



**CANBERRA MUSLIM COMMUNITY Inc.**

Postal Address: PO Box 273, Gungahlin ACT 2912

*Striving to serve the community in the nation's capital for our faith and heritage*

DATE	TIME	PLACE	REFERENCE
Saturday, 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	2:00pm	Gungahlin Masjid	
<b>Meeting called by</b>	Altaf Hossain		
<b>Key Objectives</b>	Annual General Meeting		
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>EC Attendance:</b> Mainul Haque Majid Pathan Sohail Rai Abdul Salam Durrani Alarf Hossain Abu Saleh Muhammad Qamruzzaman Hamza Abu Jarbou		
<b>Apologies</b>	Bilal Migdadi		
<b>Minutes Taken by</b>	Muhammad Qamruzzaman		

Meeting was delayed by half an hour as there was not required number of members present to make the quorum. In accordance with the constitution, half hour was allowed before adjournment, and at 2:30 pm quorum was met. Meeting commenced with recitation from the holy Quran by br Hamza

#### ACTIONS

#### **President / Chairperson's report- Br Mainul Haque**

Chairperson started the meeting by thanking all for attending the AGM. Apologising for any failures or shortcomings br Mainul highlighted some achievements and successes for the year. Acknowledging financial contributions and support of the community, he said we were able to raise \$ 1.5 million so far and deliver the Mosque in record time. He was apologetic acknowledging that due to many inadvertent factors and obstacles, unfortunately we could not achieve as much as we would have liked to. He hopes and prays that next 12 months will be more productive InShaAllah.

Talking about some successes and achievements, br Mainul gave the following accounts:

- 1) **Sub-committees:** we have formalised existing sub-committees and set up some new ones to cater for the needs of the Mosque and related activities. Each sub-committee has its own terms of reference and operates within those terms. Each sub-committee will report on their deliveries later.
- 2) **Construction:** the long awaited construction work for the wudu areas and classrooms will commence soon and we are targeting completion of this work before Ramadan InShaAllah.
- 3) **Major Grant:** we are continuing our efforts for external grants and he requested all to make dua as we are hoping for a positive outcome soon.
- 4) **Land:** we have applied for the overflow parking land and continuing our efforts. Brothers Mohammad Ali, Borhan, Masud and himself have been working closely with senior officials from SLA and have been pursuing several Ministers for this. On our invitation, the Executive Director of SLA and his officials visited the Mosque on a Friday busy Jumua time to see first-hand the congestion and parking problems. We are also continuing our efforts for driveway access from the Camillirari Way to the overflow parking land to reduce congestion on Valley Avenue



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- 5) **Gungahlin Mosque Sunday Islamic School-** he was pleased to announce that Sunday Islamic School will operate from next year InShaAllah fulfilling requests from many members, the school sub-committee will give more details later.

Br Yunus queried whether we could buy the overflow parking land at commercial rate, on which br Mainul responded saying that the price will be astronomically high considering the location and we cannot even comprehend such option.

Br Mohammad Ali queried about some constitutional amendments proposed at the last AGM and said that he has not withdrawn his proposal. He was referring to his proposal to limit members of the EC to a maximum of two from any ethnic group/country of origin. Brothers Ali Akbar and Yunus made same proposals at the last AGM, which they withdrew in writing prior to this meeting. Br Mohammad Ali said he has not withdrawn and would like to see the proposal considered. Br Qamruzzman responded saying that the EC discussed and decided not to table it at this AGM due to some legal and shariah reasons. However, if br Mohammad Ali persists, the EC will re-establish the Constitution sub-committee and seek its recommendation on the proposed amendment before considering tabling it at the next AGM. Members may propose other amendments if they want to. In addition, the EC will look at any error, inconsistency and editorial and address them.

Br Roysul proposed to approve the minutes which br Nazmul seconded.

The Chairperson moved the next agenda item, which is the Secretary report.

#### Actions

#### **Secretary report – Br Altaf Hossain**

Br Altaf thanked everybody for supporting the Gungahlin Mosque and without taking much time, gave the floor to various sub-committee coordinator/representative to report on his or her sub-committee activities.

