



Shahjalal Mosque
&
Islamic Centre

**1A EILEEN GROVE
RUSHOLME
MANCHESTER
M14 5WE**

TEL: 0161 613 2123

Email: info@shahjalalmosque.org

www.shahjalalmosque.org

Charity Registration No. 1139992

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PREAMBLE

In the year 1967 the Muslim community of Bangladeshi origin (then East Pakistan) living in Manchester and adjoining towns decided to establish a Mosque of their own from donations and contributions from members of its own community. Late Messrs. Muhammad Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Bosharat Ali, Syed Abdul Hannan and Makaddus Bakht were elected as holding trustees and given the task of completing the purchase of the building at 1A Eileen Grove, Rusholme, Manchester, previously owned by Maclaren Public Institute. Soon afterwards the Mosque started functioning in the said premises.

At a public meeting in May 1975, it was decided to call the building "Shahjalal Mosque and Islamic Centre" and also to form a committee to run the organisation. In the following week, at a meeting of the general body of membership of the Mosque, a committee was formed to frame a constitution for the Mosque for its smooth running and maintenance, and for the fulfillment of the aims and objectives of the organization as outlined in 1967.

A draft constitution was presented to the committee on the 8th June, 1975 and subsequently on the 4th January, 1976 the first constitution of Shahjalal Mosque and Islamic Centre was approved at the meeting of the general body of membership of the Bangladeshi Muslim community, presided over by late Mr. Muhammad Abdul Matin Chowdhury.

To cater for the changing of the community, to update certain provisions and to clarify ambiguity of some of the clauses, it was felt that the constitution needed large-scale modifications. At the Annual General Meeting of 1985 it was decided to form an ad hoc committee to write a new constitution. Draft for this constitution was presented to the Executive Committee in October 1986, which was followed by consultations and discussions amongst ordinary members of the Mosque and members of the Executive Committee, resulting in alteration and modifications of the original draft. The final draft was presented to the members in the Annual General Meeting of 25th January 1987, and it was approved after further minor modifications.

CONSTITUTION

1 NAME:

Shahjalal Mosque and Islamic Centre (hereinafter referred to as the Mosque).

2 ADDRESS:

1A Eileen Grove, Rusholme, Manchester M14 5WE.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

To advance the Islamic faith of the Bangladeshi Muslim inhabitants in the area of benefit (to include Manchester, Salford and the boroughs of Bolton, Bury, Macclesfield, Stockport, Trafford, Warrington and Wigan) through prayer, worship, Islamic teachings and religious services.

To advance education and provide facilities in the interests of social awareness, social welfare and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.

To relieve poverty, sickness and distress amongst individuals in the area of benefit who are in need by making grants of money for providing or paying for items services or facilities.

To establish, or secure the establishment of a Mosque and Islamic Centre and to maintain and manage the same in furtherance of these objects.

4 MEMBERSHIP:

- 4.1 All members over the age of sixteen of the Bangladeshi Muslim community resident in the catchment area of the Mosque shall be eligible to be bona fide members of the Mosque.
- 4.2 Any other person who is a believer of Islam may be accepted by the Executive Committee as an Associate Member of the Mosque. Such a member will not be eligible to be a member of the Executive Committee or to take part in any election, although he/she will enjoy all the other facilities provided by the Mosque.
- 4.3 There shall be a prescribed biennial membership fee as recommended by the Executive Committee and approved by the general body of members in the Annual General Meeting. This fee shall be due on admission to the membership.
- 4.4 Widows, old age pensioners, full-time students, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, may be exempted from paying membership fees; however such exemption shall make a member ineligible from voting in elections and ineligible for nomination as a member of the Executive Committee,
- 4.5 A member failing to pay the membership fee within 30 (thirty) days of the due date shall automatically lose the status of a bona fide member of the mosque.
- 4.6 The Executive Committee shall have the power to terminate or temporarily suspend the membership of any person whose conduct, in the opinion of the Committee, has been detrimental to the interests of the Mosque, spirit of Islam or welfare of the Muslim community. Such a member shall be given a chance to explain his/her conduct at an Annual General Meeting and the decision of that meeting shall be final.
- 4.7 Memberships once closed shall not be open until after 2 (two) years.

