

THE SIALKOT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

HELD ON OCTOBER 30, 2023

01. A Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry was held on October 30, 2023 at 03:30 hours at Sheikh Muhammad Shafi Hall of the Sialkot Chamber.

02. Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik, President of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry presided over the meeting. He thanked the members for attending the meeting.

03. The proceedings of the meeting started with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Mr. Jawad Hussain.

04. The following members attended the meeting:

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| • Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik | President |
| • Mr. Wahub Jahangir | Senior Vice President |
| • Mr. Adnan Yousaf | -Member- |
| • Mr. Ahmed Imtiaz Khan | -do- |
| • Mr. Awais Ahmed | -do- |
| • Mrs. Gulzaib Waqas Awan | -do- |
| • Mr. Jawad Hussain | -do- |
| • Ms. Lubna Tubsim | -do- |
| • Mian Fiaz Ahmed | -do- |
| • Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz | -do- |
| • Mr. Naeem Yousaf | -do- |
| • Mr. Saleem Akhtar Bhutta | -do- |
| • Mr. Saqib Ashfaq | -do- |

05. Leave of Absence

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| • Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh | Vice President |
| • Mr. Afzaal Bhatti | -Member- |
| • Mr. Choudhry Jahangir Rashid | -do- |
| • Mr. Matloob Ahmed Qureshi | -do- |
| • Mr. Peeter John | -do- |
| • Mr. Shoaib Imtiaz | -do- |
| • Mr. Toheed Nasir | -do- |
| • Mr. Zain Ul Abideen | -do- |

06. Members who could not attend the meeting.

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| • Mian Imran Akbar | -Member- |
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07. The Committee offered Fateha for departed souls and passed condolence resolution on the sad demise of the following: -

- Sheikh M. Pervez Raghav Father of Sh. Irfan Raghav M/s. Hareesons Corp.
- Mr. M. Saleem Director of M/s. Crown Foam/Younas Group
- Daughter in Law of Haji Nazeer Ahmed of M/s. Miqraz Surgical
- Mr. Bilal Amin Chughtai of M/s. Rhein Enterprises

08. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Executive Committee held on September 28, 2023 and an emergent meeting of the Executive Committee held on October 23, 2023.
Approval	Approved.

09. Point discussed.	Approval of Statement of Accounts for the month of September 2023.
Discussion:	
<p>Mr. Awais Ahmed inquired about the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An amount of PKR 3,215,000/- was mentioned as Staff Benefits whereas the Annual Staff Bonus had already been paid to all staff members. • The Solar System was installed but the Electricity Bill had increased as compared to last month. He asked whether the Solar System was not working properly or any other reason. • The Office Expense had become @ PKR 20,000/- per day which could be seen in the head of entertainment & functions but its detail was not mentioned. Moreover, an amount of PKR 260,649/- was mentioned in General Store Items in Office Expense. • 2 Months Salaries of PKR 251,274 and PKR 137, 907 were donated to two Martyrs of Sialkot Police, Shaheed Shehzad Ahmed and Shaheed Inzamam Ul which was mentioned on Page No. 10 Point No. 27. He said that according to his information, approval of these donations were not gotten from Executive Committee. <p>Mr. Amer Rashid Wyne replied that amount of PKR 31 Lac was adjustment of the vehicle of Secretary General, as already approved by the EC and PKR 100,000/- of Mr. Farooq Ahmed, Camera Operator had been adjusted, as approved by the Executive Committee. Secondly, the Government had increased EOBI & Social Security contribution, therefore, the difference of amount was paid.</p> <p>Mr. Awais Ahmed said that it had only been mentioned other Staff Benefits. The detail was not mentioned, therefore, he asked about it.</p> <p>Mr. Amer Rashid Wyne replied that the narrations in some heads of the accounts was not mentioned. It could only be briefed on inquiring from the members, however, approval of above had already been given by the EC.</p> <p>Mr. Awais Ahmed suggested that the details should be mentioned like the others Staff Salaries, EBOI, Social Contribution, Overtime etc., was mentioned.</p> <p>Mr. Wahub Jahangir said that the proper details should be mentioned in the notes on next pages, if it was not mentioned. He said that usually it had been mentioned.</p> <p>Mr. Amer Rashid Wyne replied that Staff benefits were approved by the EC and detail was mentioned in the minutes of HR and Executive Committee, therefore, it was not mentioned again in the Accounts Statement.</p> <p>Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim said the name of the staff member should be mentioned because if it was not mentioned, it seemed that there was something hidden.</p> <p>Mr. Naeem Yousaf said that a single line could be added.</p> <p>The President asked about the question of daily expenses of PKR 20,000/-.</p>	

Mr. Amer Rashid Wyne replied that entertainment of Chamber-Office was included in the expenses occurred in the meetings held in the Offices of Office bearers. It varied month to month.