#### **Mosque management sub-committee (MMC) – Br Akram**

Our MMC sub-committee is working hard and looking after the daily needs of our mosque. Some of the tasks and activities have been:

- Updating CMC treasurer and IT team on weekly collection and depositing of it to CMC bank account.
- Updating our community notice board on various programs and activities, including lectures by visiting Sheikhs, Masjid open day programs, etc.
- Closing/opening Masjid doors and activating security system code every day after Isha until before Fajr.
- Cleaning carpets at least twice a week, if necessary, more often as required
- Cleaning and keeping veranda tidy on regular basis.
- Assisting professional cleaner brothers on a major cleaning, including tiles.
- Recently cleaned air-conditioning units.
- Keeping Masjid and surrounding area tidy, arrange pest control for the masjid.
- Undertake Friday Jumua preparation- every Thursday night cleaning of carpet including sister's area.
- Updating prayer time table on the clock, social media and make announcement on regular basis.
- Coordinate cleaning of both bathrooms and wheelie bins.
- Monitor and keep eyes on all equipment to ensure they are in working conditions.
- Recently Masjid doors were playing up, making noise. MMC brothers fixed the doors as well as the bathroom plumbing problems.
- Looking after the courtyard areas by spreading topsoil, lawn mowing, etc



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### **Quran classes at the Gungahlin mosque – Br Hamza**

We have four levels that are currently being conducted at the mosque as follows:

- Level-1: Beginners course led by Mrs Hamza for kids between the age of 5 and 8 on Sundays
- Level-2: Intermediate course led by Br Hamza for the age of 8 to teenage on Mondays and Wednesdays
- Level-3: Youth course led by Br Hamza on Fridays
- Bridging course led by Br Zaeem for students who are not in the above defined levels

Br Sohail Akbar is looking after registration of new students of Level-1 and students in any other class can start anytime.

### **Gungahlin Mosque Islamic School (GMIS) Sub-committee – Br Abu Saleh on behalf of br Fazlul**

Alhamdulillah, work on Sunday Islamic School at Gungahlin Mosque is progressing well.

- Insha'Allah the Gungahlin Mosque Islamic School (GMIS) will start classes from 10 February 2019.
- Lessons will be on Qur'an, Arabic Language and Islamic Studies
- Class will be on every Sunday 10am to 1:15pm.
- Enrolment sessions will be on the 2nd and 9th December 2018 between 11:00 am to 1:00pm at Gungahlin Mosque.
- Announcement and promotions will start soon.
- Three teachers attended ACTCLSA Training on 31/10/2018, two other teachers enrolled for ACT Govt Ombudsman office for compulsory reporting on child abuse.
- General Information pack, enrolment form, curriculum, list of books are being finalised, books purchase is in progress.
- ACTCLSA membership is progressing

Br Borhan suggested to invite ACT government officials on the inauguration day.

### **Event management Sub-committee – Br Adil**

Major Events organised by Event Management Sub-Committee:

- Fund raising dinner at EPIC.
- Community Iftars during Ramadan
- National Mosque Open Day
- Eid celebration at Black Mountain Peninsula in collaboration with Islamic Society of Belconnen

Br Mohammad Ali thanked CMC to take lead for this years' Ramadan in the City. Br Mainul acknowledged contributions of brother Qamruzzaman and Mohammad Ali for assisting in preparing and submitting the grant application at the last moment and Br Akramul for all necessary arrangements.

### **Social engagement and dawah sub-committee – Br Mainul/Br Abu Saleh**

- Batemans Bay talk on Islam to the NSW Government officials (DHS) by Br Muhammad Imtiaz.
- On the request of DHS Br Muhammad Imtiaz again gave a presentation at their Queanbeyan Office.
- Hosted visiting students from St. John Paul College Casey at the Gungahlin Mosque and talks on Islam
- Hosted elderly visitors from Rotary Club Australia and talks on Islam
- Hosted retired professionals from ANU
- Organised two Mosque open days along with National Mosque Open Day
- One on one meeting with a couple of non-Muslim sisters to answer their questions about Islam. Alhamdulillah one of them reverted to Islam.
- Newspaper article and Radio interviews with ABC and 2CC promoting Gungahlin Mosque Open Day
- Organised talks on Islam by several Guest speakers from Australia and overseas. This included talks by Sk Abul Rahman Khan from USA, Sk Shady Sulaiman, President of ANIC, Imam Konda etc.



