
- Donations are lower by 100k compared to previous year; this is down to absence of Jumu'ah and Eid prayer collections
- Funerals increased during COVID, and people donated generously towards it
- Furlough subsidy – we furloughed two of our employees and the line item highlights the subsidy from the government
- Funeral expenses – covers the cost of coffins and fuel but also cost towards the burial land for families that could not afford
- 31st March 2022 are still getting prepared and intend to complete by the end of the year
- Our current estimated bank balance is £397k highlighting the generosity of people and puts the mosque in a good standing for the next board of trustees

Appointment of auditors

BA – Proposed a motion to appoint the Zaidi & Co as auditors – show of hands is at 36 and represents the majority vote for the motion. The re-appointment of Zaid and Co is confirmed
BoT and MC Elections

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SK presented the slide. Key Points

- Board of trustees (BoT) and Management Committee (MC) were elected in 2018. BoT has a 5-year term and MC has a two-year term
- Due to COVID it was not practically possible to hold the elections as per our constitution
- Our constitution has the MC term expiring in two years without exception. We now want to get on with the MC election
- We are asking for the members, including sisters to come forward and stand for the MC
- Two things connected to the MC;
 - o First the intention is for the mosque to move to CIO. The MC should consider that the new structure may not have a MC in the future.
 - o Second that trustees term expires so members should consider if they would like to consider a Trustee position.
- Proposal to appoint the three Election Returning Officers. These are the individuals that have practice and qualifications to undertake this impartially and independently.
- Questions raised on who the ERO from members are
- Questions raised on why the trustees should be trusted to appoint the EROs
- Ridwan - do not agree with the integrity of the membership list
- Naveed highlighted that the EROs previously managed the process well with integrity and previously allowed people to become members where membership concerns were made Election Officers appointment

BA – Proposed a motion to accept the appointment of the EROs – show of hands is at 44. The motion has been passed by a majority. The EROs are confirmed.

Update on Governance

The current board believes the CIO is the best structure for the KMA. Currently KMA is unincorporated, and assets are held in the name of individuals. Currently members carry liability, it becomes limited under CIO. Corporates and authorities prefer to deal with an incorporated structure. The CIO can be structured to be more efficient as a single tier structure.

The CIO charity has been registered for a long while and has been transparent. There are no assets in that entity. We had planned to hold an EGM to transfer assets but could not go ahead due to COVID. This BoT recommends the current structure is not fit for purpose and we advise the members and future boards to take on.

Motions Presented and Passed

Proposed a motion to appoint the Zaidi & Co as auditors – show of hands is at 36 and represents the majority vote for the motion. The re-appointment of Zaidi and Co is confirmed

Proposed a motion to accept the appointment of the EROs – show of hands is at 44. The motion has been passed by a majority. The EROs are confirmed.

Q&A Session

Session is chaired by BA. BA highlight the housekeeping rules

- Do not speak over each other.
- Each person will ask one question.
- Should time permit, people can ask the second question.
- In the event the session turns into chaos, we will end the meeting
- First question offered to the members.

Q: If the CIO goes through the liability becomes limited. What is the liability now?

A: Currently the liability is unlimited. CIO makes the liability limited to £5

Q: How much of the donations are direct debit?

A: We do not have the breakdown right now. During the COVID years, we had mostly personal donations through bank transfers as there were no Jumu'ah's. Need to see if we can provide breakdown. COVID aside, the majority of the donations come through cash and card collections at Jumu'ah.

Q: Why are we receiving such a low income from the rent. Given the expenses, it is looking like a £150 year profit.

A: We need to consider the services the tenants are providing that are much needed by the community, and we place a value on that. We recognise the rent we receive. We came to the 2019 AGM, and we put forward 4 options ranging from a pure commercial investment, or we recognise the contribution of the IRC and Muslim Outreach. The response we got was more to support the existing organisation. There is no debate that we are providing a significant rebate to the IRC and Muslim Outreach.

Member notes that IRC supports people from disadvantaged background where people can get help and support that cannot be placed a value upon

Q: KMA is being overcharged by Zaidi & Co by 100%

A: We will raise with Zaidi

Q: Why are we having MC elections if there is a plan to become a CIO.

A: it is a matter for the next BoT and MC which is how we should be governed by our current constitution. We need to follow the current constitution until we change.

Q: CIO conversation has been going on for 10 years. This board should be doing more for CIO

A: This board is fully supportive of the CIO and we will see how we can further support further on the journey to CIO

Q: What is the depreciation for?

A: The answer is detailed on page 13 of the accounts.

Q: The Charity Commission report raised that the consultation should be done with the members before the CIO is created. There were many clauses that were unsavoury. Consultations have not happened.

A: We will have people with different views

The membership has already voted on having a CIO in 2016 but it is dormant.

We have only one matter left; that is the transfer of assets.

Q: The CIO registered is different to the one approved. The workshops should be held to explain to people and see if there are any clauses that can be made better.

A: We recognise that there should be more engagement on the matter. BoT commits to hold workshop ahead of the CIO asset transfer.

Q: The CIO makes the new constitution as a foundation charity. The members need to ratify the constitution.

A: The membership approved the CIO.

Rizwan – The CIO proposal was presented as far back as 2008. We had an AGM on 1st Nov 2016 where we took a vote legal structure and framework including constitution was approved

There is an abundance of letters and emails have been shared throughout the community. We have had lots of workshops were held in Shiraz Mirza.

BA – there will be a workshop where matters can be discussed

Q: RL - Minutes of meetings are previous meetings are not present.

Q: RL - BoT member co-opting should not have a vote

Q: What are the positions of the BoT

A: The BoT only has one position in the constitution; we have a chair and the board of trustees

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Q: Have we sacked the MC overnight?

A: The MC was automatically dissolved as per the constitution article 18.1

AGM Ended at 1600. Members were invited to leave concluding the AGM

Follow on Questions from the Community

Q: Three years ago, my cousin needed an operation at home. I asked money from sadaqah. I was told no. Last year there was a fire in my room; I lost everything. I asked for help again. I was given sadaqah from his pocket

A: All donations given to the mosque are for the mosque. All zakat and sadaqah donations are discharged by UWT. There are circumstances where individuals come together to help individuals

Q: Who is responsible for opening and closing the mosque. The mosque is open and closed 15mins on either side and does not allow for people to sit and read Quran

A: We restrict hours for security reasons in line with KMA's duty of care

Q: The women's prayer area has cameras that can be seen and does not give privacy

Q: (Thair) Badar has access to the CCTV and is able to see it on his phone.

A: There are areas where cameras are not present. In addition, there is a policy in place where the women's camera views cannot be looked at unless it is a police incident. The cameras are in the premises to maintain the safety of the congregation and for safeguarding our madrassa attendees.

A: Noor Jehan Ravalia has commented that she has assessed the CCTV setup and is satisfied that privacy is properly managed.

Q: Anwar Malik – The mosque is not anyone's. I have received complaints and sent email to say sort it out. The mosque should be run like a house of Allah. We are simple care takers. Why are the police is being called inside the masjid?

A: Yesterday the police were called because there was an attempt to change the locks.