

**Draft Minutes**

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Australian Sikh Association Limited**

**Date:** 11-April-2021

**Time:** commenced at 02:20 PM

Closed at 6:05 PM

**Minutes presented by:** Pritpal Singh Tiwana, Company Secretary

**Minutes Taker:** Harmeeek Singh (on behalf of Pritpal Singh Tiwana)

**Quorum:** Not Required (Reconvened AGM of 28-March-2021, as per clause 9.5.2 of the ASA constitution)

**Total Members Present: 186**

Company Secretary Pritpal Singh Tiwana requested Bhai Sahib ji (Ragi Singh) for Ardaas to commence AGM. After the Ardaas and Hukamnama, PS Tiwana explained that due to the extraordinary circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and for continued safety of our community, there has been delays in organising the Annual General Meeting (AGM). He explained the house rules and requested members to maintain decorum in Darbar hall and respect for Guru Granth Sahib Ji. He asked Harmeeek Singh to take the minutes of meeting. Company secretary asked Chairperson, Ravinderjit Singh to open the meeting and handed over to Chairperson, Ravinderjit Singh to start the proceedings.

As soon as Chairperson started the meeting ASA, Assistant Gurdwara Secretary Gurjinder Pal Singh Girn raised the issue that AGM meeting is unconstitutional as Ravinderjit Singh is not a chairperson of the board and started speaking very loudly. Other people stood up to stop Chairperson and joined Gurjinderpal to disrupt the meeting. Mr Albel Singh Kang stood up and started shouting. There were lot of noises and meeting was being disrupted. Manjit Singh Purewal, Gurwinder Singh Kang, Tejbir Singh Bola, stood up to join Gurjinderpal and albel Kang. As Chairperson Ravinderjit continued; Jagdish Singh, Sukhjeet Singh Purewal, Talwinder Banwait, Narinder Girn, Amarjit Girn, Bhai Iqbal Singh and few other people were standing and shouting and telling Ravinderjit to stop the meeting and were saying that he is illegal Chairperson.

Harbaldeep Singh was very loud and shouting in Ravinderjit's direction that first answer the question before commencing the AGM and same was asked by Darshan Singh Gill. Ravinderjit asked them that meeting will go as per agenda and all questions will be answered. There was chaos like situation in Darbar Hall and lot of disruption and shouting. At repeated request from Chairperson, Ravinderjit Singh to those who were standing, to sit down; and no one was interested to listen. Chairperson announced the disrupting members that if they do not behave, he will have no choice but to adjourn the meeting.

2:31 PM: Chairperson adjourned the meeting for five minutes due to disturbance by some members.

2:38 PM: Company Secretary started the meeting and explained to the members how the previous Chairperson, Satnam Singh Bajwa resigned from Board on his own volition (dated 05-Jan-2021) and his resignation was accepted by Board of Directors in their special meeting held on 10-Jan-2021, by majority vote. Company Secretary informed the board that Ravinderjit Singh was acting Chairperson in this meeting as he held the position of Deputy Chairperson. He was nominated for the position of Chairperson by members. Mr Ravinderjit Singh was elected by board in their meeting of 10-Jan-2021 unopposed and the position was accepted by Ravinderjit Singh. Mrs Mandeep Gosal was also nominated and elected Deputy Chairperson in the same meeting. Couple of days after his resignation, Mr Satnam Bajwa (who was a member and Chairperson of the board) sent an email to the board that he wanted to withdraw his resignation. Minutes of board meetings are available for any member of the ASA for inspection after the AGM.

2:43 PM: Gurjinderpal again stood up and started interrupting and Harbaldeep was shouting loud, joined by more members of his group. Company Secretary, Mr Tiwana requested repeatedly to maintain decorum and let the meeting continue as per the agenda. Meeting interrupted again by same group of members by shouting in the Darbar hall.

Meeting was adjourned again as same group of people were disrupting. Some elderly members talked to agitated persons and pacified them to let the meeting proceed.

