

MINUTES OF GAYWEST COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 17 JANUARY 2017

In Attendance:

Colin O'Brien (Chair)

Jim Phimister (Treasurer/Membership Sec.)

John Martin (Outreach Officer/IT)

Michael Reid (Events Co-ordinator/Minutes)

Derek Horsington (member and observer)

1. Apologies for Absence

1.1 None

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

2.1 These were agreed as accurate but with some additional comments:

3. Matters Arising

3.1 The care issue regarding our wheelchair user continues to be of concern as recorded previously. There was no carer at the Café last week (14 January). Colin will follow up with another email to John Collins at Action on Hearing to ensure that the carer takes responsibility for the disabled visitor.

4. Chair's Report

4.1 The Christmas Dinner was a success and costs were covered from donations received.

4.2 Special thanks to Ernie for taking the photos which are now ready to order at the café.

4.3 Jim, Colin and John Martin attended the Leyhill Carol Service.

4.4 The Chair gave a brief overview of who had visited the café last year as guest speakers and the topics and themes presented. It is hoped to have more uplifting themes this year to maintain a more positive balance to 2017.

4.5 It is hoped that the Dressed-2-Impress event will happen but details are still awaiting discussion with Nigel in Weston-super-Mare.

4.6 A Bath Carnival is in the pipeline for Saturday 15 July. The Chair has received an email from the Project Co-Ordinator Stuart Matson inviting GayWest to take part in the parade.

- 4.7 GayWest has booked and paid for attendance at Gloucester Pride on 10 June.
- 4.8 We will also be taking part at Bristol Pride on 8 July, and at Weston-super-Mare Pride on 29 July.
- 4.9 It was confirmed that the use of the post office box will not be continued when the renewal comes up in March.
- 4.10 Colin has created a blue reference folder that gives operating details regarding GayWest, including passwords and payment details, for the use of future committees.

5. Treasurer's Report

- 5.1 Taking into account the Christmas Dinner expenditure and a deposit for the Gloucester Pride, monies paid out totalled £1,483.70 as of 7 January. The balance was £5,981.98 as of 28 December. The current balance is now at £5,070.98. The deposit account still stands at £2,140.88.
- 5.2 Michael Reid has agreed to act as third signature on cheques.
- 5.3 A brief discussion followed on how to keep the insurance payment as low as possible. Last year, our insurance cost £109. This amount is linked to the level of income recorded, which means that on 1 September the Treasurer may need to transfer money to the deposit account so that the insurance does not increase.

6. Outreach Officer's Report

- 6.1 GayWest has been invited to speak at the Bristol LGBT Ageing UK Storytelling Night on 21 February.
- 6.2 GayWest is to offer a choice of dates to HMP Leyhill so they can choose a convenient time for Colin and James Whatmore to give their history talk to the 'Lobster Pot' coffee posse in February.
- 6.3 John Martin confirmed that the facebook and Twitter accounts are working well, and John is sorting out a new facebook password which will be put in Colin's blue reference folder.
- 6.4 GayWest has been nominated by Shout Out for best social/activities group and the judging will be on 9 February. It is likely that GayWest may attend.
- 6.5 There is a possibility of an interview with GayWest on Frome Radio FM - date to be confirmed.
- 6.6 There will be a history display at the café during Gay History Month in February.

- 6.7 It was confirmed that we should advertise for more committee members who are familiar with IT/computers.

7. Events Co-ordinator's Report

- 7.1 Michael Reid offered a list of ideas for possible events for 2017. A discussion followed with the committee adding further ideas. We now have a range of venues to visit. Michael will draw up a calendar of monthly activities for the committee's approval at the next meeting.

8. Membership Secretary's Report

- 8.1 Currently, we have 78 supporters.
- 8.2 14 reminders have been sent out for their membership renewals.
- 8.3 It is with sadness that we report the death of John Field who had been a supporter of GayWest.

9. Magazine Editor's Report

- 9.1 The layout of the new Journal has been changed slightly and articles are always welcome. The Journal will be published every second month.
- 9.2 Michael Reid has agreed to help with the proof reading.

10. Café Business

- 10.1 Colin reported that there are enough supplies until the end of February.
- 10.2 The Post-Christmas Auction on Saturday 28 January will follow the same format as previously.
- 10.3 There will be a visit from Action on Hearing on 25 February. Ben Smith, the fundraiser on the 401 Marathon Challenge promises to visit when he next comes to Bath. Eddystone Trust will visit again and offer blood pressure tests and HIV tests as they did last year.
- 10.4 There will be a DVD sale on 18 March.
- 10.5 Jim has created posters to promote the book library.

11. AOB

11.1 Newicon, the IT company that looks after our website, may be moving premises to Bristol. They are developing a more pro-active website. It has been suggested to Colin that we change our existing website and move over to this new improved development website. Colin will look into this and report back to the committee. A few latent problems still exist on the current website and it may be to our advantage, cost-wise, to change to a newer operating system.

11.2 GayWest is due to pay hosting fees in April.

11.3 In general, the existing website is working well but there are a few areas that need improving.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at Colin and Jim's new address in Keynsham at 2.00pm on Tuesday 14 March 2017.