5 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- 5.1 The Executive Committee Of 21 (twenty one) members, including 9 (nine) Honorary Officers shall be elected for a two-year term of office or until his/her resignation, or death, or having moved away from the catchment area of the Mosque or having been convicted of a criminal offence. These 21 members may be elected individually and must be over the age of 18. The members of the Executive Committee are the trustees of the Mosque.
- 5.2 The Honorary Officers are:
- i) Chairman
 - ii) Vice Chairman
 - iii) General Secretary
 - iv) Joint Secretary
 - v) Treasurer
 - vi) Joint Treasurer
 - vii) Organising Secretary
 - viii) Office Secretary
 - ix) Press and Publication Secretary
- 5.3 A bona fide member of the Mosque shall be eligible to serve as a member of the Executive Committee.
- 5.4 It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to carry out the general policy of the Mosque as outlined, in clause 3 and, subject to any condition imposed by the membership through resolutions of Annual General Meeting or extraordinary General Meeting, to provide for the administration, management and control of affairs and property of the Mosque.
- 5.5 Members of the Executive Committee shall jointly and severally be responsible to the general body of membership for all the activities in relation to or connected to the Mosque during their tenure of office.
- 5.6 The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint, dismiss and fix remunerations of all the salaried staff of the Mosque as required to carry out the functions of the Mosque.

- 5.7 The Executive Committee shall have the option of creating sub-committees and nominating members of such sub-committees for carrying out work in the particular field. A sub-committee so constituted shall remain responsible for all its actions.
- 5.8 A casual vacancy in the Executive Committee shall be filled by the Executive Committee through the co-option of a bonafide member of the Mosque and the person so co-opted shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.
- 5.9 The Honorary officers will be responsible for the day to day running of the Mosque. They will take all the action necessary in consultation among themselves with a simple majority. The Chairman, on behalf of them will report all such actions in the next meeting of the Executive Committee for its approval.
- 5.10 Executive Committee shall have the power to adopt and issue standing Orders and/or rules necessary for the betterment of the Mosque and these standing orders and/or rules shall come into force immediately, provided they shall not be inconsistent with or contrary to provision and spirit of Mosque Constitution.
- 5.11 For the enhancement of the Mosque activities, the Executive Committee shall have the right to co-opt up to 4 persons to the Committee as and when required.

6 MEETING:

- 6.1 The Executive Committee shall meet as often as necessary, but not less than once a month.
- 6.2 The general body of membership shall attend the Annual General Meeting to be held in the month of June/July of each year. At least 21 (twenty one) days' notice thereof shall be given to the members. The Executive Committee shall present the Annual Report of work done on behalf of the Mosque at the Annual General Meeting.

- 6.3 Besides the Annual General Meeting, the Executive Committee shall be entitled to call an Extraordinary General Meeting for matters requiring immediate approval of the general body of members, the period of notice for such a meeting shall not be less than 7 (seven) days.
- 6.4 The Executive Committee shall also be entitled to call public meetings to be attended by the general body of the membership of the Mosque, as well as other adult members of the Bangladeshi Muslim communities in the catchment area, to decide on broad issues affecting the lives of the public in general. Notice for such a meeting shall be widely circulated in the catchment area at least 21 (twenty one) days before the date of the meeting.
- 6.5 Agreement to or approval of decisions/actions in any of the meetings mentioned in Clauses 6.1 to 6.5 shall require a simple majority of members attending the meeting except for the provision of Clause 11.2 regarding amendment to the Constitution.

7 QUORUM:

- 7.1 Eight [8] members attending shall form a quorum for an Executive Committee Meeting.
- 7.2 Fifty-one [51] full members shall form the Quorum for the Annual General Meeting and Extraordinary General Meetings of the Mosque. An adjourned meeting does not need a quorum.

