

**Minutes of the OBFA Board Meeting held at the residence of Pankaj Khimji on
12th January 2017 at 7:00 pm. DRAFT**

Present:

Maqbool A Sultan (MAS) – Chairman
Shawqi A Sultan (SAS) – Secretary General
Saleh Taleb Zakwani (STZ) – Member
Chris Breeze (CB) - Member
Andrew Long (AL) – Member
Pankaj Khimji (PK) – Member
Nick Pattison (NP) – Member
Ahmed Al Araimi (AA) – Member
Khalil Khonji (KK) - Member

AGENDA

Summer activities

Oman events

Website

AOB

The Chairman welcomed the attendees. There were no absentees.

MAS said that he had written to the Anglo-Omani Society (AOS) to thank them for the very successful reception held at Sackville Street on 21st July 2016. Hopefully there will be a repeat of that this coming summer though there may be a change in the venue. All members will be notified once it has been confirmed.

At the reception Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles (SC) spoke of the formation of the Oman British Business Counsel (OBBC). This was necessary in order to convince the large British Corporations that OBFA was more of a business forum than a social or cultural one. A letter had gone to HE The Omani Ambassador to the UK and to the President of the AOS and the formation is under process. Members will be notified once that has been finalized.

A few Board members voiced their concern of there being no follow-up to the conference that took place at the Mansion House the day after the reception. The conference was very well organized by Michael Thomas of Pathfinder and was also well attended. It was however, important that issues raised were followed up. As there is no infra structure within OBFA in the UK to do that, discussions with SC as to how this could be achieved took place. SC would come up with a plan and would discuss it with the Board on his next visit to Oman, scheduled for end January 2017.

MAS then asked the Board of their thoughts on having an event during the winter months in Oman and of the subjects that could be discussed. After some debate it was agreed that OBFA should learn from the recent and very successful Oman French Association's session on Oil and Gas sector. MAS requested the Board to put

their thinking cap on and come up with topics that could be discussed in a small (max 50 participants) session taking place locally maybe 3 times a year with an invited keynote speaker specializing in the field the session is discussing. It was agreed that the first one, perhaps in March could be on FUTURE ENERGY. There could be others that would follow on subjects like, Inward Investment, Venture or Eco Tourism, Tanfeedh, Private Sector Education and Training and Generic Themes. OBFA members should be encouraged to communicate through the Website that had recently gone on line.

MAS was asked why the British do not do more in the Private Sector or with Technology in connection with some dream projects. MAS is to discuss this with SC when the latter visits Oman next.

There being no other business MAS thanked the Board and requested from them to notify SAS of a convenient date when OBFA members could meet. The meeting closed at 8:00 pm.