2:56PM: Meeting started again by Chairperson and started the proceedings as per agenda

**Agenda:**

1. *Apologies*
2. *To confirm draft minutes of the AGM held on 17-Nov-2019 and matters arising*
3. *To receive and consider 30-June-2020 Financial Report of the ASA Ltd, ABN 96 150 419 027 and auditor's report*
4. *To receive and consider 30-June-2020 Financial Reports of the ASA Charitable Trust, ABN 84 164 885 276 and auditor's report*
5. *To approve the proposed Budget for year 2021*
6. *To appoint the auditor of the Company*
7. *To consider proposed resolutions received from members (to be considered only if AGM is held in person)*
8. *ASA directors' reports*

1. **Apologies:** There are two apologies received from board members, Gagandeep Singh and Mandeep Kaur Gosal.

2. To confirm draft minutes of the AGM held on 17-Nov-2019 and matters arising:

There are no issues raised and minutes approved

Babir Pawar – 1<sup>st</sup> and Jasbir Thind – 2<sup>nd</sup>

3. *To receive and consider 30-June-2020 Financial Report of the ASA Ltd, ABN 96 150 419 027 and auditor's report:*

Dr Surinder Singh raise concern on books bought online for \$20-25K by Punjabi School without any proposal first cleared by board.

Mrs Simrat Ghuman raised concern for Punjabi school expenses in FY 2019 asking explanation that expenses were \$123,437 but in FY 2020, why it increased to \$235,914. She asked why these expenses gone up almost \$115,000 especially during lockdown due to Covid-19 and Punjabi School children did not attend school and it was online.

Mrs Parmjit Kaur Kaloti raised questions about reason for increase in employees' salaries and superannuation from 2019 and 2020. Once she finished, Tejbir Bola asked her Why is she asking other questions when they don't accept the Chairperson and they are manipulating the meeting. Discussion commenced between Tejbir Bola, Gurjinderpal and Parmjit Kaloti across the Darbar hall. Mrs Parmjit Kaloti withdrew her questions.

Mr Surinder Singh raised concern Why there are extra expenses despite of COVID-19 and most of classes were online.

CFO, Jagmohan Paul Singh Dhaliwal was asked from stage to explain.

CFO, Jagmohan Paul Singh Dhaliwal, refused to answer any questions regarding financials instead CFO again started raising concerns on election of current Chairperson.

Harbaldeep Sunner kept shouting and again started asking question about Chairpersonship election and Darshan Gill also joined. Gurjinderpal Singh also started interrupting along with few others by saying; you are not Chairperson and few others stood up along with Gurjinderpal were CFO Jagmohan Singh Dhaliwal, Education director Sukhraj Singh, Tejbir Bola, Gurwinder Kang, Manjit Purewal, Albel Kang, Sukhjot Purewal, Tejinder Singh and meeting was interrupted again with loud noises.

Ravinderjit asked Gurjinderpal that you was in the board meeting, where new Chairperson was elected and asked all to sit down and proposed that he will ask Company Secretary to explain for the last time again about Chairperson's election by the directors. Harbaldeep and Gurjinderpal kept shouting that he explained already and is not acceptable.

Chairperson again asked Mr Tiwana to explain the constitutional process one more time to elect the Chairperson and how Mr Ravinderjit Singh was the elected Chairperson of the board. Mr Tiwana again explained the sequence of events after the resignation of previous Chairperson and explained that Mr

Ravinderjit Singh was nominated and elected as Chairperson unopposed. Mr Sekhon tried to explain the present members on Mr Tiwana's points.

Gurjinder Singh raised question as per clause 10.3.1 of the ASA constitution that Chairperson cannot be elected without 75% majority vote. Ravinderjit is elected by majority vote of 7 to 5.

Manjit Purewal asked to remove Ravinderjit from stage if you want to continue the meeting and made derogatory remarks.

During this disturbance, Chairperson tried to continue the meeting as per agenda and asked if CFO unable to answer or refused to answer the concerns from members. Treasurer or Assistant treasurer can answer the questions.

CFO said he raised objections previously in emails but never get an answer for that Narinder replied that no objection was raised in BOD meeting.

Chairperson again explained the process and events and are documented in minutes.

Mr Jasbir Randhawa, asked that Vice Chairperson cannot nominate himself as Chairperson. Constitution is not followed. Another question is to explain 75% votes issues.