8 HOLDING TRUSTEES:

- 8.1 There shall be 4 (four) holding trustees of the Mosque elected by the general body of membership preferably from amongst the founder members of the Mosque so long as such a member is available and voluntarily offers his services.
- 8.2 All immovable property and land belonging to the Mosque shall be held by the holding trustees in their names so far as necessary for the use and benefit of the Mosque.

- 8.3 A holding trustee shall hold office permanently or until his/her resignation or death or having moved far away from the catchment area of the Mosque or having been convicted of a serious criminal offence.
- 8.4 In the event of a holding trustee's post falling vacant or when it is deemed necessary to remove a holding trustee, the general body of membership shall elect a new holding trustee.
- 8.5 Holding trustees once appointed should not be members of the Mosque Executive Committee and will not be eligible as candidates in the Biennial General Election.

9 FINANCE:

- 9.1 The following shall constitute the fund of the Mosque: -
- i) Biennial membership fees
 - ii) Donations and special collections,
 - iii) Grants.
- 9.2 The Executive Committee shall have the power to raise money by means of donations, gifts, legacies, grant-in-aid, from Statutory Authorities and other loans and fund raising events.
- 9.3 The Mosque fund shall be kept in a bank approved by the Executive Committee in the name of "Shahjalal Mosque and Islamic Centre". The bank account shall be operated jointly by the Chairman, the General Secretary and the Treasurer shall operate.
- 9.4 The Executive Committee shall have the power to spend up to £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) in a year, excluding the salary of the employees and bills for standard services like electricity, gas, water, legal fees, building maintenance, etc. Approval of the general body of membership shall be required for any single expenditure of more than £2,500 (two thousand five hundred pounds) except for construction work.
- 9.5 The accounting year shall run from 1st of April to 31st of March and the Executive Committee shall be responsible for producing an audited account of the Mosque for an accounting year for approval of the general body of membership at the Annual General Meeting.

10 ELECTION:

- 10.1 The bi-annual election of the members of the Executive Committee to be held at a date to be fixed at the Annual General Meeting, and again will be organised by the outgoing Executive Committee, all members of which will be eligible for re-election.
- 10.2 Notice shall be given to the members at least 28 (twenty eight) days before the date of election inviting nominations for the posts of Honorary Officers and 14 (fourteen) other members of the Executive Committee.
- 10.3 The Election Commissioner for the bi-annual election shall be selected by the Executive Committee.
- 10.4 Nominations shall be submitted to the Election Commissioner not later than 2 (two) weeks and may be withdrawn not later than 1 (one) week before the date of the election.
- 10.5 All the bona fide members shall be entitled to 1 (one) vote for each of the 21 (twenty one) posts.
- 10.6 Usually voting for each of the contested posts shall be carried out by a secret ballot unless the Election Commissioner proposes any other method approved by the members.

11 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION:

- 11.1 Any proposal for the amendment or alteration of a clause of the Constitution must be signed by at least 7 (seven) bonafide members of the Mosque and submitted to the General Secretary at least 14 (fourteen) days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.
- 11.2 Such a proposal shall require a two-thirds majority of members attending the meeting for approval.

12 DISSOLUTION:

If, because of genuine reasons, the Executive Committee finds it absolutely necessary to dissolve the Shahjalal Mosque and Islamic Centre, in the interest of Bangladeshi Muslim communities in the catchment area, it shall inform the holding trustees about its decision and call a Public Meeting according to the provision of Clause 6.4. Notice for such a meeting shall contain the resolution of the Executive Committee. It shall be advertised in the local newspapers and a copy sent to the Charity Commissioners of England and Wales. If the resolution is confirmed in the Public Meeting by a two-thirds majority, the Executive Committee shall have the power to dispose of the assets of the Mosque to which the holding trustees shall extend their full co-operation.

Any assets of the Mosque remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be applied towards such charitable purposes for the benefit of Bangladeshi Muslims in the catchment area and such a decision may be approved the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

[As amended at the Annual General Meeting held on 26th July 2015.]



Al-haj Surabur Rahman
Chairman.