Mr. Wahub Jahangir briefed the house about increase in electricity bills. He said that the Solar System was working properly. The issue was the heavy dust due to road construction and not proper cleaning, on regular bases, which effected the generation of Solar System. He came to know about it when the electricity bill of this month was received which was much higher as compared to last month. He inquired about it and come to know that the Solar Plates was not cleaned for the last 8 weeks. After that he directed to do the cleaning weekly or twice a week until the road work was completed. He said that the generation had improved but not to the level of the beginning because of the changing climate. There was no change in the consumption because the heaters of the AC were on in winter season. He said that there was need to set the mechanism in term of its consumption.

Mr. Saleem Akhtar Bhutta said the Executive Committee had already approved to install Automatic Cleaning System.

Mr. Wahub Jahangir replied that the EC had approved that the solar system be cleaned manually this month and if it succeeded, then would carry on, otherwise, install the Automatic Cleaning System.

Mr. Jawad Hussain said that a big investment was made for the installation of Solar System, hence, an Automatic Cleaning System should be installed for proper cleaning and generation of electricity.

The President said that a dedicated person was hired for its cleaning which could be seen in the video shown by Mr. Naeem Yousaf. He said that there was sufficient staff which were engaged in other duties, but could fulfill this responsibility if they want.

Adnan Yousaf said that the company that installed the solar system should be assigned the duty for cleaning it for getting maximum output. He added that normally the companies gave 6 months service after installation of the system.

Mr. Jawad Hussain asked whether the quotation of cleaning system was gotten or not.

Mr. Wahub Jahangir said that he was agreed to sign the contract with any company for cleaning of solar system.

The President suggested that, at least one year, contract should be signed with the company that installed the solar system.

Mr. Wahab Jahangir said that the Secretary General had suggested that cleaning could be done by calling a person from the service station, on weekly basis.

The President did not agree on the suggestion.

Mr. Adnan Yousaf endorsed the proposal of the President to sign one year contract with the company that installed the solar system.

Mr. Awais Ahmed suggested to get the quotation and put up in next meeting for approval.

The President replied that a nominal cost of PKR 30,000 to PKR 40,000 would be charged per month which was agreed by Mr. Awais Ahmed.

Mr. Awais Ahmed asked about the details of General Items of PKR 260,649 as mentioned on Page # 10 Point No. 27.2.

Mr. Amer Rashid Wyne replied that the toilet items like liquid, hand liquid washers, tissues etc., were included in General Items.

Miss Lubna Tabasam drew attention to the provision of toilet papers, in women's washroom. She complained that washroom items like tissues, soaps etc., were not available there.

Mr. Wahub Jahangir said that the point was very much concerning, therefore, serious note should be taken to ensure availability of all relevant items in ladies washroom. He said that the concerned Secretary should take it into the notice of the management.

The President requested Mr. Azhar Iqbal Darr to explain about it.

Mr. Azhar Iqbal Darr replied that the stock of toiletries was issued, on regular basis, which was kept in the cupboard of concerned staff outside the toilet, instead of in the toilet.

Mr. Ahmed Imtiaz Khan also expressed concern about the expense of General Items.

Mr. Awais Ahmed said that Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh, Vice President was a habitual smoker, hence did not pay much attention to the bills/vouchers during signature. He said that it was the duty of Mr. Amer to check things as per the bills thoroughly and its use accordingly. He requested the President to hold a meeting with Vice President about the daily expenses, which were very high.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim said that if only signing was the authority, then anyone could have done it. He requested the President to focus the point of Mr. Awais Ahmed that how the things were operating in this Chamber. The reserves of the funds were decreasing day by day. He added that the staff would cooperate only when the Head of Department would control it.

The President said that the Vice President had been suggested to form a Committee, in this regard.

Mr. Jawad Hussain suggested that interested EC Members should be included in the Committee.

Mr. Adnan Yousaf said that waste of money should be controlled.

The President enquired whether Mr. Awais Ahmed was interested to become the Committee Member.

Mr. Awais Ahmed agreed and said that his purpose was not to criticize anybody, but to control the expenses and save the money which could be used to install tiles on the front of SCCI Building, as well.

