

# MINUTES OF GAYWEST COMMITTEE MEETING

## HELD ON TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2016

### **In Attendance:**

Colin O'Brien (Chair)

Jim Phimister (Membership Secretary)

Michael Reid (Events Co-ordinator/Secretary)

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

1.1 John Martin sent his apologies

### **2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

2.1 These were agreed as accurate

### **3. Matters Arising**

3.1 Following a visit to the Rainbow Café on Saturday 8 October by a wheelchair user, as suggested by Bath Action on Hearing, it was noted that it would have been better if the carer had stayed with his friend during the visit to help with sign language.

3.2 The Committee is still waiting to hear from Curo regarding a possible grant application from GayWest.

### **4. Chair's Report**

4.1 An email has been sent to Pip asking to confirm his role as Chat room Host on the website as previously discussed.

4.2 We have received three bookings for the Christmas dinner (1 guest & 2 members).

4.3 The 'Butlers' for the Christmas Dinner have been booked and their invoice received: two butlers for two hours plus travel costs.

4.4 An email was sent to Stefania Rulli at Community Connect with regard to the proposed 'Dressed-2-Impress' event at Weston-super-Mare. We are still waiting to hear from the local council if we can use the Tropicana venue.

4.5 GayWest has donated £100 to the '401 Challenge' fundraising project, in which Ben Smith has raised over £250,000 in support of Kidscape and Stonewall. It was noted that GayWest has been listed as a contributor.

4.6 GayWest has been invited to the Brigstowe 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary celebration on Tuesday 18 October. Colin and Jim will attend.

4.7 The Committee agreed that it would be helpful if we reminded members about the annual running costs. An A5 flyer entitled 'A Rough Guide to the Running Costs of GayWest' will be available at the café explaining the yearly running costs and the yearly income. This will help explain the current cost of membership and price of beverages at the café.

- 4.8 A brief discussion followed regarding the PO Box, which costs £250.00 a year, and would need renewing in March 2017. Most of the correspondence is now electronic, and Colin will talk to Age UK to see if an alternative can be arranged.
- 4.9 Colin is still talking to Newicon regarding minor changes to the website and waiting for quotations. It was suggested that we introduce a PayPal or similar system that does not cost too much to operate.
- 4.10 It was agreed that Jim take on the role of Treasurer in addition to Membership Secretary and Editor of the magazine.
- 4.11 Now that we have so few members on the committee, it was suggested by Colin that from January 2017 we produce the magazine bi-monthly. A discussion followed on ways to reduce the work load for the committee, and it was also proposed that we present the magazine as the 'GayWest Journal'. These proposals will be confirmed at a future meeting.

## **5. Financial Summary Report**

- 5.1 As the new Treasurer, Jim confirmed that the latest bank card enabled GayWest to make payments but it cannot be used as a credit card. Jim also presented his detailed spreadsheet noting Income and Expenditure.
- 5.2 The latest bank statement dated 9 October shows a balance of £4,676.11. After necessary adjustments, recorded on the spreadsheet, there is a balance of £4,547.10 as on 7 October.
- 5.3 Our deposit account at the Building Society stands unchanged at £2,140.88.

## **6. Outreach Officer's Report**

- 6.1 Colin reported, on John's behalf, that we are still waiting confirmation to give a talk about GayWest at Leyhill.
- 6.2 Michael Reid will take publicity to the Bath University for their LGBT group.

## **7. Event Co-ordinator's Report**

- 7.1 It was noted that various speakers are visiting the café which is welcome, but that in the New Year we will try to introduce more positive and uplifting themes to balance out the range of topics.
- 7.2 The Christmas visit to Tynesfield has been confirmed for Tuesday 29 November.

## **8. Supporters/Membership Report**

- 8.1 We have 85 supporters after non-payments were taken into account.
- 8.2 There is one new member who has sent money but no contact details. Jim has proposed that we flag a message on the website for a short while to alert the member about this – or that hopefully we get a visit from him soon to the café.

## **9. Magazine Editor's Report**

- 9.1 This month's edition of the magazine is going well and Jim is just waiting for information about proposed walks.
- 9.2 The Christmas menu and an instruction sheet on how to download online have been sent out to supporters.

## **10. Rainbow Café Report**

10.1 It was proposed that we have a poster reminding everyone about the book library.

10.2 There will be a Quiz on Christmas Eve at the café plus mince pies. We are also open on New Year's Eve.

10.3 There will be a raffle run by Paul Hunter on 29 October for Halloween, and another raffle at the Christmas Dinner.

10.4 A brief discussion followed regarding the state of the lower storage cupboard due to continuing damp, and that we would continue to store items as sensibly as possible.

## **11. Website sub committee**

11.1 Due to lack of numbers on the main Committee, it was agreed that we stop this sub-committee until further notice.

## **12. AOB**

12.1 A discussion followed about the planning of the forthcoming Auction on Saturday 22 October which will follow the same format as last year.

## **13. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 2.00pm on Tuesday 15 November at Colin's home.

(Michael Reid/ 12 October 2016 )