



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GLOBAL OGB ASSOCIATION (GO)

Management Team (GO Team)

Held on Saturday 6 July 2019 at 11.30 am (IST)

PRESENT : **Management GO Team**

Anirban Bhattacharyya – Chair	- Mumbai, India	- 11.30 am
George Borthwick - Member	- New Zealand	- 6.00 pm
Sushil Marda - Treasurer	- Siliguri, India	- 11.30 am
Alfred Khan - Member	- Kolkota, India	- 11.30 am
Pauline Singh - Member	- Delhi, India	- 11.30 am
Vanda Fraser – Member	- Scotland	- 7.00 am
Dawn Van Steensel – Minute Secretary	- Australia	- 3.00 pm
Kenny Hammond – Patron	- Scotland	- 7.00 am
Desmond Meyers – By invitation	- Goa, India	- 11.30 am

Apology :

Thuten Kesang - GO Patron/Member	- New Zealand
Tenzing Norzang – Member	- Minneapolis USA
Denki Lhamu – Member	- Bhutan

A quorum was present, and the meeting commenced at 11.30 IST.

As Anirban was not feeling well – George assumed the role of Chair of the Meeting.

Extended a welcome to Pauline to her ‘first’ GO meeting and also welcomed Kenny back to the meeting.

The Agenda was varied to bring forward Agenda Item 9.2

ITEM NO. 9.2 APPOINTMENT OF – GO PATRON

As previously proposed by the Committee, Anirban put forward the nomination to appoint Kenny Hammond as the Patron of GO. The nomination was unanimously supported and Kenny accepted the role.

In accepting the role – Kenny advised that he would be willing to hold the position for a period of 3 years, at which time the position would become vacant. A new Patron will be appointed.

RESOLVED That the Appointment be recorded

Action : Leave on Agenda for consideration in February 2022

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The GO Management Team noted the Minutes of 27 April 2019 and confirmed them as a true and accurate record.



Matters Arising

The Committee reviewed the Matters Arising report. Refer update on attached report - **Appendix A**

Guttering – Cottages (Phase 2)

Sushil advised that he has now received the costing from Col. Gogoi for the guttering work done at Scottish Canadian. The costing from Col.Gogoi is to change ALL the guttering in the Cottages and Lucia King.

However, the Committee recommended, where the guttering is still in good condition, not to replace this guttering. Instead the replacement work be done by not removing the good guttering and replace only the broken guttering, where required.

The work will be funded with funds already with Col.Gogoi sent by the UK Committee. Shortfall will be contributed by GO.

Sushil believes he is able to get the material from Siliguri at a more favourable price than quoted by Col.Gogoi.

It was, recommended that :

- Sushil, immediately source the material.
- Material be obtained from the best supplier in Kalimpong and/or Siliguri
- The guttering work be done by the Workshop people
- Material be delivered to DGH (Col.Gogoi) in small quantities – as work progresses.

Sushil undertook to discreetly monitor the quality of the work being done by the Workshop.

Action: Sushil to make every effort to expedite this project to finalization

ITEM NO. 4 MAY FAIR 2019 – Feedback

Sushil – Pauline – Alfie gave a brief update on the success of the 2019 May Fair Stall. All the memorabilia was well accepted and stock was quickly exhausted.

Pauline advised that she handed over May Fair vouchers to the value of Rs.11,000 to Col. Gogoi.

Note - Anirban clarified that when GO contacted Col. Gogoi to get permission to participate in the May Fair – it was always on the understanding that all funds raised would belong to GO for the 2020 Project fund raising.

Action Sushil to contact Gogoi to recoup the cash value of the coupons, on behalf of GO.



ITEM NO. 5.0 FINANCIAL REPORT

The following financials are attached to the Minutes :

- Ken tabled GO balance sheet as at 1 July 2019 - Appendix B
- Sushil submitted Cost and Revenue from the May Fair 2019 - Appendix C

£2000 – restricted funds – retained for school leavers Loan Scheme.

