

**MINUTES OF GAYWEST COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 14th APRIL 2016**

In Attendance:

Colin O'Brien (Chair)

Michael Reid (Events Co-ordinator)

Brian Milligan (Secretary/Treasurer)

Antony Russell (Cafe Host)

Jim Phimister (Membership Secretary)

1. **Apologies for Absence**

1.1 John Martin sent his apologies.

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

2.1 These were agreed and approved as accurate.

3. **Matters Arising**

3.1 Colin has provided details of the group to the Bristol LGBT Consortium.

3.2 The Treasurer will download the form for on-line banking and determine how it might work in practice.

4. **Chair's Report**

4.1 Four wristbands for Weston Pride on 30th July are being provided free of charge. Colin and Jim have already committed to attending, two more volunteers are needed to help man the stall.

4.2 There are plans to set up a Rainbow Cafe at Weston. It is intended it should meet on Saturday afternoons. We have been asked to provide advice gleaned from operating the Bath cafe.

4.3 The organisers of Gloucester Pride on 11th June have asked whether we wish to march in the procession.

4.4 The "SingOut Bristol" concert programme was circulated, giving us a chance to see our quarter-page advert. We now have an opportunity to become a "supporter" at a cost of £20. This would give us a mention in future programmes, presumably in a list of "all supporters". No decision was made on whether to proceed with this.

4.5 The sudden closure without warning of Mandalyn's for the last pub night has prompted a change of venue. The next Bath pub night will take place at the Barley Mow in Bathwick St.

4.6 No suggestions have been received for our new publicity material. It was agreed that the postcards using the designs previously agreed by the committee should be ordered now. The bi-fold leaflets will also need to be ordered fairly soon, suggestions for text and layout are still welcome.

5. **Secretary's Report**

5.1 The Befriending Co-ordinator of Age UK has been in contact. She asks whether we know of any individuals who would like to be referred to the befriending service, or perhaps might be interested in becoming an Age UK befriender or a volunteer in some other way. She has suggested visiting and speaking to the group one Saturday morning. It was agreed that she should be invited to do so but should give only a short introduction and then circulate and speak with anyone showing a particular interest.

6. **Treasurer's Report**

6.1 The latest bank statement dated 4th April shows a balance of £5,309.69. Once outstanding bills and credits are taken into account, the balance is £5,065.70

6.2 Our Building Society funds are unchanged at £2,140.88.

6.3 The annual hosting charge of £150 will become due next month.

7. **Outreach Officer's Report**

7.1 Colin reported that both he and John have received security clearance to enhanced level 1 and are now permitted to work with the National Offender Management Services at Leyhill. They are waiting to agree a date when they can visit the prison for both a tour and a discussion about what precisely the prison authorities want us to provide.

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8. Events Co-ordinator's Report

8.1 Michael has visited Hanham Woods and noted that there were no apparent restrictions or difficulties relating to our proposed picnic there on Sunday 14th August. Although there is a brick barbecue facility, it was agreed that we will not make use of it but will just picnic. We will meet in the carpark at a time yet to be agreed.

8.2 Michael will finalise his proposals for the Bristol Packet Boat trip and present them at the next committee meeting.

8.3 Some reservations have been expressed about the walk through the Two Tunnels as it is fairly narrow and there are bikes going past in both directions. It was agreed that a walk along part of the Bath skyline or perhaps the Dundas aqueduct would be more suitable.

8.4 Michael will research the bowling suggestion and speak to Chris Watkins in due course.

9. Membership Secretary's Report.

9.1 Our total membership is now 87, as two members have not yet renewed. There are 8 renewal reminders due to be sent out with the May magazine.

9.2 It was agreed that Ernie Everest should be given a free life membership in recognition of both the contribution he has made to GayWest over many years and his continuing support and advice to the group.

10. Magazine Editor's Report

10.1 The May magazine is nearing completion, there will be 12 pages and it will be distributed on 23rd April. The last date for input is Monday 18th April.

10.2 The software used for the magazine is "Publisher". An update for this may need to be purchased from group funds.

11. Cafe Report

11.1 It was agreed that it would be useful to have the telephone number of the Age UK phone in the Rainbow Cafe.

11.2 Jim will attempt to procure a free display stand for the specialist teas.

11.3 Antony thought it might be useful to invite questions after the announcements have been made. It was agreed that it would be better to resurrect the suggestions box and encourage people to utilise that.

11.4 Some of the Bath University LGBT group are planning to visit the cafe on 23rd April, when we have our Spring auction.

11.5 We will agree a date for a book & DVD sale at the next committee meeting.

12. Website Sub-Committee Report

12.1 Colin suggested that it would be a good idea to have a Chatroom Host. His function would be to encourage communication using the website. He would not be a full committee member and would not be expected to attend committee meetings.

12.2 It was agreed that the sale of Robert's book about the history of GayWest would be advertised in the "Events" section of the website.

13. AOB

13.1 Antony suggested that the cafe rota be put on the website. Colin pointed out that this would be a fairly costly process which could not be justified at the present time.

14. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 2 pm on Thursday 19th May. A provisional date of Wednesday 15th June was set for the meeting after that.