

SRI GURU NANAK SATSANG SABHA

ABN: 45 005 977 837

BLACKBURN & HOPPERS CROSSING

127 Whitehorse Road, Blackburn, Vic, 3130, AUSTRALIA

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting “2023”

The Annual General Meeting of Sri Guru Nanak Satsang Sabha (SGNSS) was held on 4th November 2023 at 11:00am in the Matsudo Room, Box Hill Town Hall, 1022 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill, Vic 3128.

Committee Members present at the meeting:

Anterpreet Singh Arneja
Jang Bahadur Singh Pannu
Rajinder Singh Minhas
Ramanbir Singh Arneja
Ravinder Pal Singh
Harmick Singh Matharu (Co-opt Member)
Bhavneet Kaur (Co-opt Member)
Charanjit Singh Gill (Co-opt Member)

The Chairperson requested Giani ji to do “Ardas” before continuing with the proceedings.

1. Opening by the Chairperson

The Chairperson, Mr. Anterpreet Singh Arneja opened the meeting and thanked the members for attending.

2. Introduction of the Returning Officer

The Chairperson then introduced the Returning Officer Ron Ritchie to the members, who informed that the total paid-up membership of the Sabha for 2023 was 778. There were 282 valid proxies and 27 members present at the meeting, totaling 309. As the requirement for the quorum was 234 members, the quorum was therefore achieved.

The Returning Officer outlined the details of all proxy holders and the number of valid proxies held by each of them.

1. The Chairperson - 12
2. Jang Bahadur Singh Pannu - 39
3. Anterpreet Singh Arneja - 32
4. Devendra Singh Bedi - 184
5. Rajinder Singh Minhas - 15

(i) Nominations invited from the floor •

The Returning Officer advised that he had received 8 nominations for the position of seven (7) committee members and invited any further nominations from the floor. No additional nominations were received from the floor.

(ii) The Returning Officer then read out the nominations already received:

1. Gurmeet Singh Sethi
2. Damanjot Singh Rekhi
3. Anterpreet Singh Armeja
4. Harmick Singh Matharu
5. Ravinder Pal Singh
6. Charanjit Singh Gill
7. Makhan Rai
8. Bhavneet Kaur

3. AGM Minutes for 2022

The Chairperson asked the members if any correction was required for the minutes of AGM 2022. Minutes were accepted without any corrections. The approval of the minutes was proposed by Charanjit Singh Gill and seconded by Devendra Singh Bedi.

4. Chairman's Report 2022-2023

The Chairperson outlined that 2023 has been quite eventful and educative in handling the ongoing projects for our two Gurdwara sahibs.

BLACKBURN GURDWARA:

Extension project:

The main focus was the building extension project and the associated displacement and restoration of services for the Gurdwara operations. The building extension project started on 3rd March 2022. The start of the project was smooth, though a bit slow due to the shortage of materials and labour. Fortunately, we did not have to wait too long for most of the structure to be erected by the end of June. The Total value of the Extension project, as advised last year is 4.06 million + GST. This cost is likely to increase by 15-20 per cent due to an increase in the cost of materials and labour.

General:

In the financial year of 2022-2023, our dedicated staff members facilitated and organised various programs. There were 19 Weddings, 10 Akhand Paths, 80 Special Programs, 110 Home Programs and 20 Gurpurabs celebrated at the Gurdwara Sahib. There were 10 School Student Visits facilitated in our Gurdwara as well.

In addition to the above-mentioned programs, esteemed Ragis and Kathavachaks have graced our Diwans, sharing their profound knowledge and soul-stirring Kirtan, all of which have been met with warm appreciation from the Sangat. Notable among these are Bhai Jagtar Singh Ji Hazuri Ragi Sri Darbar Sahib Amritsar, Bhai Jujhar Singh Ji Hazuri Ragi Sri Darbar Sahib Amritsar, Bhai Sarabjit Singh Gobindpuri Ji, Bibi Baljit Kaur Khalsa Canada Wale, Singh Sahib Giani Ram Singh Ji, and many other distinguished Parcharaks.

We have ensured that details of these programs were timely Communicated to the Sadh Sangat through various channels, including emails, announcements and social media. Since 2022, Ragi Jatha Bhai Gurmanpreet Singh Delhi Wale has been rendering Kirtan Sewa with his melodious voice and music sense at the Gurdwara Sahib Blackburn. Giani Sandeep Singh, Giani Dann Singh and Giani Buta Singh looked after the religious aspects of the Gurdwara. Supervisor of the Gurdwara, Bhai Gurpreet Singh has looked after all the administrative of the Gurdwara.

