



## Exeter Hindu Cultural Centre

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MINUTES Exeter Hindu Cultural Centre (EHCC).

25th June 2022

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

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#### **Participated in person:**

Vipul Mandali, Trupti Mandalia, Prem Sivlal, Indira Sivlal, Ashish Kotecha, Viditi Kotecha, Kashyap Patel, Hiral Patel, Vivek Verma, Supriya Agarwal, Jas Sachdeva, Deepak Sachdeva, Robin Sachdeva, Ravindra Nathwani, Manoj Chitnavis, Vedant Mandalia, Nimita Gandhi, Dr Manish Gandhi, Saran Philpott, Rekha Jina, Jay Jina.

#### **Trustees:**

<b>Chair:</b>	Manish M Gandhi (MG)	<b>Membership</b>	Ash Kotecha (AK)
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Vipul Mandalia (VM)	<b>Correspondence &amp; Website</b>	Manesh Sivlal (MS)
<b>Secretary:</b>	Vivek Verma (VV),	<b>Governance</b>	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Deepak Sachdeva (DS)		
<b>President</b>	Prem Sivlal (PS)		
<b>Exeter University Rep</b>			

#### **Apologies:**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM HELD 2021**

Approved.

Proposed – Vipul Mandalia

Seconded – Prem Sivlal & Ashish Kotecha

**The minutes were accepted verbally in person and virtually.**



## **Exeter Hindu Cultural Centre**

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2021-22**

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#### **Welcome by the President**

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The detailed report from the President can be found in Appendix A.  
Presented by Mr Prem Sivlal.

#### **Chairman's Annual Report**

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The detailed report from the Chairman can be found in Appendix B.  
Presented by Dr. Manish Gandhi

#### **Treasurer's Report 2021-2022**

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The detailed report from the Treasurer can be found in Appendix C.  
Presented by Dr. Deepak Sachdeva

#### **Secretaries Report 2021-2022**

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The detailed report from the secretary can be found in Appendix D.  
Presented by Mr Vivek Verma

#### **Children's Representatives Report 2021-2022**

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The detailed report from the representative can be found in Appendix E.  
Presented by Mrs Hiral Patel and Mrs Rekha Jina

**The Chair thanked all present for attending and for their continued support. The next AGM will take place in June-2023.**

## **Appendix**

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### **Appendix A: President's Report**

President's speech 25/06/2022

Hello everyone Our charity's main objective and its principle activity is the achievement of the Hindu religion. We are fast working towards finding a suitable place for our cultural centre. I have recently contacted the Exeter City Council in the view of finding us a place for our charity. They have responded by saying they will look through their assets and pull out some buildings that may be of interest to us. Hoo that was music to our ears. The trustees and committee members have had regular meetings to discuss the way forward for the trust to achieve its objective. Many thanks to them for attending and doing the very best for the charity. Sponsorship and any donation to the project is very vital and is always welcomed. This helps us to decide how to go forward. As it is mentioned at almost every AGM that we should be doing different things to get the community together. But unfortunately, as we are or the whole country is in dire straits that money is not readily available. Throughout the year our charity has had held regular monthly gatherings and celebrated several Hindu festivals and local social events. We have had a very colourful Holi celebration which was well attended in the presence of the Hindu priest. We had ongoing monthly gatherings on the last Saturday of each month which was well supported by yourselves. I do understand that the teaching of Hinduism continues. Hinduism is a religion which makes us believe rather than follow. We pass on this belief and knowledge to our younger generations. We have members in our teams that go out to schools and teach Hinduism. Hinduism is also taught here at our monthly gatherings. I do know that this is well attended. On a different note, the lottery support via ECT has come to an end for its 3 years duration at the end of last month. We are in the process of reapplying for a further period, but this will take time. We are making fund applications elsewhere and yes we have received some funding like the one for the household fund. More applications for funds have been made and awaiting its outcome. I have been told that there was a charity company in the UK(one like ours wanting to build a Hindu temple)that was fundraising and accumulated a very large amount of asset(money)including a house, but unfortunately it went into receivership and the charity commission froze its bank account. I have applied for their assets. The application is a long process, but I seem to overcome it with all that. This was their reply There has been no determination as to the outcome of our Inquiry yet, however, I have forwarded your request to the Interim Manager for his consideration and distribution. In my last AGM I spoke of how I was forced to move out of our house due to the bomb. I can at this AGM confirm that I have just a week ago moved back into my house. Its party time. I conclude by saying thank you everyone for all the help, advice and participation in all the activities undertaken by the EXETER HINDU CULTURAL CENTRE. Always remember be there to help us so that we can help you.

### **Appendix B: Chairman's Report**

EHCC AGM

Chairman's report

- Pandemic year: Almost all affected within family by COVID. Pray for a for those who recovered and those who did not
- Service to community by EHCC:  
-Prem via ECT and IE

-Indra cooking meals

- Thank the event's committee. Exwick Parish Hall, Prem
- Adapted to virtual meetings, very successfully run by Kash and committee
- Ganesh Puja at RAMM in August 2020
- Navratri celebrated virtually on 20th October 2020. Cash Vivek and the team progress related for incredible organisation of her virtually vent. Sejal Pandit personally delivered the puja thali's to EHCC community's homes.
- Diwali was celebrated in virtual style, and EHCC was ably represented by Hiral appearing on BBC and ITV on 4 news bulletins
- EHCC represented at Mahashivratri Bhajan 13/3/21 at Plymouth
- Memorial service for Duke of Edinburgh
- Children's education programme grew from strength to strength. Supriya, Hiral, Rekha, Viditi and Jaya were instrumental. Even on boxing day 20/20, there was a children's programme titled "what it means to be a Hindu". On behalf of the children thank you.
- Jay Lakhani, champion of Hinduism passed away: free books on Hinduism in schools available through hindu-academy.com. Dr Sen passed away.
- Active whatsapp group evolved
- Celebrated excellence of children at the respective schools (GCSE Shivani, Kareena, Devina) Graduation and progression of EHCC young adults (KM, M Sivlal). Networking building up: Uni students contacted by 6th formers for mentorship.
- Lookout for land to build cultural centre has continued in the background. Details from Prem for those who want to be involved. Thank Trustees: accounts, finances, guardianship
- Look forward to freedom of movement and travel, increasing collaboration with other organisations, renewed efforts to find land, take children's programme from strength to strength, build on the social media footprint of Exeter Hindu cultural centre, apply for further grants
- Vibrant event's committee
- GMC chairs letter- indulge

