

1 August 2011

**BGWS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT GURKHA BHAWAN ON SUNDAY
17 JULY 2011 AT 1130 HOURS – RECORD OF DECISIONS**

Ser	Subject / Issues	Action
(a)	(b)	©
1	<p><u>Opening Remarks.</u> The Gen Sec opened the meeting at 1130 hrs thanking all attendees. A minute's silence was observed by all to pay our respect to 21167721 Late Prem Prakash Nembang ex 7 GR, M/No: 175 who sadly passed away on 19 June 2011. Late Prem Prakash was a very popular member and his sad demise is a great loss not only to our Society but the wider Nepali community.</p>	
2	<p><u>Treasurer's Update.</u> The Treasurer updated the funds current state. He highlighted that the cost of annual auditing was quite expensive and asked attendees to trawl for auditors available at a cheaper rate. He also reiterated that subscriptions for 2011 was long overdue and should be cleared immediately.</p>	All
3	<p><u>Radio BGWS Update.</u> The Media Director covered the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Owing to lack of funding, the radio project was put on hold since the last trial. b. Planning permission to erect antenna to be decided by the 20 July – (<i>Afternote: Permission now granted</i>). c. Seeking volunteers to assist with the running of the station. Interested members or their wives should contact the Media Director. d. Mr Prem Prakash Rana has volunteered to provide technical support. e. To keep in line with the protocol of Community Radio licence, we must launch our radio station by Sep 11 otherwise there could be complications. <p><i>The Chairman added that the radio will be a very useful integration tool to bring the community closer. It will be available for use by the local authorities (Police, Ambulance, Teachers etc) and our youth to spread information, integrate and promote our culture. He is confident that the Media Director will have sufficient volunteers to run the station while remaining hopeful that we will be in a position to pay the volunteers in the near future. In the interim he looks forward to an unselfish voluntary support.</i></p>	All
4	<p><u>PR Update</u> The PR Officer covered the background about the local Nepali papers and websites currently available in the UK. It was also agreed that Gerald Howarth's irrational letter to the Prime Minister was unfair and hasty and had a very negative impact within the community across the UK. However, since the circulation of the Sajal Sawal show, he has received positive feedback from our community concerning the pension legal case. He warned off that our Chairman was due an interview with Nepali TV soon and will inform everyone the day it will be broadcast. He reminded all that our Chairman was also the President of the Greater Rushmoor Nepali Community therefore an extremely busy man. It is also a voluntary appointment. He requested that we should provide assistance and support to our Chairman at the every opportunity.</p>	All
5	<p><u>Donation.</u> The Gen Sec informed everyone that the Society had raised £500 through voluntary donations from members for 21164728 Late Subash Limbu ex 7 GR, M/No: 2980. This amount will be handed over to the Mrs Limbu by the Vice Chair Bidur Pakhrin when he next visits Darjeeling in Oct 2011. He continued that as per the Committee's directive, voluntary donation to total an amount of £500 will remain extant to ACTIVE members only. It was further agreed that should any widow decline to accept the donation, it will be transferred to the Litigation fund or BGWS hospital project in the memory of the deceased.</p>	All

(a)	(b)	©
	<p><u>Continued from serial number 5 above.</u></p> <p>the deceased. <i>He reiterated that all donations received from outside agencies and well-wishes of the Society, meant for the pure use by the Society as it saw fit, has been placed in the BGWS hospital project (to find out more and list of donors, please visit www.bgws.org).</i></p>	
6	<p><u>Chairman’s Update</u> The Chairman congratulated the newly elected Committee members and encouraged them to come forward with an undivided commitment and dynamism to improve and move the Society forward.</p> <p>He also thanked Mr Prakash Gurung (PR) for his continued hard work in the media front not an easy feat by any means.</p> <p><u>NRN (UK).</u> He stressed the importance of being part of the NRN (UK) and encouraged members to apply for membership especially if they wish to be eligible to vote in the next election. He also thanked Capt Hitman Grg MBE and Mr Tharka Sen for their contribution as NRN committee members. The dual nationality issue is still alive and in partnership with NRN (UK), BGWS will continue to maintain its pressure on the government of Nepal.</p> <p><u>Capt Bishnu Rai MVO ex 10 GR.</u> The Chairman for the record thanked Capt Bishnu Rai MVO sahib for his staunch and unselfish contribution in assisting with raising funds for our Litigation case in Nepal. More importantly, for believing in the case and convincing others to follow suit.</p> <p><u>Public and Commercial Services (PCS) Union.</u> The Chairman is the nominated Representative of former Gurkhas serving in the MGS who are members of the PCS Union. If these members are interested, he is happy to give an update on the current issues.</p> <p><u>Youth conundrum.</u> Fighting amongst our children has given the Gurkha community a negative image. It is the sole responsibility of the parents to mind and control their children. He explained the penalty for any legal conviction could adversely affect their application for British citizenship, future employment and their careers. It could also result in deportation back to Nepal.</p> <p><u>Pension case and Litigation Fund Update.</u> He openly thanked all those who had kindly contributed towards the pension campaign but was equally concerned that financial support has not been forthcoming. It was agreed that BGWS will need to arrange a 5th Open Meeting again in the very near future. Similar to the last meeting, formal invites will be sent to the leaders of ex Gurkha organisations including major local Nepali organisations. He read out the two following outstanding bills which requires immediate repayment:</p> <p>a. <u>Whitehouse Consultancy (WHC) - £24,112.86</u> (With shortage of funds, it was agreed that the sensible move would be to discontinue with the services of the Whitehouse Consultancy with immediate effect. (Afternote: The WHC has kindly agreed to assist the Society whenever they can albeit in a smaller scale).</p>	All