Ms. Lubna Tubsim said that the discussion should not be limited on Bills evaluation or calculation but it should be monitored internally, whether the

services were being provided or not.

Mr. Wahab Jahangir said that the discussion of the members was about the betterment. He said that every bill was put up to the Secretary General who signed it, therefore, the person who could check the bill thoroughly and made control on it was the Secretary General. He had a vast experience and understood everything. The Office Bearers held the Offices for one or two years and the bills received were probably put up to the President or SVP or VP. He added that Committee could not monitor the things but only check the bills. He requested the Secretary General to make a check on it so that the things could be controlled.

The President suggested that there were number of bills received, on daily basis, and the Secretary General could not handle it alone, hence a Committee should be formed to check it thoroughly.

Ms. Lubna Tubsim said that source could be checked from where the goods were purchased.

The Secretary General replied that the items were purchased form Imtiaz Departmental Store.

Mr. Awais Ahmed suggested that the Departmental Committee on Accounts should perform work actively and if it worked properly, then there would be no need to form another Committee. He added that he was the member of Accounts Committee but he was invited only in its 1st meeting. He had complained to the Chairman of not inviting him in the meetings.

Mr. Raja Saqib Ashfaq said that the complaint of Mr. Awais Ahmed should be considered because he had already discussed about it in previous meeting. He suggested to coopt two EC Members in the Accounts Committee and the Committee meeting should be held, twice a month, so that the bills could be checked thoroughly and avoid the discussion held in EC Meeting.

The Secretary General suggested that the vouchers could be checked by two nominated EC Members.

Mr. Adnan Yousaf said that it was a routine expense, therefore a purchase list could be prepared and made purchase as per the list twice in a month instead of daily basis.

The Secretary General replied that purchase was made, on monthly basis, as per the required list.

The President suggested that a Purchase Committee should be formed who would be responsible to fulfill all necessities of the offices including the food etc.

Participants	The President, Mr. Wahub Jahangir, Raja Saqib Ashfaq, Mr. Awais Ahmed. Mr. Adnan Yousaf, Mr. Naeem Yousaf, Mr. Saleem Akhtar Bhutta, Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim, Miss Lubna Tubsim, Mr. Jawad Hussain, the Secretary General and Mr. Amer Rashid Wyne.
Approval	Approved.

10. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting on visit of Brig. Hamid Ullah, Station Commander, and Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed, CEO Cantonment Board held on September 26, 2023.
Discussion:	
<p>Ms. Lubna Tubsim said that she had studied the minutes and found that all the points were discussed except the issue of beggars on roads. She said that it was burning issue because most of the beggars were involved in criminal activities and peep inside the cars and got information, even they had vehicles numbers. She requested to take up the matter with the concerned.</p> <p>The President endorsed the point of Ms. Lubna Tubsim and said that a meeting would be held with the CEO and Station Commander.</p> <p>Mr. Jawad Hussain suggested that a meeting, on monthly basis, should be held with the Cantonment Authorities. He informed that a special window was approved for the submission of cases related to Station Commander. He also requested that approval should also be gotten for opening another special window for the submission of applications related to 15 Div.</p>	
Participants	The President, Mr. Jawad Hussain and Ms. Lubna Tubsim
Approval	Approved.

11. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting on visit of Mr. Muhammad Zubair Motiwala, Chief Executive and Dr. Fareed Iqbal Qureshi, Secretary Trade Development Authority of Pakistan held on October 04, 2023.
Discussion:	
<p>Mr. Awais Ahmed inquired about the delegation announced with the coordination of TDAP. He said that UK delegation was planned in the month of June, 2023.</p> <p>The President informed that he had discussed with the Chairman Committee about the delegations especially the UK delegation. He had replied that the delegations were not sent due to transfers/postings of Commercial Attaches. Moreover, a writ petition had been filed in the High Court regarding Transfers/postings due to which the Ministry of Commerce could not proceed with the transfer/posting cases. The Chairman had confirmed that most probably the delegation would be sent in December 2023 or January 2024.</p> <p>Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim said that the delegations should be announced by getting concrete information. He said that except Kuwait delegation no other delegation was sent from the last two years. He said that some of the Government Officials were involved only to represent their selves for showing performance. He added that the members who applied the cases for delegations were posing questions, which was faced by the whole industry.</p> <p>Mr. Umair Nisar explained that the delegations were announced with the coordination and approval from concern Embassies. He said that the condition of a valid visa for the UK Delegation was compulsory only due to the reason that the Commercial Councilor had requested to process it during his tenure. All the working about delegation was done by the Secretariat & Committee but delayed due to approval process from TDAP and in the meantime the tenure of Commercial Councilor was completed, hence the delegation could not be sent. He said that as concerned to sending the delegations, it could not be sent until completion of the transfers postings process in Embassies which had already been informed by the President. He added that the delegations were announced after proper working, procedure and approval.</p>	

The President said that the Committee had planned to announce the Delegation for Brazil but he did not allow because the previous delegations could not be sent.

