

**MINUTES OF GAYWEST COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016**

**In Attendance:**

Colin O'Brien (Chair)  
Michael Reid (Events Co-ordinator)  
Brian Milligan (Secretary/Treasurer)

John Martin (Outreach Officer)  
Jim Phimister (Membership Secretary)  
Antony Russell (Cafe Host)

1. **Apologies for Absence**

1.1 None.

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

2.1 These were agreed as accurate.

3. **Matters Arising**

3.1 The suggested menu for the Xmas meal at the Royal Pavilion has been received and was agreed by the committee. Paul Wiltshire is happy for "Butlers in the Buff" to serve welcome drinks.

Post Meeting Note: Paul Wiltshire advised that he will charge 50p more this year for each meal, i.e. the cost charged to us will be £23-50. It has not yet been decided what we will charge supporters and non-supporters for the meal.

3.2 The Devon Partnership Trust was unable to come to the Cafe on 3<sup>rd</sup> September as planned and will now be at there on 15<sup>th</sup> October.

3.4 Pip has agreed to take over the Chartroom page in the near future, but will not necessarily attend committee meetings.

4. **Chair's Report**

4.1 The need for more volunteers to serve on the committee is more acute than ever, since Antony and Brian are stepping down. Antony will continue to proof read the magazine and will act as Cafe Host when required and able.

4.2 The launch of the Rainbow Cafe at Weston Super Mare had gone well. The venue is very pleasant and close to the town centre. The next meeting at Bar Cameo will be on 8<sup>th</sup> October.

4.2 We already have posters for the 2017 Weston Super Mare Pride.

4.3 Colin and Jim spent a very enjoyable time with the Weymouth Gay Group when on holiday.

4.4 The "Dress2Impress" proposal has been sent to the Council for their approval.

4.5 On-line banking has been set up and is working well.

5. **Secretary's Report**

5.1 There have been no matters which need to be brought to the committee's attention.

6. **Treasurer's Report**

6.1 The latest bank statement dated 2<sup>nd</sup> September shows a balance of £4,794-91. Once outstanding bills and credits are taken into account, the balance is £4,739-92

6.2 Our Building Society funds are unchanged at £2,140-88.

7. **Outreach Officer's Report**

7.1 John raised the matter of our site having gone down the rankings when searches are made. Colin will speak to Newicon.

7.2 Ricky's visit to the Cafe had gone well and he hopes to come again. The problem of one or two people being over-familiar with first-timers was discussed.

7.3 Berkeley Wilde has asked whether he can come to the Cafe to talk about the hate crime services, which he and others are delivering. It was agreed that he could give a short introductory talk, Colin will liaise.

7.4 John will send a thank-you email to Ashley House following our recent visit there.

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**8. Events Co-ordinator's Report**

8.1 Michael has made enquiries about visiting Tyntesfield late November/early December, when staff will be dressed as Victorian characters and activities such as making Xmas decorations and singing are possible. Further thought will be given about the date for a visit.

8.2 Ideas for the Xmas meal were briefly discussed and arrangements will be decided at a future meeting.

**9. Membership Secretary's Report.**

9.1 Our current supporters now number 88. We are up 10 on a year ago, although there are 5 who will be taken off if they do not renew in the near future.

**10. Magazine Editor's Report**

10.1 The September magazine will be ready once the AGM is over and a piece about it can be included in the magazine.

**11. Cafe Chief Host's Report**

11.1 Nothing specific to report, everything seems to be going reasonably well. A new coffee machine has been purchased.

11.2 Bath Action On Hearing have contacted us about someone who wishes to come to the Cafe. Colin will act as his befriend-er and it is anticipated that he will make his first visit 24<sup>th</sup> September.

**12. Website Sub-Committee Report**

12.1 The desirability of having someone with good IT skills to oversee the website was again raised by Colin. He will liaise with Newicon about changing the term "members" to "supporters" and also Facebook access and rankings.

12.2 Newicon have upgraded their security on their servers and this caused some minor glitches on our website, which have now been sorted.

**13. AOB**

13.1 We have been advised that Curo gave a grant to help set up the Rainbow Cafe in Weston Super Mare and may be amenable to giving a grant to GayWest. Colin will pursue.

13.2 The format of the AGM will follow past years. No nominations have been received to date. Those members of the committee wishing to continue will be nominated in a block vote.

**14. Date of the Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 2 pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at Colin's home.