It was reported, for the past 2 years a number of applications were received for assistance. However, as the applications did not fall within the criteria set out in the Loan Scheme, the applications were rejected.

GO has not received any requests for assistance that qualify e.g. for additional training for employment.

As these funds were donated by Vanda, specifically for the Loan Scheme, Vanda was keen for the funds to continue to be accrued, at least, until the Year 2020 Students leave school i.e. mid-2021.

RESOLVED That the £2000 be kept in reserve.

Item No. 6.0 **SUB-COMMITTEE – 2020 Project**

Volunteer Housing in Murray Cottage

- Noted that Gillian Hart (BOM Chair) had previously advised that she was keen for volunteers to be housed in Yule House while they are working on the 2020 Projects.
- However, following repeated requests, GO members have not been able to get access to view the condition of Yule House, to ascertain the level of repair work required. There has been resistance from Neil to allow even visual access to the internal of the building.
- No progress is over 4 months.

Therefore, GO has recommended that we abandon the idea of using Yule House and put forward a proposal to the BOM that the Volunteers continue to be housed in Murray Cottage.

RESOLVED Murray Cottage to be added into the 2020 Project Plan, as a high priority.

**11.45 am Anirban – left the meeting
IST**



ITEM 7.0 2020 PROJECT PLAN

GO agreed that we are running out of time to finalise the 2020 Projects in 2019.

Therefore, GO agreed to be proactive, to go ahead and finalise the Project Plans immediately. Then forward the Plans for each Cottage to the BOM for final approval.

- *Follow the same model as January/February 2019 projects.*
- *Period – 1 Jan to 14 February 2020*
- *Cottages - Murray Cottage – Elliott then Bene*
- *Woodburn – if done under the umbrella of GO*
- *Team Leaders* - Pauline – Nanette – Desmond
- *Over all Supervisor* – Sushil/Alfie
- *Material Co-ordinator* - Sushil
- *Scope of Work for each cottage to be included in Project Plan*
- *Prepare project plan and scope for:*
 - *Elliott* - Dawn has drafted
 - *Murray Cottage* - ?
 - *Bene* - ?
- *To request Neil M to allocate suitable Workshop staff to assist the Team during January and February 2020.* - Anirban

Action **Project Plan, (including approx.. Costing/Dates/Scope of work/publicity plan/fund raising plan) to be forwarded to Gillian BOM and Neil – immediately following the Sub-Committee meeting on 10 August 2019.**

Woodburn Cottage

The feedback received from various Woodburn sources is that Sedhar Choden is proposing heading the repair work at Woodburn, independent of GO.

RESOLVED **GO resolved that we would not hinder Sedhar proceeding with Woodburn repairs. However, GO would not be responsible for the work.**

Item No. 8.0 BIKE RIDE - 2020

At the April 2019 meeting, Tenzing gave a conceptual overview of the proposed Bike Ride :

- Paro or Thimphu Bhutan to Kalimpong. The route from Bhutan to Kalimpong was considered safer than Kathmandu to Kalimpong
- Proposed dates 18-22 September 2020. Arriving DGH on 22 Sept 2020
- Looking to use local OGB travel agent in Bhutan to co-ordinate the arrangements – who will arrange the necessary travel, accommodation, meals, Visa etc.
- Promote the Ride to OGBs and non-OGBs in the UK and USA
- Riders to pay for their own travel to India (Approx. US\$2500)
- Minimum - £1000/US\$1500 to be raised by each Rider as donations .



Looking for following support for the Riders :

- Support on the route e.g. at the regular Stops – on the route
- Sponsorships from OGBs
- An appropriate welcome for the Riders when they arrive in DGH (especially remembering that most of the Riders will be non-OGBs)
- Identify good/reasonable accommodation in Kalimpong
- Vanda advised that this Ride will be promoted in the UK via the Newsletter and she would contact Rev.Webster to spread the message around. Will be promoted at the UK AGM on 15 May 2019.
- 2020 Bike Ride to be launched in September 2019

It was further noted that this Bike Ride would be 100% a GO initiative and all funds will be directed to GO's 2020 Project.