Dr Surinder Singh stood up and read out the clause 10.3.1 to members who were raising loud voices and asked them to, listen carefully. Gurjinderpal, Manjit Purewal kept shouting we don't accept the Chairperson. Ravinderjit asked Gurjinderpal that lot of ASA BOD meetings has since taken place with him being a Chairperson, and no objections were raised in those meetings and now in AGM, why are you raising objections? Chairperson again asked Company Secretary, Mr Tiwana to read the ASA BOD meeting minutes. Company Secretary read the minutes of meeting explaining some directors objecting to accept resignation of Satnam Singh Bajwa, one director abstained from the voting and further process and minutes of electing Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

Gurjinderpal singh raised objection that as per ASA constitution 10.3.1 Chairperson can be elected by 75% vote only. Company Secretary mentioned to Gurjinderpal that you are mis-interpreting the constitution again but the constitution was followed correctly during this process. Gurjinderpal said there were 13 directors present and Chairperson Satnam Singh Bajwa resignation was accepted. Then 12 directors were left to continue the meeting, Ravinderjit Singh required 9 votes to be elected as Chairperson and he was elected only by 7 votes.

Mr Sekhon asked that why you can't let the meeting run, if Ravinderjit is not Chairperson why can't he run meeting as Vice-Chairperson as previous Chairperson's resignation was already accepted as you said earlier. My humble request is to you to stop wasting time of all and to let this AGM completed.

Lot of yelling and laughing continued. ASA director, Gurjinderpal Singh said he asked constitution question and Chairperson is doing NAUTANKI. Lot of people started yelling and asked to give microphone to Gurjinderpal to ask question. When mic was given, some of members around him recited Jaikara. Gurjinder said again Chairperson is not accepted as per 10.3.1

Mr Balvinder Singh Chahal stood up and read the Constitution clause 10.3.1- the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the Board shall be elected by the Board from amongst their numbers at the first meeting of the Board after the AGM in the Election Year and he/she shall remain Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson until the conclusion of the AGM following the next election or until his/her removal or resignation as a Director or his/her replacement as Chairperson by a seventy five percent (75%) majority decision of the Directors attending the Board meeting. The Company Secretary who shall have a casting vote in the event of a tie shall convene this first meeting. The Company Secretary shall not be eligible for the position of Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson.

That means board directors can remove an existing Chairperson with 75% vote. In current scenario, the Chairperson was **not removed** but he himself resigned completely from the Board as a director and his resignation has been accepted. To fill the vacant position, Chairperson can be elected with a majority vote as it is not a **replacement, that requires a 75% vote**. I request all present ASA members to read and understand the ASA constitution to interpret it in a right way for the progression of ASA. Following this, no one raised any objection and the meeting proceeded again.

Discussion again started on the financial reports and question about why school expenses were much higher than previous year and that too during the Covid-19 lockdown when school was only run online. No explanation was given by CFO or the Punjabi School director

**Chairperson requested financial report to accepted and approved**

J S Thind 1<sup>st</sup> and B S Chahal 2<sup>nd</sup>

4. *To receive and consider 30-June-2020 Financial Reports of the ASA Charitable Trust, ABN 84 164 885 276 and auditor's report:*

Chairperson asked if there any questions from this report. No questions asked and he asked the members to accept and approve the report.

**Approved with no objections**

Tapinder Singh Ghuman 1<sup>st</sup> and Avtar Singh Billu 2<sup>nd</sup>

5. *To approve the proposed Budget for year 2021:*

JS Thind raised concern of Pergola cost of \$65K and removal of bathroom \$200K

CFO explained that pergola was completed for \$55K, lower than previous estimate. Major Renovations for 25 Meurants Lane was done to move Raggi jathas, No.8 flooring was replaced. Gurughar toilets also need renovation soon.

Harsimrat Kaur spoke about Sikh Culture and its importance and stressed these projects should be prioritised asap.

Sukhraj Singh explained that school expenses are from previous financial year and now expenses are recorded correctly. Also, full online school is being run since 18-Apr-2020 onwards and we have two teachers in each class.

Harsimrat also raised question on extra expenses of Punjabi School in 2020 which was again explained by Sukhraj.

Jasvinder Kaur raised an issue that when committee changes, they change the teachers to recruit their own favourites. This is not a right approach.

Ravinder Kaur asked why old teachers are not appointed. She was previously teaching in Punjabi School and made an application to join but not considered by the new school committee. She has sent many emails to education director and no email was answered. I made phone calls and phone was never responded. To this Sukhraj Singh replied that only competent teachers are appointed.

