



Exeter Hindu Cultural Centre

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MINUTES

28th June 2025

ATTENDANCE

Apologies from: Manoj Chitnavis, Sarita Chitnavis, Raj Chowtee, Jaya Chowtee, Ashish Kotecha, Viditi Kotecha.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM (2024)

Proposer: Vivek Verma

Seconded by: Sejal Pandit

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Presented by Prem Sivlal.

Prem opened the meeting with a reflection on EHCC's progress and reiterated the long-term vision to establish a dedicated Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre in Exeter. He encouraged open sharing of ideas and acknowledged the importance of collective contribution and commitment from the community.

Discussion included property suggestions such as a bungalow or land as raised by Dinesh Raheja. Judith Morgan suggested ownership through community shares. Saran Philpott suggested exploring the white club near Wetherspoons, although it was noted to be costly (around £1 million). Prem emphasized the importance of Hinduism teaching in schools. Vipul Mandalia also commented on the importance of active fundraising.

Proposer: **TBC**

Seconded by: **TBC**

TREASURER'S REPORT 2024–2025



Exeter Hindu Cultural Centre

Presented by Deepak Sachdeva.

The community was updated on a positive financial year with funds reaching £129,000. Income sources included regular donations, festivals, and grants.

- Auditor: Hampden Chartered Accountants proposed for reappointment due to their excellent, no-charge service.
- Prem encouraged wider participation through monthly donations and sponsorships.
- Money boxes will be distributed for home fundraising.
- Proposal to seek larger grants and compile an EHCC impact dossier.

Proposer: Vipul Mandalia

Seconded by: Kashyap Patel

MEMBERSHIP, CORRESPONDENCE & WEBSITE REPORT

Presented by Manesh Sivlal (Membership and Correspondence) and Umitha Nahar (Website).

- Membership stands at 71 paid members.
- Email communications increased to over 1,700 recipients with high engagement.
- Website received 469 inquiries over the past year.
- Suggestion to restructure WhatsApp group into sub-groups for better engagement.
- Sunita Burman will take over social media content and collaborate with younger members to enhance outreach.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Presented by Vivek Verma.

- Emphasis on community ideas and volunteer engagement.



Exeter Hindu Cultural Centre

- Highlights included previous successful events and calls for future participation.

HINDUISM TAUGHT IN SCHOOLS

Presented by Rekha Jina, Aru Pradhan, and Namrata Patil.

- Over 40 schools were contacted with 10 successfully visited.
- Schools were asked to make a contribution to support preparation time and travel.
- Rekha shared a story of a school engagement where students learned about pooja and created their own shrine designs.
- Volunteers are welcome and supported with training.

CHILDREN'S REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Presented by Hiral.

- Children's teaching continues regularly, even when Hiral is unavailable.
- Ongoing focus on consistency and engagement.

GOVERNANCE REPORT

Presented by Prem Sivilal.

- The group is reviewing its governance documents to ensure continued compliance with charity regulations.
- Trustees are exploring the legal pathway to become a Community Benefit Society, allowing share-based fundraising.



Exeter Hindu Cultural Centre

- Volunteer names and contact details will be shared on the WhatsApp group to improve accessibility and transparency.

EXETER UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN & STUDENT CORRESPONDENCE

Presented by Jay Jina.

Jay updated the group on the university's ongoing effort to create a shrine for the Maa Saraswati murti donated two years ago. Discussions are underway to finalise a secure and respectful placement within the University.

EVENTS TEAM REPORT

Presented by Sejal Pandit.

- Key events from the past year were well attended and positively received.
- Navratri 2025 is scheduled for 27th September.
- There was strong praise for the dedication of the events team and the organic emergence of new leaders.

ELECTION / RE-ELECTION OF TRUSTEES AND PRESIDENT

Vinod Chouhan was elected as a new Trustee.

Prem Sivlal was re-elected as President.

Proposer: Judith Morgan

Seconded by: Guneeth Panu



Exeter Hindu Cultural Centre

CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

Delivered by Manish Gandhi.

Manish reiterated the importance of building a self-sustaining Hindu Cultural Centre and temple. He called on members to spread awareness and support regular giving. The vision includes a temple and multi-functional centre with income-generating capabilities.

FUNDRAISING PLANS

The group discussed various strategies to raise funds for purchasing land or a building. These included:

- Approaching members to set up monthly direct debits.
- Encouraging larger one-time donations and business sponsorships.
- Continuing distribution of money boxes for small home-based fundraising.
- Compiling a comprehensive EHCC dossier to use when applying for large-scale grants, with some organisations reportedly willing to match community contributions.
- Exploring legal transition to a Community Benefit Society model to enable share-based investments.

These efforts are expected to strengthen EHCC's financial foundation and support the goal of acquiring a permanent community space.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS (AOB)

- Volunteers were reminded to use WhatsApp groups respectfully.
- EHCC's 15-year growth includes a 400% increase in participation and a 17-19% annual increase in funds.
- New initiatives include enhanced documentation of EHCC's work and outreach.



Exeter Hindu Cultural Centre

DATE OF NEXT AGM

The next AGM is proposed for Saturday, 27th June 2026 (final date to be confirmed).

A copy of the individual reports can be found at the EHCC Google Drive:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-GGqirGXWB7pcgiuE05Fzeuno0hxL-y3?usp=sharing>