

# CMC Annual General Meeting - AGM 2020

Saturday 25 July 2020 9:30 am

## **Item 2: Reports on the activities of the CMC during the 2019-20 financial year;**

*Presented by Dr S M Shahidul Islam, Secretary, CMCEC 2019-2021*

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Dear CMC Members,

It is my pleasure to present the Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2020 Activities Report to members in attendance at the Canberra Muslim Community (CMC) AGM 2020.

Alhamdulillah, we have successfully completed first year of our tenure as a CMC Executive Committee (EC). 2019-20 financial year has been a busy year for the CMC EC. I would like to highlight some key activities and decision in this report.

The following activities have been performed by EC:

### **Public Officer:**

In late July the CMC EC appointed Mr Brice Hammack as public officer of CMC in accordance with the CMC constitution. He has resigned from his role last month and EC has appointed Mr Tanvir Khan as a new public officer of CMC.

### **Formation of Sub-committees:**

EC finalised a few sub-committees such

- a. Construction sub-committee: Please see the Gungahlin Masjid website for member details.
- b. IT-subcommittee: Please see the Gungahlin Masjid website for member details.
- c. MOSEM sub-committee: Please see the Gungahlin Masjid website for member details.

### **Membership Database:**

Handover from brother Mr Brice Hamack to brother Mr Zain Scott of administration of the Zoho system which amongst other things includes the member database. Only Br Zain has access to members data at this point in time.

### **GM Operational Improvements:**

EC / MOSEM members are closing and opening the mosque doors, activate the security systems code every day after Isha and before Fajr prayer.

EC and MOSEM sub-committee members keep the mosque areas tidy, undertake Friday Jumah preparation such as they clean the carpet.

EC organised three Jamah for Friday Prayer and two Jamah for Isha prayer during this COVID-19 restrictions.

EC took the following actions to run the Masjid smoothly and efficiently:

- a. Implemented the online membership process.
- b. Established Broadcast Whatsapp message system.
- c. Published two-monthly e-Newsletter.
- d. Establish NBN connection.

### **Imam Appointment:**

EC appointed Sheikh Hamza as an interim Imam for Gungahlin Mosque. The following activities have been taken to appoint a permanent Imam for the Gungahlin Mosque.

- Finalised the selection criteria and duties for the permanent Imam.
- Finalised the Selection Panel.
- Advertised for appointing a permanent Imam.

### **Land Acquisition:**

The CMC EC held meetings Ministers, MLA's and representatives from various ACT Government departments over the last 12 months.

Meeting with the leader of the ACT opposition, Mr Alistair Coe to discuss a range of matters, including securing land for parking facilities next to the masjid complex.

On 29 August, members of the CMC Executive met with Ms Suzanne Orr, the ACT's new minister for Employment, Disability and Government Procurement. Topics discussed with the Minister included:

- Permanent Leasing of the Land currently on temporary lease to CMC for parking
- Federal Government funding for "Community Security"
- Community Services and Disability Grants for CMC
- Construction of a footpath on the Masjid side of The Valley Avenue

On 25 September, the CMC EC had a fruitful meeting with Mr Bruce Fitzgerald (Executive Group Manager, Urban Renewal) and Mr Chris Sparke (Section manager) ACT Government. The CMC EC provided Mr Fitzgerald and Mr Sparke with an overview of CMC's history and current activities before moving the discussion to the key topic for the meeting, namely the need to create further parking space at the Masjid. In 2011, the ACT Government granted CMC temporary lease of an adjacent block of land until 31 October 2026 to use for overflow parking. The temporary lease included a condition that CMC would be eligible to apply for a permanent lease if the CMC could demonstrate continued community need in the future. The CMC EC believes this need already exists and thus met with Mr Fitzgerald to make a case for obtaining the permanent lease sooner rather than later, noting that a permanent lease would enable CMC to secure funding to develop the site for permanent parking as well as for other community use. Mr Fitzgerald clarified the process around applying for a permanent lease further noting that another option would be to extend the existing lease.

The President also have several discussions with a number of MLAs and Minister Gentleman on this topic. These efforts will InShaAllah continue in the coming months.

### **National Masjid Open Day 2019:**

The National Masjid Open Day was a nation-wide event observed by numerous mosques across the country on Saturday 26th October 2019. This is the third year in a row that Gungahlin Masjid has participated in the event.