Mr. Wahab Jahangir said that during the last year the delegations to Morocco, Azerbaijan and Kuwait were sent. The said delegations were self-financed and executed properly because those did not require approval from TDAP. He said that the delegations in which TDAP was involved for getting subsidy or any other incentive could not be sent or matured up to the implementation phase. He suggested that it should be considered to plan the delegations on self-finance basis, in future, for proper execution, after announcement.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim said that the TORs about the delegations which had been executed were explained by the Embassies but the members were not informed about it, hence members could not send applications to join as delegates. He said that the Executive Committee Members were the representatives of whole industry and the members questioned them about it. He said that on inquiring, the explanation was given to the Executive Committee Members about which they were satisfied. The need was to do extraordinary work. Delegations should not be announced without proper working. He raised the question of the interest of the Chairman Committee with the statement that what was the interest of a Chairman who came in only one meeting in a year. Mr. Shahbaz said that the words spoken by him seem bad but he had no personal interest. He requested the President to get onboard the Chairman.

Mr. Jawad Hussain said that the Chairman Exhibition Committee did not come in the meeting and as per his information he had not held meeting. He suggested to request the Chairman of Exhibition Committee to come in the meeting.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim complained that the discussion of the Executive Committee was immediately shared with the Chairman Committee and he received a call from him, in this regard. He said that he did not discuss for himself but for the members.

The President said that New Committees were being formed and, if he changed the Chairman of Departmental Committee on Fairs & Exhibitions, the delegation that had been planned would not be executed.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Siam recommended the name of Mr. Khurram Aslam Butt with the comments that he had vast experience and had sent many delegations.

The President asked the detail about the delegation which had been sent by Mr. Khurram Aslam.

Mr. Naeem Yousaf suggested that the President should be authorized in this regard.

Mr. Naeem Yousaf said that issue of MDR Certification to export Surgical Instruments in EU was discussed by the Chairman Committee with Secretary TDAP which was mentioned in the minutes of meeting. FDA Certification was also required to export the Surgical Instruments to USA whose fees was US\$ 8000/- per year. He had discussed about FDA Certification personally with TDAP authorities to include it in subsidy list of TDAP because due to high fee only few

companies were eligible to export to USA officially. He said that only one meeting of the Departmental Committee on Surgical was held during the year due to which he could not notify his point. He requested the President to bring the issue of FDA in the notice of TDAP Authorities because USA was a big market to export surgical instruments. Moreover, the fee of FDA was increased every year.

Ms. Lubna Tubsim said that the directive about implementation of MDR in industries was not studied by Ministry of Commerce/Surgical Industry. She said that there was a need to evaluate the directive regarding legislations because the liabilities were imposed on the manufacturers while jurisdiction retained to buyer. She said that let's suppose it had been reported in Europe about fulfilment of compliances against manufacturer, the concerned persons would have to go there to face the issue by hiring the lawyer which would be very difficult especially for the SMEs and even their businesses could be closed. She suggested that first of all there was need to discuss on "Jurisdiction" about the cases.

Mr. Naeem Yousaf endorsed the view point of Ms. Lubna Tubsim

Mr. Jawad Hussain endorsed the points of Mr. Naeem Yousaf and Ms. Lubna Tubsim. He said that there was only one meeting of the Surgical Committee during the year which was very successful. The Secretary TDAP replied positively on the issues discussed with him.

Ms. Lubna Tubsim requested the President that a meeting of Surgical Industry should be held to discuss the technical points regarding MDR because the members did not have detailed information about it. She informed that she had studied the directive of MDR, attended number of workshops, interpreted its legal points and had number of agreements, therefore, desired to share with members, so that the members could gain technical knowledge about MDR. She added that request had only been made to the Government for the subsidy on certification of MDR but the technical issues were not considered. She suggested that a practical exercise was needed, therefore the meeting should be held.

