



Ananda Kutir Ashrama

serve . love . give . purify . meditate . realise

Affiliated to the Divine Life Society, Rishikesh, India

**Annual General Meeting held on
Saturday 20 May 2017 at 15:00**

MINUTES

1. OPENING PRAYER

Mother Yogeshwari opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. WELCOME

Vani (Chairperson) welcomed all to the meeting.

3. PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Present

Mother Yogeshwari
Deonath Punwassi
Daya Naidu
Kavi Makan
Ravi Liebman
Kamala Wengrowe
Devi Harker
Tina Goodchild
Rashidah Hargey
Andrew Raad

Swami Vidyananda
Triveni Fredericks
Damyanti Gajjar
Shanti Roopnarain
Jennifer Stephens
Karuna Whitebread
Priti Lewis
Natividade Rodrigues
Yogakirtee Meyer
Fr Roger Hickley (guest)

Vani
Uma Edwards
Maitri Makan
Pramila Kooverjee
Elsa Oliver
Sukha Allerton
Kausalya Naidu
Rosemary Frith
Patsy Johnson

Apologies

Swami Parvathiananda
Asma Essa
Nishani Punwassi
Srinivasan Govender
Sunitha Gianpersad

Guru Krishna
Eleanor Strassner
Pat Markovina
Tripurasundari Hartmann

Anil Narshi
Maureen Irvine
Santosh van der Merwe
Vijay Gianpersad

The members present constituted a quorum.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AGM HELD 21 MAY 2016

The minutes of the previous year's AGM were taken as read, approved and signed.

5. DANCE ITEM BY MAITRI MAKAN

Maitri offered a beautiful classical Indian dance in the Bharatanatyam style.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Vani presented the Chairman's Report, summarising the key activities and many events that took place over the past year. Highlights were the events commemorating the Birth

Centenary of Swami Chidananda – the 33rd Anniversary of Sri Vishnu Mandir, poor feeding, a satsang honouring women, special satsang on 24 September, and yatra to Sivananda Ashram by Swami Vidyananda and seven devotees to join the culmination of the celebrations. Another major event was the wonderful celebration of Mother Yogeshwari's 90th birthday. Ashram maintenance included the installation of an irrigation system, the sanding and varnishing of the upstairs residence floors and the sale of the Jetta. Vani thanked all those who offer Seva. **See full report attached.**

7. RESOLUTION FOR CONSTITUTION CHANGES

Swami Vidyananda reported that there are some errors in the existing constitution. Of particular note were: the election process of committee being faulty, as well as a reference to the Board of Trustees as a legal entity which is incorrect. Swami Vidyananda requested approval from the members for the Management Committee to set up a subcommittee to review the constitution as a whole. Approval was given. He also invited any member who may have some relevant knowledge to serve on that subcommittee. A resolution for changes to the constitution will be presented at the next AGM.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT

Triveni Fredericks presented the Treasurer's Report. She took over as Interim Treasurer from Vijay Gianpersad and thanked him for his work for most of the financial year. The Ashram is in a healthy financial position, and while income from donations is slightly less than last year, there is an increase in positive cashflow. The Outreach Project is also in a healthy position. Triveni is not standing for re-election and is handing over to Deonath Punwassi. **See full report attached.**

9. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTING OFFICER

The financial statements were officially approved and signed by Vani and the reappointment of Vassen Bros as the accounting officer was confirmed. A copy of the financial statements is **attached.**

10. BHAJAN

Swami Vidyananda presented a beautiful classical Indian bhajan, accompanied by Maitri on tabla.

11. OUTREACH REPORT

Jennifer Stephens presented the Outreach report. The savings account has a healthy balance. A new bread supplier is providing excellent service and at a reduced cost. The winter drive and Christmas appeal were well supported. A fond farewell was bid to Tripurasundari Hartmann as co-ordinator, and a warm welcome to Elsa Oliver, a long-standing team leader. The sandwich-making continues, with 17 team leaders and 49 volunteers serving 5 clinics. The renovations at Stormont School are complete. A most heartfelt thanks was given to all who are involved in Outreach, in their many different ways. **See full report attached.**

12. MESSAGE FROM MOTHER YOGESHWARI

Mother Yogeshwari gave a beautiful message, expressing her gratitude to everyone who contributes to the Ashram, in their many ways. It is still growing, little by little, with many volunteers, and some founding members still involved. She also sang a delightful and insightful song about communicating heart to heart.

13. ANANDA KUTIR EDUCATION TRUST REPORT

Karuna Whitebread presented the AKET report. Activities for the year included the weekly Integral Yoga programme, performance at the Diwali festival at the Waterfront, a Gratitude Day and the International Yoga Day. Maitri attended a “Train the Trainer” course in Education in Human Values. A film has been produced by a volunteer to generate funding for the school. A milestone has been the opening of a bank account, with a balance of R82 762.80 at 28 February 2017. The Life is Yoga programme continues at Village Tods Educare in Maitland Garden Village, which includes meditation and Yoga philosophy classes for the teachers. The children are clearly benefiting from the programme. **See full report attached.**

14. COMMUNITY YOGA CLASSES

Kamala Wengrowe presented a report on the community Yoga classes. These continue to take place and are growing – with more than one class, more than one venue and more than one teacher! Classes take place at the community hall in Maitland Garden Village and the Maitland Town Hall and are enthusiastically attended. Shanti Roopnarain is now involved as co-teacher. **See full report attached.**

15. TALK BY FATHER ROGER HICKLEY

Guest speaker Father Roger Hickley gave a beautiful talk on the Ultimate Reality. He referred to a gathering hosted by Trappist monk Fr Thomas Keating, to which spiritual leaders from many faith traditions were invited. They developed eight points of common agreement, which acknowledge an essential oneness in all religions, and the universal nature of the spiritual journey. It is essential to extend one’s spiritual practices into all of life, and the qualities of humility, gratitude and a sense of humour are indispensable. The gathering had also found, to their surprise, that they bonded even more over their points of difference, resulting in wonderful insights. Father Hickley concluded by reminding us that the Ultimate Reality is available to everyone, and that it is a journey without end.

16. ELECTIONS

Trustees are elected every two years. No new nominations were received. The following trustees were unanimously re-elected:

Mother Yogeshwari (Chair)
Guru Krishna

Daya Naidu
Damyanti Gajjar

Two resignations from the management committee were received – Triveni Fredericks and Tripurasundari Hartmann. Vijay Gianpersad resigned as Treasurer but would stand for re-election as committee member. Two new nomination were received – Kamala Wengrowe and Elsa Oliver. The management committee members were unanimously elected as follows:

Swami Vidyananda (General Secretary)
Kamala Wengrowe (Vice-Chairman)
Uma Edwards (Secretary)
Elsa Oliver (Outreach)
Vijay Gianpersad
Nishani Punwassi
Ravi Liebman

Vani (Chairperson)
Deonath Punwassi (Treasurer)
Maitri Makan (AKET)
Amit Makan
Kavi Makan
Pramila Kooverjee
Shanti Roopnarain

17. MATTERS ARISING / GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mother Yogeshwari requested that consideration be given to paving the parking area. This will be raised at the next Management Committee meeting on 29 July 2017.

Vani thanked all for their attendance and support.

18. CLOSING PRAYER

Mother Yogeshwari closed the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting was followed by High Tea and Satsang.