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CCMR Committee Meeting

Thursday 17th May 2012

Minutes

Present: Chauhdry M Shafique (Chair), Laurence Smy (Vice-Chair), Helen Byrne, David Snoxell, Aman Ullah Choudhary, Paul Willis, John Richey, Safina Shafique, David Williams, Mohammed Azad, John Bajina, Anne Bowker, Jackie Lock, Karen Johnstone, Imam Sultan, Mark Franklin, Hassan Hamade, Dr Ghayas Siddiqui, Sebert Graham, Hon Burgess A D K Raja, Nick Steenberger, Chaudry Akhtar Mahmood, Mohammad Raja, Mark Macaulay.

Shafique opened the meeting with a welcome to all, and especially to the guest speaker Pastor Mark Macaulay.

1. Apologies: Greg Livingstone, Dr Katy Simmons, Azher Raja. Tony King, Stephen Clifford, Jessica Atkinson, Carolina Lindahl, Tony Dickinson, Naheem Bashir, Simon Cronk, Martin Phillips, Marcus Smeeth.

2. Minutes of the last meetings 14th December 2011 and 24th January 2012 – the meeting agreed these were a true record.

3. Matters Arising not elsewhere on the Agenda – None.

4. Committee Matters

Think Tank Update – The next meeting of the Think Tank Group will take place on Thursday 5th July, 9.30am for 10.00am, (now changed to 11th July) venue to be confirmed. All members of the committee are welcome to attend these bi-monthly meetings. At the last 'Who am I' meeting for Christians and Muslims, it was noted that there were more Christians than Muslims in attendance. Visits to the local schools by Imam Sultan and Laurence Smy have continued and more are planned. Alan, Bishop of Buckingham attended one of the meetings and there was dialogue on parallel words used across both the Christian and Muslim faiths.

The Chair thanked Laurence Smy and Imam Sultan for their work in the schools and for the uniqueness of these events, which the CCMR endorses and values greatly.

It was commented that it was good to have a lady Muslim speaker at a previous Think Tank Meeting. As the CCMR chairman was unable to attend that meeting perhaps it would be good to invite her back as some point in the future.

Karen Johnstone thought the schools programme might work in the University for new students, and is something to consider for September 2012.

It has been beneficial having a Muslim Mayor in attendance at Civic Services in All Saints' Church and thanks also to Imam Sultan for the recent Civic Service at the Totteridge Road Mosque.

Treasurers Report – At the end of 2011 there was £696 in the CCMR account and with a donation of £290 from Cllr Ian Bates there is now £969.68 in the account. The Chair explained to the meeting that the money is there to meet the cost of any visiting speakers. The Chair asked for a letter of thanks to be sent to Cllr Bates.

Chairman's Report on trip to Pakistan – The Chair gave the meeting some background information on his trip and his liaison with a Christian Community whilst he was there, The Christian Welfare Organisation in Mangla – Mirpur. Given the sensitive nature of interfaith relations in Pakistan, it was commented that great care has to be taken when forging links with Christian organisations for their own safety. However, a suggestion was made to them that they might consider forming an interfaith organisation similar to ours.

Discussion followed on Twinning High Wycombe with various countries, including within Europe where the cultural and faith profiles of the communities in those countries is similar to High Wycombe.

5. Seminar topic "Unity in diversity: Hearing the voice of God in the other" by Pastor Mark Macaulay. Because of time constraints Mark was only able to deliver a fraction of his topic, it was therefore agreed Mark would speak again at the Think Tank Meeting on 5th July.(Now 11th July).

The meeting ended at 12.20pm with a vote of thanks from Revd Jackie Lock.

Helen Byrne
31st May 2012