Action **Vanda undertook to co-ordinate with Tenzing the planning and publicity for the Bike Ride.**

Item 9.1 **MEMBERS on the GO MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The poor participation from a number of GO Management Team members was reviewed.

- **Robert Street**

There has been no contact from Robert or participation in any GO activities, since the commencement of his tenure. Robert has not responded to recent email communication from Anirban either.

It was recommended Robert's appointment on the GO Management be terminated at the end of his Term on September 2020 and not re-elected on to the Committee.

RESOLVED ***That Robert's position on the Committee be vacated in September 2020***

- **Ruth Glashan**

It was noted that Ruth has also not participated in any GO Meeting. It was recognized that this could have been because she was a Staff Member in DGH and her support of GO would have been perceived as a conflict of interest.

However, following her retirement she has shown keen interest in assisting with the GO Cottage renovation projects and her assistance has been valuable. Committee Membership to continue.

- **Denki Lhamu**

Recognised that Denki has difficulty attending Skype meetings and, therefore, her contribution to the GO Management Team has been minimum.

However, it was noted that her contribution as the only member from Bhutan was valuable to the Committee. Committee Membership to continue.



Nomination of Danny Khawas

Dawn advised, on behalf of Anirban, she was nominating Danny Khawas as a member to fill the current vacancy on the GO Management Team.

The nomination was seconded by Pauline, adding that Danny is a keen OGB. He works in Delhi but returns home to Kalimpong at regular intervals during the year.

It was noted he would be an asset for Sushil, when he is in town.

RESOLVED ***That Danny be appointed on to the Committee for a 3 Year Term – ending September 2022.***

Anirban to advise Danny of his appointment and give him a heads-up on his role on the Committee.

ITEM NO. 9.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

9.1 BTB Scholarship Foundation

As a matter of interest – Pauline advised that a BTB Scholarship foundation had been set-up in the name of Mr. BTB, to sponsor students going to Mt.Herman College to complete their 2 years Teachers Training course. A number of students had been sponsored via this fund. However, in recent years the foundation has been dormant and not utilized.

Pauline undertook to contact DGH to identify the current status of this Scholarship Foundation.

It was proposed that this Scholarship Fund could, possibly, piggy-back on GO's Loan Scheme.

9.2 OGB - Peter Basin

Desmond highlighted the plight of OGB Peter Basin, living in Kalimpong and asked if there was anything that GO could do to assist him.

It was reiterated that GO's directive was the current students in DGH, with an extension to school leavers. Therefore, GO agreed to divorce itself from this issue.

9.3 Birkmyre Hostel

Ken advised the meeting that the BOM has indicated to the UK Committee that they are unable to continue the administration of UK's extended sponsorship scheme. These students have been housed in the Hostel and managed by the BOM.

The Committee reiterated, that GO's Constitution was not designed to take on the responsibility of Birkmyre or the extended sponsorship scheme.

Nonetheless, Ken felt that if the hostel was not used to benefit the OGBs in the future, GO (on behalf of OGBs) should be involved in any decision making by the BOM/UK.



He personally felt that the Hostel should be sold and part of the income used to modernise and upgrade the Homes. He acknowledged this view was contentious and encouraged the GO Committee to debate and agree a firm position as to its direction on the continued use / sale of the Hostel and benefit to the Homes.

GO members were encouraged to forward their feedback to Ken to enable a consolidated response to the UK Committee, from GO.

**NEXT
MEETING**

Sub-Committee Meeting : Saturday 10 August 2019

GO Management Team : Saturday 7 September 2019

There being no further matters, the meeting closed at 1.30 pm IST