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- Dawah activities to non-Muslim individuals and helping needy Muslims

### **Women Sub-Committee – Sister Meherun (report read out by Br Altaf in sister's absence)**

During 2018, the Women Sub-Committee conducted number of programs for children and women in the community. The following are just to name a few activities.

#### *Kids Program:*

- Several school holiday programs
- A talk about Ramadan
- Stories about Khalifas in Islam especially Khulafa-e-Rashideen

#### *Activities for ladies:*

- Regular Quran Classes every Thursday
- IlmFest (KnowledgeFest) for women
- Facilitation of visits from external women group. For example, recently a group of retired professionals from the ANU Club for Women Inc visited our Gungahlin mosque

### **Grants sub-committee – Br Qamruzzaman**

Grants sub-committee monitored Grants Hub regularly and applied for grants whenever identified suitable and appropriate. Many grants are up for grabs, but there are stringent criteria and mostly meant for specific programs. CMC is gradually engaging in more community activities and with construction work reaching a satisfactory operational stage, we hope to develop more community programs and will be in a position to apply for more grants. Grants applications successful for this year are for:

- Construction of footpath along Valley Avenue
- Audio visual equipment for outside of the Mosque building during large congregations, e.g. tarawee, jumua, eid prayer etc.
- Applied for “multicultural community participation, social harmony and inclusion initiatives” grant – we apply for this every year and get some fund

Br Yunus suggested we could have some program for refugees.

### **IT sub-committee – Br Masud**

IT team's activities during the last fiscal year include the following:

- Live broadcasting of major events including Ramadan/Tarawee, Eid, Meetings and Islamic lectures
- Managing and maintaining social networking for the Mosque.
- Maintaining our webpages, email accounts and email correspondences from EC to members
- Set up extended donation boxes, collecting donation, forwarding to CMC account, and confirming to treasurer in collaboration with Mosque Management Subcommittee
- Engaged in various mosque related purchases and maintained accounts
- Working on NBN connection and hoping to be connected soon
- Worked on installing centrally controlled broadcast and additional sound system for the Mosque.
- Worked together with GMIS for their initial setup including website, templates, logo design, etc.
- Created campaign materials including flag poles and street sign for Mosque open days.

### **Membership sub-committee – Br Altaf**

Total life members = 346

- Total adult Life Members = 337
- Total minor life members = 9

General/Financial Member for 2018 – 2019 = 504



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Life member for 2017-2108 FY = 81

#### **Fund raising update – Br Mainul**

- Organised fund-raising dinner on 21 April 2018, raised around \$200,000
- Received Qard-e-hassanah loan \$50,000
- Efforts are continuing with external donors for major grants- we seek your Dua

#### **Mosque construction update – Br Majid**

- Contract has been signed with the builder to start construction of the wudu areas and the class rooms
- Orders are being placed for some of the materials
- We have asked the builder for the lockup to be done by March
- Please make Dua for the speedy completion of the wudu areas, hopefully before the coming Ramadan InShaAllah.

#### **Financial Report – Br Sohail (Treasurer)**

Br Sohail thanked Abu Shams Anwar who helped with preparing the books auditing and organising the accounts etc.

He drew attention to the distributed The Gungahlin Masjid Audited Financials as well as the presentation displayed on the screen.

Some brothers queried about investments shown in the financial report. Br Sohail responded that we have some investment with MCCA and ICFAL. He also clarified that we owe about \$ 50,000 Qarde hasanah that may need to be paid back on short notice.

Br Borhan suggested CMC organise interstate fund raising events in Brisbane, Melbourne etc. and br Mohammad Ali seconded the proposal. However, acknowledging this as a good idea, br Mainul pointed out the need for good connections and logistic issues. EC will look into this.



