

MINUTES OF GAYWEST COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 6 JUNE 2017

In Attendance:

Colin O'Brien (Chair)

Jim Phimister (Treasurer/Membership Sec.)

John Martin (Outreach Officer/IT)

Michael Reid (Events Co-ordinator)

1. Apologies for Absence:

1.1 None

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

2.1 These were agreed as accurate.

3. Chair's Report:

3.1 The Website has been updated and amendments have been paid for. We now have an online payment facility through Stripe. Members can access minutes and previous issues of the magazine/Journal back to 2015. The gallery section has been improved and Colin has been shown an easy way to download photos.

3.2 We need to promote the website more to our members.

3.3 Whenever a membership fee is paid online, a fee of 0.41 pence goes to Stripe.

3.4 GayWest has renewed its membership to the LGBT Consortium and updated our contact details.

3.5 All new passwords have been entered into the blue reference folder for the benefit of future committee members.

3.6 It is noted that we will receive more money from the Leyhill Prison contribution than from our own fundraising, apart from donations to GayWest.

3.7 Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that outside groups should be charged a small fixed fee if they wish to advertise in our Journal.

3.8 We should continue to emphasise the advantages of membership, especially with access to the website and the loyalty card.

3.9 Details for the forthcoming Gloucester Pride on Saturday 10 June were finalised.

- 3.10 The organisers for the Weston Pride have sent a Risk Assessment Form on behalf of the local council which Colin will complete and return.
- 3.11 Further archive material have been collected from Martin Reeves, including ninety books
- 3.12 GayWest has received a letter from a prisoner at Leyhill enquiring about a possible befriender and Jim will send a reply.
- 3.13 A new membership application form has been designed by Newicon for the website.

4. Treasurer's Report:

- 4.1 There is a balance of £4,678.23 as of 3 June.
- 4.2 The website amendments cost £427.50.
- 4.3 The Nationwide Deposit Account stays unchanged at £2,199.71 and no further money has been added to that account for this month.

5. Outreach Officer's Report:

- 5.1 John confirmed that facebook and Twitter accounts were doing well with contributions from many LGBT groups, including from Weymouth, Canterbury, Welsh LGBT Ambulance, LGBT Army, and Laura Rawlings.
- 5.2 A Leyhill prisoner, soon for release, will be returning to Cardiff, and Jim will confirm if there is an LGBT group that could act as a contact point.
- 5.3 Brigstowe is continuing a 3-month consultation, but after the General Election on 8 June, funding and future services will be confirmed.
- 5.4 John noted that there is a new support group, Act-Up Bristol, which offers HIV services and advice to families.
- 5.5 A short discussion followed regarding Virgin Care services to the Bath area. At present, we have no one to advise GayWest on sexual health matters. The problem is that the Rainbow Café has a Bath address, but our new contact address in Keynsham is part of the Bristol area, which may prove a complication. Also, the majority of our members live in Bristol. Colin will contact the Riverside Health Centre in Bath and the RUH to clarify matters.
- 5.6 It is confirmed that Paul Willis, a social worker and researcher on loneliness and coping better for older men, will be visiting the café on behalf of Age UK and Bristol Ageing Better on 24 June.

5.7 Leyhill Prison will be donating £140 to GayWest from their recent LGBT Pride celebration.

6. Events Co-ordinator's Report:

6.1 Details were confirmed for the Weymouth trip on Thursday 15 June. We will be meeting the Weymouth Gay Group at the Swan/Weatherspoons at St. Thomas's Street at 3.00pm onwards. Colin has been in contact with them and a table has been booked for us.

6.2 Those of us going on the Avon Gorge Cruise from Bristol Harbourside need to book ahead for the 12.30 pm boat trip on 17 August.

6.3 The Keynsham Music Festival will be on Sunday 2 July.

6.4 There will be a band and choir at the bandstand when we have our picnic at Keynsham Park on Sunday 13 August.

7. Membership Secretary's Report:

7.1 The membership still stands at 81 members.

8. Journal Editor's Report:

8.1 The latest edition of the Journal will be ready for 1 July.

9. Rainbow Café Report:

9.1 Colin and Jim are now looking to replace the mugs at a suitable price.

9.2 Michael to invite Chris Watkins to host the Café morning on Saturday 15 July when we will be having cream scones to celebrate Wimbledon.

9.3 Michael will unlock the Café on 7 October.

10. **AOB:** nothing to report.

11. **Date of Next Meeting:** will be held on Tuesday 11 July at Keynsham at 1.30pm.

Michael Reid

12 June 2017.