

**MINUTES OF GAYWEST COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15th JUNE 2016**

In Attendance:

Colin O'Brien (Chair)

Michael Reid (Events Co-ordinator)

Brian Milligan (Secretary/Treasurer)

Antony Russell (Cafe Host)

Jim Phimister (Membership Secretary)

John Martin (Outreach Officer)

1. **Apologies for Absence**

1.1 There were no apologies.

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

2.1 These were agreed and approved as accurate.

3. **Matters Arising**

3.1 The date for the GW Xmas meal is Friday 16th December. The AGM will be held at 11am on Saturday 17th September 2016.

4. **Chair's Report**

4.1 The committee agreed that something about the Orlando massacre, and possibly a suitable photograph, should be put in the next issue of the magazine

4.2 Although the weather could have been better, Gloucester Pride was well attended, with the majority under the age of 30. The help provided by Laura and Emma, 2 non-members who were happy to assist, was much appreciated. Some of the photos taken will be used in the July magazine. We were sorry to hear that "Broken Rainbows", a support group for those experiencing violent LGBT relationships, has disbanded due to a loss of funding.

4.3 "Prism", a support group for drug and alcohol abuse, have launched a Monday evening drop-in centre, times are 5pm to 8pm at 23-25 Midland Road, Bristol.

4.4 It was agreed that the monthly Bristol social evening would next meet at the Old Market Tavern as usual but that following meeting will be at the Phoenix pub, at the rear of Cabot's Circus, which has themed menus. Subsequent meetings will alternate between the Old Market Tavern and the Phoenix. We need to check that the times of pub nights are shown on the website.

4.5 Recently requests have been received from new members who subsequently turn out to be asylum seekers and who then request a formal letter from us confirming their membership of the group. It was agreed that we need to ensure that we are not being used as a ploy to avoid deportation by those asylum seekers who are not LGBT.

4.6 At Gloucester Pride we utilised a pro-forma to take the email details of those showing an interest in the group. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to have something prepared which we could subsequently email to them, detailing who we are, where we meet and anything else we consider relevant. Michael will compile something in time for the next meeting.

4.7 As we are short of leaflets, it was agreed that we should reprint the trifold leaflets to ensure an adequate supply at Bristol & Weston Super Mare Prides. We also need more postcards and these will be printed in time for Bristol Pride.

4.8 A monthly Rainbow Cafe is being set up in Weston super Mare at the Badger Centre starting 10th September, meeting from 2pm to 4-30pm. We will put something in the magazine about it.

4.9 It was agreed that it would be good to repeat the Pub night we had last year with the live trio. It was agreed that it might be worth making it our 45th anniversary celebration.

5. **Secretary's Report**

5.1 A prisoner at Leyhill has written to us, expressing an interest in becoming a member.

6. **Treasurer's Report**

6.1 The latest bank statement dated 3rd June shows a balance of £5,332.41. Once outstanding bills and credits are taken into account, the balance is £5,047.50.

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

6.3 Following the meeting, our interest in online banking has been registered with Lloyds. All

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three signatories now need to sign the application form and forward it to the Bank for processing. With regard to a Debit Card, the Bank will consider our request once a formal letter of request has been received. They cannot at this stage advise whether or not it will be approved as the account was set up requiring 2 signatories.

7. Outreach Officer's Report

7.1 John reported that his visit to Leyhill went well and that requests have been received for us to attend their groups.

7.2 Our Facebook page continues to attract interest, although John noted that we no longer appear at or near the top of Google searches for "GayWest Facebook" and wondered whether Newicon could advise us on how to improve on this. John also suggested that it would be beneficial to move our Facebook entry from him to a Group entry.

8. Events Co-ordinator's Report

8.1 The boat-trip on 22 May went well and was enjoyed by those who supported it.

8.2 Midsomer Norton have organised a showing of the film "Pride" for Friday at a cost of £1 and on the Saturday afternoon a "Bake Off" followed by a champagne tea. Their "Queer Ball Cheddar" entitled "Pits and Perverts" will take place 18th June.

8.3 Michael will update the information on the tables at the Rainbow Cafe.

9. Membership Secretary's Report.

9.1 Our membership is unchanged at 90.

10. Magazine Editor's Report

10.1 The July magazine is nearing completion.

11. Cafe Report

11.1 Sally of Amnesty International will attend 2 July and chat individually. Sarah Talbot, the befriending Co-ordinator at Age UK has requested a date when she can come and chat to us.

11.2 The Rainbow flags may need to be replaced. The plastic tablecloths could also do with being replaced and it was agreed that it would be a good idea for the ones on our Pride stall to show our logo. It was also agreed to investigate the cost of badges and stick-ons to give away at Prides

12. Website Sub-Committee Report

12.1 Pip Cawte has agreed to be our Chatroom Host, although he will not be able to take this up until his move to Bristol has been completed.

12.2 There was some discussion about picking up the magazine on the website, since Jim has to type in individually each month the email address of those receiving their magazine by email. Ernie reads his magazine on the website and it was suggested that others might like to do so too, thus reducing Jim's workload. It was agreed that Jim will put something in the magazine inviting members to agree to read the magazine on the website rather than have Jim email it to them each month.

13. AOB

13.1 Antony noted that Prince William has given an interview to Attitude magazine and is on the cover.

14. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 2 pm on Wednesday 13th July. A provisional date of Wednesday 17th August was set for the meeting after that.