Ravinder Kaur further raised question that school is not lead by the elected director but previous members for which Sukhraj Singh said that he has deputed responsibilities to sub-committee.

Sukhraj said 48 SRE classes are being run and two teachers taking online classes. Ravinder Kaur said all emails to parents are from sub-committee not from education director. Parents need to know who is the responsible director. Sukhraj was answering question and Albel Kang was forcing his way and asked to respond and caused disruption by running around and was very loud and disrupted the female speaker.

Due to his aggressiveness and disruption, meeting was adjourned.

3:55PM: Meeting was adjourned due to disruption by members of Punjabi school sub-committee.

4:00PM: Albel Kang said that school committee put lot of efforts to run on-line school during COVID. There are 40 teachers and 600 students. Funds are not being released for annual function. I can answer all questions to Ravinder Kaur and it was discussed with previous Chairperson, Satnam Bajwa. I can explain here.

Chairperson Ravinderjit Singh said the Education director Sukhraj Singh did not attend the BOD meeting and sent email asking for \$10,000 and did not provide any details to BOD. He further informed that Sukhraj did not attend last two board meetings and BOD can't approve without a proper proposal discussion

without him being wilfully absent. This can be discussed in the following board meeting. Sukhraj informed that he did not attend the meeting and sent an email and annual budget for school should be by default.

Kiran Kaur raised why no camps were organised by ASA? Also, there is nothing for Youth, in this budget? and complained that Youth Affairs Director never responded to emails sent to him and was not available either. When finally, he answered his phone, he said that he does not have password for his email account. Why directors do not have password for their email since November 2019 and why he did not respond to emails.

Mr Tiwana explained that Youth Affairs Director, Mr Jaswinder Singh Aulakh was absent in 12 of the 17 board meetings and as director he took the responsibility and joined the Board. It is very difficult to work without director in-charge.

Mr Karanjit Sandhu, member of school sub-committee asked why can't board pass funds in education director's absence?

Chairperson, Ravinderjit Singh informed the responsible director has to come to the board meeting with plan and proposed details in BOD meeting, but nothing was provided.

Chairperson further informed the members that there was a serious youth issue at Harris Park where young Sikh persons were getting attacked, there was no participation from Youth Affairs director. When someone nominate the director and director takes responsibility, they must attend board meetings and undertake their tasks. It's lesson for all of us who we should nominate to Board.

Jatinder Singh, ASA Media Director responded to Kiran Kaur, although youth director has failed to respond and take up his activities, he will discuss with her and ensure to take up her proposal to the board meeting.

Karanjit Sandhu said if director is not there as example school budget was not passed. These can be approved on WhatsApp and much easier. Chairperson Ravinderjit explained that previously approval was given on WhatsApp and objections were raised by certain directors. Discussion can take place on WhatsApp group, but decisions need to be passed only in BOD meeting as per procedures. Even the concerned director never participated on WhatsApp discussion.

Mrs Paramjit Kaloti asked why email passwords are not with directors? Why emails are not answered? Members sent emails and did not get response. These goes under carpet. Parmjit Kaloti added that there was question from teachers who was not selected with previous experience, teachers should be selected based on capability. She also questions CFO that we should pay super to all ASA employees as per law at 9.5%. For which CFO Jagmohan Dhaliwal replied that teachers are not paid super as they are temporary employees. All permanent employees are paid super. CFO Dhaliwal added that there is 100K budget for youth activities.

Bhupinder Singh asked that there is no budget for making new Charitable Trust, we must have budget for Trust for future projects and feasibility studies. Federal Government has started funding aged care facility at home. ASA Charitable Trust can become a provider. Bhupinder asked director, Mr Terlochan Singh Gill, what is the scope for expansion of ASA Charitable Trust. Has he asked for budget, if not, it should now be approved in this AGM. CFO Jagmohan Dhaliwal said I want to reply first, I prepared the structure and provided to BOD. Now I will ask Terlochan Singh to explain what happened to that. T S Gill, explained that they worked hard and had quotes during Covid restriction to consolidate the existing Trust. CFO idea was to have separate Charitable Trusts which was not feasible. I have done some work and will present in next meeting of the board. I requested information from CFO which I could not get it and could not move forward.

We will ask Sangat's input.

