

AGM Dumfries & Galloway LGBT Plus

24 April 2016, The Stove, 100 High Street, Dumfries

11:30am – 1:10pm

Participants: Bell Doyle (Chair), Eppie Sprung (Treasurer), Jill Osborne (Board), Dyfrig Hywel (Board), Elisabeth Loose (Staff), Stacie Scott (Staff), Edward Watson, Sandra Dickson (Member), David Townsend (Member), Ian McQueen, Johnathon Gallagher, Peter Davis, Alex Thorburn, Kevin Dean, Nicholas Lambert, Serina Gillespie

Apologies: Grace Cardozo (Staff), Moira Harris (Board), Joseph Kidd-Bentley (Board), Ben Kidd-Bentley, Elinor Predota (Board)

Welcome

Chair opens meeting and welcomes everyone. Passes on apologies.

Formal thank you to Elinor Predota who has been Chair during last year and has to step down from Board for now. Thank you for all your hard work!

1. Report from Chair

Chair reports of LGBT Plus' past busy year which included many events, support sessions, the launch of our website and set up of our office.

Thanks to Stacie Scott for all her work in this regard.

Thanks to Eppie Sprung and Grace Cardozo for their continuous work on the policies.

Clarification provided regarding the election of office bearers by the Board.

2. Accounts

Treasurer reports on accounts from past year.

The vast majority of the organisation's money is restricted and, thus, can only be used for specific purposes. Only £800 of money were unrestricted.

In the future, the aim is to increase the amount of unrestricted money.

The organisation has just received funding for the next three years which means additional members of staff will be employed.

3. Election of board

The members of the board stepped down and were re-elected onto the board.

4. General Discussion

The second part of the meeting consisted of an informal session to give present volunteers and members a chance to bring up questions and queries. The following topics were discussed and actions agreed:

- PR relating to the launch of the Freedom Café and LGBT History Month
- Concern was raised on the level of detail in the chair's report and the treasurer's report.
Action: the chair will provide a list of activities to Kevin Dean
Action: the treasurer took the AGM through the accounts line-by-line
- The constitution, the ability to make loans to individuals and the role of members. **Action: constitution to be published on the website**
- A concern was raised regarding the management of the organisation and an individual proposed himself as Chair (proposed: Kevin Dean). A counter proposal "to not allow emergency resolutions" was proposed (proposed: Eppie Sprung, seconded: Dyfrig Hywell):
Vote "to not allow emergency resolutions": Passed anonymously.
- Membership procedures. **Action: Membership forms to be published on the website.**

- Concerns were raised regarding the effectiveness of the current lines of communication. Alex Thorburn offered his skills and experience in relation to ensuring accessibility of communication. It was acknowledged that the part-time nature of the staff and volunteers had made communication difficult over the past year
Action: for the improvement of communication to be made a priority as soon as the new manager is in post.
- The change from Free Spirits to LGBT Plus was queried and explained and members were asked to contact the Board directly if they required further clarification.
- The cost of the Freedom Café was discussed and details of the subsidy were provided.
- An update on the work of Terrence Higgins Trust was provided by Johnathon Gallager:
 - They have a LGBT-section on their website.
 - The Men who have Sex with Men project comes to an end on 16th November and more traditional funding will probably not be received which leaves the option of joint funding with LGBT Plus.
- Upcoming events were highlighted:
 - 17th May LGBT Plus and Terrence Higgins Trust (THT) will screen movie “Pride” in order to celebrate the International Day Against Homophobia (which takes place on the 18th May).
 - We will also try to link up the Stove’s Reel to Reel movie series with the Stonewall events on the 28th June.
 - A discussion took place regarding the location of events with a plea to hold more at the weekends and more in the West.
- Lack of LGBT Plus presence in the prison was queried. THT do have presence in the prisons. **Action: consider the possibility of accessing joint funding in relation to wellbeing of inmates.**
- The use of the Stove as the primary LGBT Plus venue was queried. The rationale around the selection was explained, including:
 - Anonymity
 - Central location
 - Access (lift)
 - Cost
 - Rear entrance
- Service users, volunteers or members were encouraged to contact the Board with any concerns or ideas: board@lgbtplus.org.uk or info@lgbtplus.org.uk.

The Chair closed the meeting at 1:10pm.