Despite less than ideal weather conditions about 400 locals visited our masjid. Prominent visitors included:

- ACT Government Minister for Community Services, Disability, Employment and Facilities Ms Suzanne ORR,
- Michael Pettersson, MLA,
- Deepak-Raj Gupta, MLA,
- Alistair Coe, MLA, ACT opposition leader,
- Representatives from the Australian Federal Police (AFP); and
- Local Church leaders and representatives from other religious and cultural organisations

A number of brothers from the Da'awah Committee were on board also to give lectures and answered question from the visitors.

The President of CMC Executive Committee, Abdul Bari, was interviewed by the Canberra Times that published a full report on the event.

EC also organised the BBQ for all guests. A big thank you to everyone who helped organise the event and helped on the day.

#### **Construction Update:**

Alhamdulillah, construction of Wudu areas (Male and Female) and Classroom have been completed and open for Musalli's use.

The previous construction subcommittee confirmed with the new CMC EC that the following construction works were completed:

- Framing and Bricklaying.
- 80% of the roofing work.

They also mentioned the outstanding works are as follows:

- remainder of the roofing.
- Cladding.
- outside rendering.
- interior works (plumbing, electricals, painting, doors, windows).

The Sub-Committee confirmed that approximately \$250,000 of the estimated \$390,000 has been expended to date (i.e. as of the meeting time).

EC has faced lot of challenges to deliver the Wudu areas (Male and Female) and Classrooms. EC apologise to the CMC members for the delay of the construction works. The reasons for the delay are as follows:

- Earlier this year there were some ongoing delays for various reasons beyond our control. Alhamdulillah we can now enjoy the fruits of this project. Br. Majid Pathan will do a presentation with details.

Future Construction Works:

- Classroom partitions
- Pergolas
- Lift

### **Ramadan Activities:**

Ramadan this year commenced on Friday 24 April, albeit under some very unusual circumstances for all of us. The COVID-19 restrictions have understandably resulted in the temporary closure of masjids around the country, Gungahlin Masjid included. The masjid closures in Australia have in turn meant that we have been unable to gather for such precious and loved Ramadan activities as iftar and taraweeh and may also mean that we are unable to hold Eid ul-fitr prayers later this month. In spite of these ongoing challenges, a number of activities are being held during Ramadan such as

- Live Islamic lectures by Imam Hamza and other guest lecturers;
- Br Hatem's Quran recitation daily on Facebook;
- Children's Quran competitions;
- Reading and memorisation; and
- Drive-thru iftar packs: Sunday 10 May and 17 May.

### **Grants (as per financial report from Br Faisal):**

The following grant received in this financial year:

1. 2018-19 Participation Digital Communities Grant \$2,000
2. 2019-20 Participation Multicultural Grant \$4,000

For details of donations received, refer to Treasurer's report.

### **Youth Activities:**

Dawah Activity: - the Gungahlin masjid is supporting a Dawah Organization called "The message of Islam", to set up stalls around ACT and invite people to Islam. The Gungahlin masjid has work in conjunction with this organization to educate members in the community on how to respond to various questions and doubts about Islam.

Secondly, in terms of supporting activities for the youth, Gungahlin masjid is at the fore front. Over the past one year, the Masjid has supported and organised activities such, camping, indoor soccer, overnight bbq at the masjid for the youth and much more. We are planning to do much more by the permission of Allah.

### **Overflow Carpark Improvement:**

In late March some maintenance work was undertaken on the overflow carpark area, namely the laying and levelling of 320 tons of gravel. This work has made it easier for around 120 vehicles to use the overflow carparks – Alhamdulillah. The materials used for this work came entirely by way of generous donations while the physical work itself was undertaken on a volunteer basis, May Allah reward all of those involved. There were no costs to CMC.

### **Other Activities:**

- Renewal of the Masjid's insurance policy, albeit a more comprehensive but less costly cover;
- Organised Muslim Community Security and Safety information;
- Installed user friendly donation devices, Tap and GO Machine in the brothers and sisters' areas as well as Pacific Halal shop;
- Organised continuous weekly Quran classes for children, youth and adults;
- Organised frequently Islamic lectures for male and female;

- As you may have noticed, the Gungahlin Masjid website has recently been updated with a new look and layout to make it easier for users to access key information such as prayers times and latest updates;
- The Gungahlin Masjid community was proud to participate in Clean Up Australian Day 2020 on Sunday 1 March;
- Professional carpet cleaning, disinfection and sterilisation has been done in March.

I thank all EC members for their valuable time and effort to operate the Gungahlin Masjid smoothly and efficiently. I also thank all of the subcommittee member for their efforts. I personally thank Br Abdul Bari, President CMC for his hard work, time and advice.

Lastly, I thank you all attending our AGM as your support and feedback is valued.