Tapinder Singh said, for sake of transparency, we must include explanation for significant expenses. The Punjabi School, expenses will be good for understanding in the AGM. Also, we have surplus and what are the plans for Youth engagement and other long-term projects. Do we have a plan for next five years? How effective we are in wider community and what are the plans and budgets. CFO said surplus coming from deceased estate and CFO said that Trust deed not his responsibility. If Terlochan Singh did not do his job that's his responsibility. Terlochan Singh said, I asked for financial clarification from CFO Dhaliwal and he

did not attend 4 out of 5 meetings and failed to attend meeting set-up with the solicitor. CFO is one of the committee members responsible for ASA's Charitable Trust.

Bhupinder Singh said that no work is done on Charitable Trust. Our community urgently needs an Aged Care Home. Are we approving budget for feasibility study in this meeting? BOD can use only 20K. AGM should approve 100K for this. Individual director has no power, but BOD collectively has the power and responsibility. If directors are not performing that's a different issue.

Chairperson proposed that I request AGM to approve 100k. Dr Surinder Singh said Board has power for 250K. That is for projects only. This is for feasibility study and need to be approved.

Mr Randhawa said that we cannot pass anything from outside agenda. Bhupinder Singh said we are asking for amendments not adding items. Trust amalgamation item is there. If required finance is not given, this will be delayed for another year, is this the right thing to do? It's being proposed only. This budget is only up to June 2021. Harbaldeep Sunner raised objection, why it being passed.

Dr Surinder Singh raised that SRE project is a religious class not a Punjabi class. ASA has good budget for SRE. SRE is religious class not a Punjabi class. These teachers are religious teacher/ preachers. From previous notes and minutes, it is only Amritdharis who should be appointed or at least persons with Sikhi Saroop. There is no one in any religion teaching from another religion. At present, another religion person is taking SRE classes, no explanation is needed, if they have adopted Sikh religion. He further said \$20K books bought expenses are not transparent. He also said that CFO is a very capable person then why we are paying to extra person to do ASA accounts with an expense of about 30K. before M S Pooni and Jaspal Singh were doing all accounts by themselves. Now ASA is spending extra 30K, why? We should be looking for saving money.

Sukhraj Singh said that Neelam Rani is a Sikh person with full Sikhi Saroop. Dr Surinder said name is also important for Sikhi! Sukhraj Singh, education director said give me names of any Amritdhari who is well versed in English. There was heated discussion about the topic.

Harbans Singh asked why quantity surveyor was not used for infrastructure projects? Why is kitchen project delayed and not going ahead?

Ravinderjit Singh: Kitchen extension project DA passed in 2012 with CC expiring 30/05/2018. Kitchen extension work started before the expiry of CC. But somebody from our community reported to Blacktown Council that work did not start before expiry of the DA/CC. This is shameful act to make a complaint about Gurdwara kitchen work. AJ Bristow, a reputed contractor and all building work quotations were finalised by previous Board. We only took the revised quote with new changes and modifications.

After taking over as Infrastructure portfolio, there were few design changes for savings and few additions such as a lift and air-conditioning was included. After the complaint, Council has stopped the kitchen project work. Council is asking for evidence that if the work actually did start before 30/05/2018 and we have been chasing and are in contact with the contractor who did the works 3 years ago to provide a letter. We are also in contact with the Council. ASA can only start again after approval for commencement from Blacktown Council. Once Blacktown stamp the paperwork, Plan will be displayed on notice board. My sub-committee members are working hard and providing me support. If anyone have any questions about kitchen project, please contact me directly.

Sukhraj said, I need to answer questions in relation to purchase of books. I want to say that board approved \$20K for books and all payment to teachers are transparent. I use admin in case if teachers are absent.

Neelam Rani and family came to AGM and were introduced to members by school sub-committee mentioning that they are Sikh. For which Mr Albel Kang said that Dr Surinder should ask before making allegations, it is shameful, and he should apologise. Meeting could not proceed as Punjabi school sub-committee members were very loud and disrupting meeting to go ahead. Chairperson Ravinderjit Singh said, I apologise for mention of Neelam Rani name by AGM member and please let the AGM continue.

Mrs Paramjit Kaloti said I am asking on behalf of Mrs Salinder Kaur Bains that there is no place for veteran/old women and need a room to run their activities. This is valid question and there should be equality for women.