Participants	The President, Mr. Wahub Jahangir, Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim, Mr. Naeem Yousaf, Mr. Awais Ahmed, Mr. Jawad Hussain, Miss Lubna Tubsim and Mr. Umair Nisar.
Approval	Approved.

12. Point discussed.	Approval of Report of Seminar on Traffic Awareness and Road Safety held on October 11, 2023.
Approval	Approved.

13 Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Membership/Bye-Laws held on October 28, 2023.
Discussion	
<p>Ms. Lubna Tubsim said that 824 new Associate Memberships was granted as per the report. She asked whether all the files were cleared with required documents or not.</p> <p>The Secretary General replied that all the files were cleared after completion of required documents.</p> <p>Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim mentioned that the some of the Members of</p>	

Departmental Committee on Membership Bye Laws had offered consultancy of tax and new registration of firms of this Chamber and being Members of the Committee they ignore the rules of similarity of name and approved the Membership, especially the files which had been proposed & seconded by them. It was a discrimination and he had number of complaints in this regard. He requested the President to look into it and make changes in the Committee Members.

The President asked the Secretariat to reply whether the rules were followed as per Bye-Laws or not.

The Deputy Secretary, Membership replied that the membership was granted by fulfillment of all required documents. Further, as concerned to Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz, the Chairman of the Committee was authorized to coopt the Members of the Committee.

Participants	The President, Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim and DS.
Approval	Approved.

Any Other Point:

14. Mr. Adnan Yousaf invited the attention towards his request to hold a follow up meeting with Station Commander on the decisions taken in the meeting especially relating to visit of foreign buyers in Cantonment Area and security pass. He informed that he met the CEO Cantonment Board 2 weeks ago and discussed the points raised in the meeting. The CEO was well informed about the points, as discussed in the meeting, therefore he had suggested to keep its follow-up for consideration. Mr. Adnan said that the issues like Security Pass, visit of foreign nationals etc., were very important, therefore follow-up meeting should be held on monthly basis for implementation.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim said that the Chairmen of the Committee should be active to get the progress instead of forming Sub-Committees because the Sub-Committees had no authority to make implementation on the decisions.

Ms. Lubna Tabsum proposed that the members who could perform actively should be appointed as Chairmen/Chairperson of the Departmental Committees. She added that number of Committee could be reduced, if necessary.

The President replied that he had planned to decrease the Committee by merging or eliminate the unnecessary Committees. The Chairmen who were not performed since long would also be changed.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim said that a same person had been nominated as Senior Vice Chairman in four main Committees and if any issue was received regarding such committees in the absence of Chairman or SVC no other one was available to handle. Moreover, the SVC of four different committees chaired the meetings on behalf of the Chairman. He said that the members like Mr. Jawad Hussain who had expressed interest should be nominated. Secondly, the Chairmen should also be authorized to appoint their SVC/VC according to their choice to make a team because in some Committees, the SVC and VC that were nominated by the President did not show interest. He quoted example of his Committee's SVC and VC.

Mr. Naeem Yousaf said that the Chairmen could coopt the members.

Ms. Lubna Tubsim suggested that the SVC/VC could be coopted with mutual consent.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim said that major four Departmental Committees like WAPDA, Sui Gas, Crimewatch and TMA were related to the issues of City. The same were discussed in DC and DPO Office. Only one member as SVC/VC of four Committees attended the meetings held at DC and DPO Office. He said that another person should be given a chance to perform.

Mr. Saleem Akhtar Bhutta replied that it was only due to the reason that they deserved it, hence should not be replaced.

Mr. Adnan Yousaf requested the President to hold a meeting with the Chairmen of the Committees like Garrison, TMA, and Emergency Disaster etc., who addressed issues in which immediate response was required. He added that Chairmen should give monthly report.

Mr. Awais Ahmed suggested to the President to hold a meeting with the Chairmen of Departmental/Project Committees after 2-3 months to discuss the issues.

The President replied that while discussing with the Chairmen it was informed that most of the time they were out of station.

Mian Fiaz Ahmed said that he was the Senior Vice Chairman of Departmental Committee on Crime Watch. There was no meeting of the Committee or activity done during the year.

The President asked who was the Chairman of his Committee.

Mian Fiaz Ahmed replied that Mr. Nasir Saleem Mirza was the Chairman of Crime Watch Committee. He (Mr. Nasir) was nominated the Chairman of the Committee only due to his contacts.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim said that the Sialkot Chamber was an organization where anybody could perform with the support of the Chamber. He said that all the affairs of the Group and Chamber were in the domain of the President and whoever would be supported by the President he would show performance. He further said that he was assure that everybody could perform well because there was a best team and its credit was on the President who was the captain of the team.