The Management committee constantly makes efforts to socially involve people from other communities and people from Political circles by inviting them to our Gurdwara and give them an insight of our Sikh religion and culture. We had visits from Premier of Victoria, various members of the Parliament, Victorian Police team, Council members and other dignitaries from various state and federal departments.

Our committed team of staff and volunteers have been diligently serving at the Gurdwara Sahib, guided by the blessings of our revered Gurus and bolstered by the unwavering support of the Sangat. The committee is thankful to them. It is our sincere hope and aspiration to let this Sewa continue in the most exemplary manner in future also.

Khalsa Punjabi School:

On the EDUCATION Side, the Khalsa Punjabi School and Gurmat Sangeet Academy are flourishing, and we are redoubling our efforts to enhance the school's offerings. Our goal is to ensure that future generations benefit from a robust education in both the Punjabi language and Gurbani Kirtan. In Khalsa Punjabi school the student numbers are constantly increasing and presently stand at 105.

Gurmat Sangeet Academy:

Recognizing the pivotal role of Kirtan in our faith, our established Kirtan Academy is succeeding with increased number of students both young and old, all with the support of the Sangat. To foster the growth and development of the academy, we have lately solicited the expertise of the esteemed Ustad Ji Bhai Rajinder Singh Ji from Sri Darbar Sahib Amritsar who is whole heartedly dedicated to teaching our students Gurbani kirtan and Instrumental music.

HOPPERS CROSSING

The Gurdwara Sahib in Hoppers Crossing operates efficiently by our dedicated staff and team of volunteers. Our management team in Hoppers Crossing is always working to enhance the daily operations of the Gurdwara. We organize numerous activities daily to engage as many community members as we can. Our goal is to foster unity and affection within our Sikh community.

Expanding Activities and Programs:

With the growth of young population in the Western suburbs along with their visiting parents, activities and programs have notably expanded in frequency and scale. During the recent financial year from July 2022 to June 2023, there were a total of 517 programs held with 336 taking place at the Gurdwara and 181 in private homes. This also includes 28 Akhand paths, 22 Weddings, and 16 Asa di Vaar programs. The Langar sewa operates from 9 am to 9 pm every day.

Educational Initiatives:

Despite limited infrastructure, the Gurdwara Sahib consistently offers regular Punjabi classes, kirtan classes, and Gurmat study. The Sabha have renovated the property at 405 Sayers Road and turned it into the Khalsa Punjabi School making it a dedicated space for the school to welcome more students in future sessions. Right now, the school has 190

students and 7 teachers. Currently the School is opened only on Sundays with two sessions. With this dedicated building, it is planned to operate both on Saturdays and Sundays, aiming to serve up to 240 students.

Our Gurmat Sangeet Academy has diligently trained young children, who now grace our stage with blissful kirtan each week. Currently, there are 120 enthusiastic students learning Gurbani Kirtan with instrumental music. The Sabha encourages children to independently perform kirtan and path once fortnightly replacing the Gianis and Ragis, thus giving them confidence to perform in main prayer hall stage in front of the sangat.

Religious events:

Since last year Ragi jatha of Bhai Rajbir Singh from Khadoor Sahib is performing kirtan sewa and Giani Satnam Singh is looking after the religious aspects of the Gurdwara. Bhai Pritam Singh looks after the Administrative and Kitchen duties.

In its continuous efforts to serve the community, the Gurdwara has consistently hosted 18 esteemed Ragi Jathas, Kathavachaks, Kavitrīs, and Dhadhi Jathas for the enrichment of our Sangat. By effectively communicating and celebrating all Gurburabs, including the less commonly acknowledged events, the Gurdwara strives to highlight the rich tapestry of Sikh history and engage the Sangat.

The Gurdwara has organized a special event for children in honour of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Gurburab. This event witnessed performance from students of Khalsa Punjabi School and the Gurmat Sangeet Academy, showcasing Kirtan and skits, The children were recognised and encouraged with prized trophies and certificates.

Volunteer Recognition:

The Gurdwara cannot solely run by committee and staff. Volunteers form an important part of its operation. We constantly recognise our volunteers by honouring them on important days like Gurburabs with Certificates.

Social Awareness and Community Engagement:

Apart from hosting the main Gurburab and other religious events, the Gurdwara Management has also put together social awareness activities by inviting people from other cultures, officials from Political circle, state departments and the Council. One such event was the Victoria Police Event at the Gurdwara, which aimed to strengthen our community's relationship with the Victoria Police and the Rotary Club of Australia. This event, which was well-received, saw the participation of around 30 Victorian Police officers who engaged with our community members and youngsters, discussing crime prevention, and addressing family violence issues.

Infrastructure Development:

With the sangat numbers increasing, the seating capacity in the existing langar hall is becoming short. To overcome this, the Sabha has extended the outdoor area by concreting the ground and installing weatherproof canopies. The Gurdwara now has a decent capacity to serve langar to seated sangat at any Gurburab without waiting times.

New Gurdwara building plans for Hoppers crossing have been Submitted to the Council. Once we secure the council's approval, we'll present a 3D design to our community for their input. Should the council give us the green light, we aim to commence the project next year, with plans to complete it in three phases.

Funding for this ambitious project will be sourced from the government, banks, and our community's generous contributions. Upon completion, the facility will serve as a state-of-the-art Gurdwara and community hub, equipped with special rooms for the needy, a seniors'

centre, a Punjabi school, a Music Academy, and a Multipurpose Hall for various gatherings. The advancements at the Gurdwara Sahib are a testament to the dedication and commitment of our volunteers, staff, and management committee. As the Gurdwara's responsibilities grow, we earnestly invite more volunteers to step forward, embrace the Gurdwara Sahib's mission, and assist the committee in enhancing its daily operations. Once again, on behalf of the management committee, I extend heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff who work around the clock serving the sangat. A special acknowledgment goes out to our selfless volunteers and working committee members who tirelessly serve in the kitchen, main prayer hall and other essential functions of the Gurdwara.

4.1 Financial Report

The Chairperson advised the members that the Treasurer and the Accountant were not present at the AGM due to a medical emergency in the family, but he and Ramanbir Singh Arneja will answer all questions if possible; otherwise, he will respond to the members via email with the answers.

The chairperson highlighted the total revenue as \$2,353,546.00 and total expenses as \$1,222,792.00. The Sabha received the govt funding for the current building project of \$1.4 million and also secured \$4.00 million loans for the current building project.

Parmjit Singh Panesar asked whether the current Gurdwara building and residential places have been evaluated. The Chairperson informed that the asset valuation figure in the financial statement is old but we will do an evaluation of all assets next year.

Ms. Jasbir Kaur asked the Chairperson that some members need a hard copy instead of a soft copy of the AGM documents. The Chairperson informed that members need to let us know if they need a hard copy. Otherwise hardcopies are always available at the Gurdwara office before the AGM date. She also mentioned that she did not receive any renewal letter for membership renewal to which the Chairperson responded that the renewal letter is a courtesy letter and it is the responsibility of the members to renew their membership on time.

Jagjit Singh asked what is meant by GJC, the Chairperson informed that GJC is the builder's registered name.

Manohar Singh Sidhu told the Chairperson that he had sent an email on 26 Oct 2023 and asked some questions, but did not receive any response from the committee. The questions asked were - How many Tenders were received and Prices, What were the reasons for awarding the Contract to the present Builder, Is there a Penalty Clause in the Contract signed with the Builder and if so give the details about the Penalty, If no Penalty Clause was added, then why and What was the Completion Period in the Contract signed. The Chairperson advised that all details of the tender process, including the penalty for delays were discussed 2 years ago in the previous AGM, and he will not go into detail now but will send relevant information to Manohar Sidhu via email. The Chairperson advised members that the current delays are due to design and surveyors are rectifying the issue and the rest of the building work will start very soon. The Chairperson leads the building project and makes decisions from time to time if required.

The returning officer advised members that the ballot was open for polling.

Piara Singh asked if it is possible for the Treasure to provide more datils about other expenses. The Chairperson assured that the treasurer would email more information about these expenses. Piara Singh also enquired about employee benefit figures. The Chairperson informed that the amount was expenses for the employee's accommodation.

5. Any Other Business

- Piara Singh suggested that the information of the future committee should be displayed on the notice board. The Chairperson informed that the information on the new committee is generally displayed on the digital notice board and Sabha's website.

- Makhan Singh Rai let the members know that Mr. Harbhajan Singh Khaira has passed away, and we need to thank him for his services to the Sikh community. On behalf of SGNSS management and all members, the Chairperson acknowledged Mr. Khaira's work and services he provided to the Gurdwara Blackburn and the Sikh community in general. All members stood and took one minute of silence in Mr. Khaira's memory.

- Makhan Singh Rai asked for clarification about clause 31 of the Sabha's Constitution. He believed that as per this clause, more than 7 committee members may be elected. The Chairperson advised that he will take legal advice and let him know via email.

- Makhan Singh Rai suggested that members need separate financial reports for Blackburn and Hoppers Crossing and these should be sent to the members. He also commented that the Gurdwara website needs to be updated on a regular basis to ensure members get the correct information on time. The Chairperson advised that these suggestions were noted and will be implemented ASAP.

- Piara Singh suggested that the current financial report and other documents don't have any page numbers. In future, these documents should be in one format, with good font size and page numbers. The Chairperson assured that the Sabha will let the accountant, auditor or other services provider know regarding the format and font size requirements of all documents.

Manohar Singh Sidhu asked the Chairperson why the Sabha holds the AGM outside the Gurdwara Sahib. The Chairperson informed the members that this arrangement was made due to an unfortunate incident that occurred in the community in past. The Sabha could however look at this option in the future.

Jasbir Kaur asked if the Sabha can run Punjabi classes for non - Punjabi background persons. Devendra Singh Bedi commented that more volunteers would be required to do this task. Piara Singh suggested that more qualified teachers will be required who are fluent in Punjabi and English. The current committee coordinator for Khalsa Punjabi School Harmick Singh Matharu advised that this option can be looked at to see if it works. The current Punjabi classes however, are for school kids and the Sabha does not have the facility to accommodate non-Punjabi background kids as well as mature persons.

Sumeet Singh asked about the committee roles and positions. The Chairperson informed that the roles and duties would be allocated when the new committee structure was established.

Jasbir Kaur informed the Chairperson that she organizes Dukh Bhanjan program once a month and sometimes she does not get enough support in the kitchen and sometimes it clashes with other programs. The Chairperson commented that the organizer needs to work with the Gurdwara Manager when the booking is done and use the small hall if there is another private program booked in the main Darbar Hall. Importantly, always have some volunteers organized to use the kitchen for any cooking etc.

These members attended the meeting in person ; Anterpreet Singh Arneja - 0878/00, Ramanbir Singh Arneja – 1274/11, Devendra Singh Bedi – 0285/89, Mandip Singh Bedi – 1464/16, Jasbir Kaur Chemay – 0164/85, Sumeet Singh Chhabra – 1648/18, Jagjit Singh Chinjer – 1402/14, Dalbir Dhaliwal – 1386/14, Charanjit Singh Gill – 0834/99, Bhavneet Kaur – 1959/22, Manmit Kaur – 1403/14, Kiranpal Singh Khandpur – 0903/00, Devinder Matharu – 1948/21, Harmick Singh Matharu – 1871/18, Rajinder Singh Minhas – 0412/93, Paramjit Singh Panesar – 0422/93, Jang Bahadur Singh Pannu – 0471/95, Gurmail Kaur Rai – 0238/87, Makhan Singh Rai – 0237/87, Damanjot Singh Rekhi – 1281/11, Piara Singh Sandhu – 0313/90, Satnam Singh Sarai – 0349/91, Gurmeet Singh Sethi -0956/02, Manohar Singh Sidhu – 0695/99, Bhagwan Singh – 1404/14, Jusbir Singh – 1392/14 and Ravinder Pal Singh – 1211/10.

6. Declaration of the Election of Committee

The Returning Officer advised that as there were eight (8) nominations for the seven positions. The ballot was conducted and the following top seven (7) members were elected:

(956/02)	Mr. Gurmeet Singh Sethi – 301 votes
(1211/10)	Mr. Ravinder Pal Singh – 302 Votes
(878/00)	Mr. Anterpreet Singh Arneja – 301 Votes
(1281/11)	Mr. Damanjot Singh Rekhi – 295 Votes
(834/99)	Mr. Charanjit Singh Gill – 303 Votes
(1959/22)	Ms. Bhavneet Kaur - 302 Votes
(1871/18)	Mr. Harmick Singh Matharu – 303 Votes
(237/87)	Mr. Makhan Rai – 14 Votes

The Chairperson thanked all of the members, other support staff and Giani ji for attending the meeting and closed the meeting at 12:30pm



Jang Bahadur Singh Pannu
Minutes Taker
Joint Company Secretary



Anterpreet Singh Arneja
Chairperson