## **Appendix D: Treasurer's Report**

**Exeter Hindu CulturalCentre**

**Staddlestones, Glenthorne Road, Exeter, EX44QU Charity Number: 1138725 Company Number: 7296107**

## Annual General Meeting 25 June 2022 Treasurer's Report

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### Financial Position

The total balance is £71063.7 - (Report dated 22 June 2022) Current a/c 7533.59, Savings a/c

63,530.11

At the time of the last AGM, the balance was £60,394.14 (report dated 24 July 2021)

### **This is an increase of £10668.86 since the last AGM.**

The increase this year is over 30% greater than the year before (£8,046.62 increase between 2020 and 2021 AGMs) reflecting a real hard work by EHCC during the pandemic period. Special thanks to Prem and Indira Sivlal for securing numerous grants and supplying food for events and meetings that have helped us achieve this.

### Income

1/ After a significant gap due to covid, we have started to make some income from local festivals and events. The recent examples include income from:

### **A- RESPECT FESTIVAL June 2022 £1905.11**

(Total received 3158-Expenses 1252.89)

### **B- NAVRATRI Oct 2021 £732.90**

(includes £86.99 from Arti, £175.00 Raffles, Paypal tickets £720.91; expenses priest £250)

Hotel and Food expenses £1500 paid by Lottery monies, thanks to Communities together that helped with these celebrations.

We used own music system.

### **C- Diwali Nov 2021 £1602.83**



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Grant from Taylor Wimpey £930 was helpful in covering some of the costs (mainly catering £2000, and Priest £250); Lottery monies funded Hall hire and DJ £610. Together with donations from attendees, we were able to make a surplus.

### **D- Holi March 2022 -£164.89**

Expenses £739.89 Priest costs, garden hire, food, colours, income £574.46

2/ Last Gift aid reclaim figure of £3047.96 was received for years 2015/16 through to 2018/19. (total gift aid claims completed from 2012/13 onwards until 2018/19)

3/ There is no major change in monthly income related to standing orders.

4/ We secured a funding of £3000 on 31st March 2022 from Devon Communities Together, this was distributed to 12 families with financial hardship during covid, another sum of £2000 was granted by the same funder to supply food for the needy. There is some remaining amount available if someone would like to join this work and supply cooked food for the homeless/needy people, please contact Prem Sivlal for more info.

#### Expenditure

The cost of Exwick hall hire is about £400 per annum.

#### Action

The members are requested to note the contents of this report. Audited accounts are available online.

### **Appendix E: Secretaries Report**

## **EHCC SECRETARIES REPORT 2021-2022**

### **Introduction**

This report summarises the activities of EHCC, including monthly meetings and various events organised during the period of 2021-2022.



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### Monthly Meetings

Throughout most of the months following our last AGM, we held our monthly meetings either online or in person. We started the year with online meetings and switched to in-person meetings from February onwards. Unfortunately, the meeting scheduled for April 22 had to be cancelled due to a lack of suitable attendees.

### Events Organised by EHCC

EHCC organised various events during the period of 2021-2022, including Navratri 2021, Diwali 2021, Holi 2022, and a food stall at the Exeter Respect Festival 2022. Navratri 2021 was held at the Mercure Exeter Rougemont Hotel on October 9th and featured the Exeter Divas dance group, a presentation by kids, and singing, which was covered by the BBC Spotlight. The Diwali celebration on November 6th, 2021, featured some excellent performances, including singing, dancing, Bharatnatyam, and rangoli-making. EHCC celebrated Holi 2022 on March 20th at the garden area of Exwick Parish Hall, with many university students joining in the celebration. EHCC also organised a food stall at the Exeter Respect Festival 2022 and is grateful to those who volunteered. The organisation is looking forward to having more volunteers next year.

### Conclusion

EHCC has been active throughout the period of 2021-2022, holding monthly meetings and organising various events. We are grateful to those who participated and volunteered and welcome others who are interested in our charity's noble cause. If you would like to participate in any of EHCC's upcoming events or want to volunteer, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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### Appendix F: Children's representatives report

EHCC AGM 25th June 2022

#### Children's activities.

Children's monthly activities in the year 2021-2022, were a combination of Online and virtual and face to face sessions.

Children enjoyed Krishna stories, craft activities related to cultural events such as Diwali.

Children participated in group dances during Diwali festival and did Rangoli arts & craft.

Main aspects of teaching covered basics of Hinduism, festivals in Hindu calendar and why we





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celebrate those.

Team of volunteers who engage in these activities were

Mrs Hiral Patel  
Mrs Supriya Agarwal  
Mrs Rekha Jina.

Another team of volunteers also include EHCC members who would go to Devon schools, upon requests, and help in children's education on Hinduism Devon-wide. Some of these members include

Mrs Rekha Jina  
Mrs Namrata Patil  
Mrs Olivia Fee  
Mrs Arundhati Nayak.

\*\*\*\*\*End of Report\*\*\*\*\*