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#### **Any other business**

Before opening the floor on this agenda item, Br Mainul talked about some short, medium and long term missions and visions as summarised below:

- CMC is a new organisation. We are transitioning from building and ongoing construction, to operating and managing a multi ethnic and multi-million-dollar mega organisation. We must make sure this transition is fair and that we look after people and we remain an inclusive Mosque for all.
- Setup a trustee for the Gungahlin Mosque
- Make Gungahlin Mosque a leading player at local and national level
- Organise an Islamic conference (e.g. on Al-Akhera) with prominent Islamic scholars from across Australia
- Setup a Muslim Professional Lobby Group to promote Muslim causes and issues (in this regard, he mentioned his public relations, lobbying and access to government and politicians from both sides of



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politics).

- Permanent ownership of the overflow land
- Capital improvement of the overflow land
- Catering for elderly- man's shed and coffee shop
- Involvement of our youth- gym and sporting activities
- Organise income generating activities
- Mosque extension with facilities for:
  - Additional prayer space;
  - Sporting;
  - Recreational; and
  - Community activities e.g. function centre

When floor was opened for any other business:

Br Borhan thanked the EC for jobs well done through undertaking a range of good works during the reporting period despite many challenges and issues.

At the same time, Br Borhan suggested that whatever we said in this AGM must be reflected in the minutes with due care and accurately as the EC is accountable for this.

After that Br Borhan asked whether the EC has made any decision on Tarawee for the next Ramadan. Br Mainul replied that the EC has decided that for the next Ramadan the Tarawee will be 20 rakah InShaAllah so that it can avoid fitna. On this note, Br Raquibul Sheikh said he would like to monitor how many people leave after 8 rakah and how many continue with 20 rakah. According to Br Raquibul this will be an important criterion to observe on the debate of 8 versus 20 rakah.

Br Borhan then added that 20 rakah had been practiced at GM since the beginning, with the exception of the last year's Tarawee. This 8 versus 20 rakah debate is a divisive and dis-uniting issue among worshippers at GM. He argued in response to Br Raquibul's comment that performing 20 rakah would provide options to both 8 rakah and 20 rakah worshippers to perform their respective Tarawee which would help bring the community together and would be a positive move to unite the community.

Br Hamza added that keeping in view to the elderly people in the community he will lead Tarawee 20 Rakah as the Tarawee will be Khatmul Quran (recitation of whole holy Quran during the Tarawee). So that elderly people would feel easy to complete Tarawee prayer every night happily.

Br Ali Azfar asked about how Eid will be celebrated and br Mainul said CMC will go with the decision of the Imam Council of ACT for start of Ramadan and both Eids and not moonsighting.

Br Borhan requested the EC to ensure that the worshippers who would observe Eids based on moonsighting should be able to perform their Eid prayers on the day in GM. Br Mainul responded that the EC would duly cater for those worshippers at GM.

Br Adil queried about Imam recruitment with his suggestion to set up a community stakeholders committee for vetting the Imam selection on behalf of the Community. Brs Borhan and Muhammad Ali supported this proposal as it will provide additional check and balance from the community's perspectives and enhance community confidence in the Imam selection process, and ensure the suitability of the Imam for the Gungahlin Mosque community.

In response Br Mainul said once finalised the selection criteria will be published on our website along with the Imam recruitment advertisement. We will seek suitable Imam from both locally within Australia and from overseas simultaneously. We will have a panel comprising of Islamic scholars like Imam Konda, Sk Akram Buksh, Sk Shady etc. who will make the final selection of the Imam. Br Zahidul Huq made comments emphasising on the importance of presentation qualities of the Imam while br Adil commented on leadership qualities. Br Nazmul commented emphasising on the importance of inclusiveness and unity.

Br Borhan also asked the EC what steps have been taken to clearly clarify the current confusion and



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vagueness in the CMC Constitution as raised before 30 June 2018 by many members regarding the eligibility of the members in the financial year to cast their votes in the election AGM. Br Mainul responded that the EC has sought legal opinion on this matter that has confirmed the current vagueness of the constitution and the EC will resolve this matter before the next election.

The AGM concluded with dua by br Hamza

DRAFT



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