

**MINUTES OF GAYWEST COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15^h JULY 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 Para 4.3 the minutes should have made it clear that "Prism" is a support group for drug and alcohol abuse for LGBT people.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 The venue for Weston Super Mare Rainbow Cafe has been changed from the Badger Centre to the Cameo Bar, Walliscote Road, Weston Super Mare BS23 1WG.

4. Chair's Report

4.1 A new postcard depicting two lesbians has been printed in addition to the previous two designs. 500 of the newly-designed trifold leaflets have also been printed and 100 were distributed at the recent Bristol Pride. Polo shirts with the GayWest logo have been purchased for 5 committee members.

4.2 Although our prime position at Bristol Pride was somewhat compromised by the layout of the tables, a lot of interest was shown in our stall and it is clear that the Rainbow Cafe is widely known. 36 people registered an interest in knowing more about GayWest by giving us their email addresses so that additional information can be sent. Michael has drafted a concise, A5-sized explanation of what the group is all about, which was approved by the committee.

4.3 Colin wished to formally record his thanks to all those people who came and helped on the stall in the course of a very long day.

4.4 Age UK have had to change the date of their Festival of Ageing from 25th Sep to 18th Sept.

4.5 We registered our Domain name in April with 1+1, who have just confirmed this and have promised to email us 3 weeks prior to our next payment date in April 2017. The annual amount is currently £6-99.

4.6 Last Thursday Colin & Jim attended a staff meeting at the Brigstowe Project, giving them some of our literature and explaining what we do.

4.7 Colin and Jim met with Nigel to discuss the arrangements for the Weston Super Mare Pride and the setting up of the Rainbow Cafe in Weston for the second Saturday of each month.

5. Secretary's Report

5.1 This month there has been no correspondence which needs to be brought to the committee's attention.

6. Treasurer's Report

6.1 The latest bank statement dated 4th July shows a balance of £5,019.90. Once outstanding bills and credits are taken into account, the balance is £4,921.90.

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

6.3 Our on-line banking request is being processed and a replacement application form was completed at the meeting and will be returned.

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7. Outreach Officer's Report

7.1 John attended a "Lobster Pot" meeting with prisoners and LGBT staff at Leyill and passed over some books which were duplicates from our library. He is also mentoring a prisoner who will shortly be coming up for day release. Colin and John will attend an LGBT Forum there on 6th August.

8. Events Co-ordinator's Report

8.1 Michael will update the information on the tables at the cafe as necessary.

8.2 There was some discussion about the picnic and getting there by public transport, as it now transpires that the First Bus no 37 does not run on a Sunday. This will be made pointed out in the next magazine and members encouraged to offer lifts to anyone having difficulties getting there.

8.3 On the website, Michael will take out details about the Bath social evening.

9. Membership Secretary's Report.

9.1 There has been one resignation since the last meeting, our membership is now 89. Jim will send out 17 reminders with the next magazine.

9.2 It was agreed that membership cards would no longer be sent out automatically when membership/support was renewed. A card will be provided only when specifically requested.

10. Magazine Editor's Report

10.1 Work on the August magazine is advanced. There will be 16 pages, 4 of which will be photographs taken at Bristol Pride. The committee agreed that the extra £20 to print these in colour, rather than black and white, would be worthwhile.

10.2 It was agreed that people should continue to be encouraged to download the magazine rather than be emailed each month.

11. Cafe Report

11.1 Several groups at Bristol Pride expressed an interest in coming to the Rainbow Cafe to promote their organisations. It was agreed that they can come and chat generally to anyone there that day but not make formal presentations.

11.2 Supplies of tea, coffee etc. are adequate and do not presently need to be replenished.

12. Website Sub-Committee Report

12.1 Interest in our Twitter feed has grown considerably.

12.2 Any updating to Wordpress will be undertaken by Newicon.

12.3 Colin aims to put a lot more photographs on the website before too long.

13. AOB

13.1 In discussions with Nigel, the Weston Pride organiser, the idea formulated of having a fund-raising music event in Weston super Mare on 22 April 2017, in conjunction with other organisations such as FFlag. Nigel has contacts in the entertainment sphere and it was suggested the event be called "Dressed to Impress with GayWest". Committee members will give this some thought and it will be a matter for future discussion.

14. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 2 pm on Wednesday 17th August. A provisional date of Wednesday 14th September was set for the meeting after that.