Amarjot Singh: I praise the two children of bibi ji, who came in Sikhi Bana. We all have been here for three hours and currently discussing budget for a while. No one has discussed about Sikhi and put any plans. A youth bibi has asked for a Sikhi camp and other programs for youth, who was ignored by members on floor who continue with their disrupting behaviour.

Amarjot Singh asked that Education Director, Sukhraj Singh has said that Bibi Neelam Rani has been teaching Sikh religion (SRE classes) in school and she was selected by school/education sub-committee. I am asking directly to education director do you follow Sikhi and you are yourself not in Sikhi Saroop, how you can select teachers to teach Sikh religion in NSW school? Those who are following Sikhi should be selecting teachers to preach Sikh religion in school. Only those teachers who follow Sikh values can only teach the Sikh values to our children. Can someone respond to my question?

Albel Kang raised that under what circumstances donation was given to Westmead Children's Hospital and what benefit ASA will get from it. Why that Cheque was signed by the Company Secretary. Was this, because Terlochan Singh Gill made a promise to Westmead Children's Hospital for machine and the donation was made. Chairperson, Ravinderjit Singh explained that the donation was approved by the Board and this is not first-time that donation was given to Westmead Children's Hospital. Sangat had raised the funds and the cheque was issued to Westmead Children's Hospital, where children of our Sikh community also get treated. ASA's logo is also placed on this life saving machine which gives out good PR for ASA and the Sikh Community.

Chairperson asked for approval of budget and it was approved:

JS Thind 1<sup>st</sup> and Hardeep Singh 2<sup>nd</sup>

6. *To appoint the auditor of the Company:* Chairperson asked if any objection or any point to continue with current auditor.

**No objection was raised and current auditor approved to continue**

BS Chahal 1<sup>st</sup> and MS Khakh 2<sup>nd</sup>

7. *To consider proposed resolutions received from members (to be considered only if AGM is held in person):*

- a) **Special Resolution 1:** To Amend Clause 9.5.1 of ASA Ltd Constitution as follows:

*"Subject to Clause 9.5.2 the quorum for any business to be transacted at a general meeting shall be a minimum of one hundred (100) Members to be present in person (being the Members entitled to vote at a general meeting). For the avoidance of doubt, if a Member is attending both as a member and as a proxy, such Member shall only be counted once in determining whether a quorum is present."*

Explanation: The current quorum requirement for the general meetings is two hundred (200). However, this number has never been achieved since the establishment of ASA Ltd., and even previously during the general meetings of its predecessor (ASA incorporated). The average attendance has noted to be about 100 – 150 members. The lack of quorum had resulted in the meetings to be adjourned to a later date (within 14-21 days) for which all members had to be notified. Such adjournment has the following drawbacks:

- Considerable cost in sending Notices to the approx. 2,000 members – i.e., postage and stationery (approx. \$3,000-\$5,000)
- Delays in holding of the general meeting and the hand-over to the newly elected Board of Directors (every two years)
- In most cases the attendance at the adjourned meeting was much less than the numbers that turned up for the earlier scheduled meeting (very often less than 100).

To overcome the above it would make sense to revise the quorum that is a reflection of the numbers that have been observed to turn up on the scheduled date of the general meeting (i.e., original meeting). As such it is proposed that quorum for general meetings be reduced to 100 as this number is very likely to be achieved.

Proposed by Jasbir Singh Randhawa (Chief Patron Member) - ASA membership no. 1215 A

Seconded by Ajaib Singh Sidhu (Patron Member) - ASA membership no. 1260 A

Pritpal Tiwana read out the resolution.

Bhupinder Singh said that this should be taken back. Today there are 186 members. I came late and did not sign and there are others who did not sign, there are about 200 hundred members today. Randhawa Sahib raised this resolution with good intention to save time to limit quorum to 100 ASA members for

the AGM. It is shameful that we cannot get 200 ASA members in the first meeting as we all do not want to come to first meeting.

Mr Tiwana said that many members who are present today were present on first meeting day but deliberately did not sign. If they would have signed meeting could have taken place on the previous date.

Balbinder Singh: Resolutions should be attached with notice of meeting and this was not done. For which Mr Tiwana said, it was sent along with the letters and links were provided for resolutions. Balbinder said Board cannot decide to send information electronically before approving in AGM.

Harjit Somal said we must accept resolution as we never get 200 people.

Mr Guvijay Singh said that it badly affects the decision, if numbers are low.

Balvinderjit Singh said he supported resolution as people will come in the first meeting.

Jatinder Singh said that there was an option given to get hard copies. Board took decision to send electronic links to save printing costs.

Mrs Surinder Singh spoke on Amritdhari teachers and was noted

Paramjit Kaloti OK with resolution. Why can't we bring 10% of members?

Vote by show of hands:

For – 4

against – 60

Resolution defeated

b) **Resolution 2:** Half-priced Youth Life membership fee:

To resolve that "Australian Sikh Association Ltd (ASA Ltd) must give incentive to Sikh Youth (18 - 25) on becoming life member of ASA so as to stay focused on "Transcendent, Supreme or Religious goals" with causes aligned "with the intimacy and sacredness associated with WAHEGURU Ji's will". Our youth staying united with ASA Sikh institutions will promote them to live Sikh way of life as per described by the Ten Guru Sahib Ji and Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji Maharaaj."

Explanation: The ASA Ltd Constitution lists in its objects and purposes of the company clause 8.4.1 promote the Sikhs to get life membership for Sikhs to participate in ASA policies and participate in day-to-day activities. Half priced life membership is an incentive that will encourage youth to stay connected with the ASA institution and Sikhi. This indeed is a highly commendable resolution to benefit Sikh youth and promote Sikh traditional/cultural values in line with the multicultural/multi-faith policies of Australia."

Proposed by Harpreet Singh Chopra (*Life Member*) - ASA membership no. 1629 A

Seconded by Manpreet Kaur (*Life Member*) - ASA membership no. 1990 B

Pritpal Tiwana read out the resolution

Padamdeep Singh: In favour. Must link youth to ASA, Youth is delinking from institution/Sikhi, I request you to support this resolution.

Paramjit Kaloti: We all want youth to represent but they don't participate. In every election we ask youth to come forward but they never come forward. Why we want to discount 50% on membership fees. Please show me youth who will take initiative to run ASA. We should reduce fees for veteran members not for youth. I don't support this.

BS Chahal: Youth should be involved in day-to-day activities of ASA and in committees with encouraging environment. Youth should be encouraged to join as members they are our future to run our Sikh institutions. I recommend that there should be condition added with this resolution that youth should attend for one hour per week in ASA affairs for 12 weeks. Today we talked about absence of youth affairs director from ASA Board meetings and in today's AGM. I joined ASA long ago as young man, we need to think that those who placed the present Youth Affairs director in this committee has completely failed and we collectively need to work together and create an environment to encourage youth participation. My children are present in the AGM today, they will be asking me lot of questions about disruptive behaviour, loud rowdy talk and meeting was adjourned three times due to this behaviour. I request all



that we all need to improve our behaviours first to attract and create environment for youth participation. I favour the resolution.

Simran Kaur: In favour. Youth don't have funds to pay. Bibi ji: lot of youth can join and participate in ASA if resolution get passed. In initial years youth has lot of responsibility- education, house, job, family. I can name many youth who will join.

Bhupinder Singh: It should be special resolution so must be dismissed. Parents are earning good salaries; my children are members and same as Mr Chahal's with full pays.

Manjit Purewal: Membership fees have not increased for years. Youth can't afford the membership but they can afford expensive car worth 50K. Sewa can be performed without membership. If fees are reduced today, fees should be refunded to previous members. I am against the resolution.

Labh Singh: Youth should be supported in other ways such as tuition fees and education fees but not membership fees.

Gurvijay Singh: we should think of negative consequences. There should be another incentive for youth participation then fees.

x Singh Sekhon: Kids should be enrolled at birth and paid over years by the parents.

Albel Kang started shouting and asked Why my resolution is not included. Why ASA membership list was not given to me? BOD declined me due to privacy issues. I have not been given member's list. Where is the ASA privacy policy? Albel Singh again created a scene and kept shouting and moving around in the hall.

In response to obtain a copy of the register of members. Chairperson Ravinderjit Singh explained that the request to obtain the copy of the Register of Members was discussed at the Board meeting held on 28-Feb-2021. The ASA Board has concerns over privacy of providing members address and contact details. As a consequence, the Board decided not to provide these details until this matter is discussed at the forthcoming AGM. Chairperson asked the members and most members recorded their objection re. sharing their personal details. Chairperson further added that the copy of the membership list is displayed on the noticeboard, in case any member would like to access the information.

Chairperson said BOD meeting was held and it was decided not to include this resolution. No objections were raised by any board member.

Chairperson requested to the members, it time for the the Rehras Sahib please vote on the resolution, there was lot of noises and asked not to vote on this resolution. Harbaldeep Sunner objected that why and how there are 38 votes and show me and count again.

Vote by show of hands:

For – 38

against – 47

Resolution defeated

c) **Resolution 3:** Sikh Parchariks and the Sri Akaal Takhat Sahib:

To resolve that "Australian Sikh Association Ltd (ASA Ltd) shall only allow those Sikh preachers (Parchariks, Kirtani, Dhadi Jathey, Kavishree, Granthi Singh, speakers, etc) that respect the Sri Akaal Takhat Sahib to participate in events/programs at the Gurudwara Sahib. Controversial preachers that disrespect Gurbani and Sikh history are not to be promoted nor be allowed to participate at programs/events."

Explanation: At present there are numerous controversial preachers that are causing much division within the Sikh congregation. These controversial preachers have been seen questioning the sanctity of the Sri Akaal Takhat Sahib and disrespecting Gurbani and Sikh history. These controversial preachers are not to be allowed to preach at the Gurudwara Sahib in the interest of Panthic unity, harmony and peace.

Proposed by Manpreet Singh (Life Member) - ASA membership no. 1616 A

Seconded by Sukhwant Kaur (Life Member) - ASA membership no. 1616 B

Pritpal Tiwana read out the resolution

AS Girn asked why some directors not accepting Sikh Rehat Maryada. and pointed to ASA director Narinder Singh does not believe in ASA constitution and he said he will do whatever they want. At present, the Rehras Sahib Path, there are two extra shabads in Chopai being recited from Gurdwara Sahib. The Akaal Takhat Maryada was not being followed. Why don't we follow Akal Takhat? ASA cannot bring any parcharaks who are from different jathebandis. Sant Samaj has been in existence for 15 years and have not done anything about this. Gurdwara Sahib Nitnem should be as per Rehat Maryada of 1945. Akhand Kirtania Balwant Singh many years ago raised question about Chopai Sahib, why can't we now ask for change.

Chairperson, Ravinderjit Singh requested again, its 6.00 o'clock and Rehras Sahib time, could members please vote. Parmjit Kaloti objected that you are taking away right to speech.

Narinder Singh replied that I have written to the senior members that those clauses of constitution which does not provide clear explanation and is confusing, I don't follow and agree with and they should be amended.

Harbaldeep Sunner said you are asking for vote on Rehat Maryada, you don't have right to do that, that's dictatorship.

Gurvinder Kang (Shammi) approached Jatinder Singh (Director - Media and Publication) and tried to grab his arm. JS then approached the Chairperson and the security guards; asking them to remove Mr Kang from Diwan Hall. After carefully consideration, JS thought that no should be ejected from the Gurdwara Sahib.

A lot of people gathered around the scene and Chairperson kept requesting members to keep calm. Mr. Kang was surrounded by his supporters and it was a disrespectful scene in the Darbar Hall. Chairperson Ravinderjit Singh asked members that this resolution will be taken to the next AGM to which members supported with no objections.

#### *8. ASA directors' reports*

Members notified that directors' reports were sent with the notice. No comments! Members are requested to contact the ASA board for any questions.

Members are also informed that if anyone would like printed copies of any reports, printed reports are available for collection.

Members continue moving around and shown aggression and agued with security personnel. At this moment, Chairperson Ravinderjit Singh closed the AGM and asked Bhai Sahib to commence the Ardaas. The same disrupting members showed disrespect by continued arguments and kept talking and moving around during the Ardaas.

After the Ardaas, Hukamnana was recited by Bhai Sahib ji.

Ravinderjit Singh Chairperson ASA thanked all members and requested Bhai Sahib ji for starting the evening nitnem with Rehraas Sahib Path.

**Meeting Closed at 6:05 PM**

*Pritpal Tiwana*

Pritpal Singh Tiwana  
Company Secretary  
The Australian Sikh Association Ltd  
Email: [companysecretary@asaltd.org.au](mailto:companysecretary@asaltd.org.au)