(a)	(b)	©
	<p><u>Continued from serial number 6 above</u></p> <p>b. <u>Russell Jones Walker Solicitors - £19,167.96</u></p> <p>The following options were proposed from the floor:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Door to door collection Passage of information / broadcast through media to eradicate confusion about the legal case especially the older ex servicemen here in the UK. Convince friends, villagers, numberies etc to commit. £500 from members to clear the outstanding bills. <p>It was also pointed out from the floor that one of the main reason why our pension case is misunderstood by the over 60s is their worry that should our case be successful, those already in the UK will see their Pension Credit decreased. The Chairman agreed this was a fair point and partially true but the importance of a fair and equal pension allows our older Gurkhas to settle back in Nepal with dignity and pride. Unlike benefits, he also added that upon a pensioner's death, his widow will receive a fairer widow's pension. He also stated that we should not only think about ourselves but must do our best for those, who for their personal or financial circumstances cannot afford to travel to the UK and therefore remain in Nepal on a paltry pension or none at all. He gave an example that there are so many who are currently receiving AFPS 75 pension and yet have committed to the pension case. If they had all been selfish, they could easily have turned a blind eye and deaf ears to the pension case. He concluded that our legal case is about principle and to ensure we receive a fair and equal pension in line with the rest of the British Army, hence we should not be <u>SELFISH</u> and think only about ourselves.</p> <p>To tackle the immediate repayment of the two outstanding bills, the following have kindly agreed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Donate £500 each immediately</u> Maj Kulbdr Thapa, Capt Hitman Grg MBE, Mr Bidur Pakhrin, 66727 Jumkaji Grg, 66731 Bijaykmr Grg, 66719 Chhatra Rai, 66777 Buddhi Grg, 67293 Ramesh Tamang, 68211 Narayan Grg, 66930 Omprasad Thapa, 68194 Narayan Grg, 64856 Ramlal Shrestha, 65820 Yubaram Grg, 65362 Dutprasad Pun, 68034 Shyamprakash Limbu, 63123 Omendra Grg, 67988 Prem Bura, 67670 Tharka Sen, 67874 Prakash Grg, 68406 Manbdr Grg, 63613 Kishor Shrestha, 63629 Chijbdr Grg <u>Donate by selling their Property shares</u> Maj T D Dewan (500), Maj Sonam Sherpa (500), Maj Dharam Grg (500), Maj Dilkumar Rai (500), 68004 Hari Grg (500), 68437 Sumendra Rai (500), 67349 Min Gurung (500), 68264 Nagendra Grg (500), 62773 Ramdhan Rai (500), 67528 Chandra Rai (500), 65450 Rajkumar Shah (1000), 68347 Surendra Rai (500), 65877 Tekbahadur Thapa, 66720 Birendra Bohora (500), 64077 Meg Gurung (500), 62910 Rakamsing Limbu (500), WO1 Yubaraj Rai (500), 67711 Gajbir Thapa (500) <p>(NOTE: The majority are third time contributions bringing many individual contribution to 1000 pounds each.</p>	All

(a)	(b)	©
7	<p><u>AOB.</u></p> <p><u>Cenotaph Ceremony 2011.</u> The Gen Sec warned the Committee that the Cenotaph Ceremony & March Past for 2011 is scheduled for Sunday 13 November 2011. This is the only opportunity, annually, to formally pay our respect to those who gave their lives and established the Gurkha name. If it had not been for their valiant sacrifices, Brigade of Gurkhas would not have remained an integral part of the British Army. The Society has been allocated 78 tickets. He has tasked Area Coordinators to forward names of members available to attend to Mr Shyamprakash Limbu. Allocation of tickets is on first-come-first-serve basis. As usual, a coach funded through our BGWS Farnborough fund (not BGWS main fund) will be booked departing from Farnborough football club at 0700 hrs. Dress for the occasion is Gurkha hat, medals, BGWS Tie and suit or blazer. This is a formal ceremony and one should avoid wearing jeans and baseball caps.</p> <p>There being no further business, the meeting ended at 1530 hrs.</p>	All

[Original Signed]
 CHHATRA B RAI
 General Secretary