The President replied that the performance/feedback of Mr. Nasir Saleem Mirza related to his Committee was very good but if he did not hold a meeting he would discuss with him.

Mr. Azhar Iqbal Darr, Secretary Departmental Committee on Cyber Crime and Wapda informed that the issues of the members related to Committees were on urgent basis which needed to be resolved immediately within a day or two, therefore, the routine meeting like other Committees were not held.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim mentioned the following:-

- The Crime Watch Committee had organized a Seminar on smog in which only four people including him were present who were not the members of the Committee.
- There was no follow-up made on the points noted by him in the Seminar related to Smog.

- Maximum members should be coopted in the Committees for broader discussion on the points. It was not an indoor house for the Committee Chairman to hold a meeting with one member.
- Whenever any member had issue of Police Station related to the Committee, he was told to go and he would talk to the concerned Policer Officer. By the time he contacted the Police Station, that person had already paid money for getting relief. He suggested that there was a need to nominate the person who give a quick response on the issues of the members.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim said that Secretary Committee would agree on the points of attendance in the Seminar.

Mr. Azhar Iqbal Darr replied that the Committee had circulated to all members about the Seminar but only 10-12 members participated. Similarly in the Seminar on Breast Cancer only 19-20 members attended the Seminar.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Sahib said that not 10 to 12 members but only 4-6.

The President said that even the Executive Committee Members did not come in Seminars.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim requested the President to form WhatsApp Groups. He also requested the President to look into the other Committees as well.

Ahmed Imtiaz said that members who did not attend meetings should not be given responsibility. He also suggested that the Traffic Management Committee which was merged with the Crime Watch Committee should be separated.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz said that he had been discussing the issue of a character certificate for the last two years, which could not be settled yet. He said that the character certificate was compulsory for obtaining a Visa for China. The issue was that if any comment was mentioned on the Character Certificate the same were not removed even on the provision of clearance certificate. He said that no DIG, IT had been called in this Chamber during the last two years to discuss issues with him. He said that if no one was working, then sub-committee, under his supervision, might be formed to see if the work was done or not.

The President replied that it had already been requested to DPO who had been confirmed that DIG, IT would visit. He added the Chairman Committee could only request.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim requested the President to make an appointment with DG,IT so that he could go to Lahore to meet him because members were facing difficulties in China visa due to character certificate.

Mr. Awais Ahmed inquired about the Export Processing Zone plots cancellation and penalty.

The President replied that the cancelled plots would be reinstated and the penalty would be waived off.

The President requested the members to participate in the Annual General Meeting alongwith members which was scheduled to be held tomorrow on November 31, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at Heritage Club. He also requested the EC Members to attend the meeting with the Ambassador of Vietnam scheduled to be held on November 04, 2023.

Mr. Wahub Jahangir said that the EC Members were the hosts of AGM.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim requested that the reminder of the meeting should be sent to all Chairmen of the Committees.

The Secretary General replied that all the Chairmen of the Committees were invited.

Mr. Adnan Yousaf inquired about the stance of this Chamber on refusal of Visa Cases of Schengen States relating to Exhibitions.

Mr. Wahub Jahangir replied that most the trade shows were held in Germany. The Commercial Councilor of Germany had authorized the representatives in Pakistan of concerned Trade Shows to send the request of appointment or any other issues relating to Exhibitors. Secondly as concerned to the refusal of visa cases, the Chamber wrote letters for re-consideration but also suggested the members to re-apply the case by getting new appointment. Mostly, the visa cases were refused due to fake hotel booking and air ticket, therefore the members were suggested to attach confirmed ticket and hotel booking.

Mr. Naeem Yousaf mentioned that he did not agree on the point of confirm hotel booking and ticket because he and his son's visas were refused, although they had attached confirmed ticket & hotel booking.

Mr. Adnan Yousaf said that the German Embassy had refused the visa case of one of the EC Members, Mr. Zain ul Abideed. He requested the SVP to take up his case by getting special appointment, if possible.

Mr. Naeem Yousaf said that he had tried to get early appointment through Chamber/personally to submit his visa case in the Embassy but could not succeed. While, on the other hand, the appointment could be availed by paying Rs. 40000-50000/- in the market easily. Mr. Naeem said that there was a need to check the source that how the persons in market got appointment and charged against it.

The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Minutes approved by the President, Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry.