

ELLGaS Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes 8th August 2001

Present

Alistair, Jason, Jeremy, Maggie, Mark, Peter.

Apologies

Les, Pat.

Agenda

Minutes of the last meeting
Matters arising
Memberships
Face to face counselling
Befriending report
Treasurer's report
Website update
Worker's report
Volunteering policy and zero tolerance
ELLGaS anniversary
A.O.B.

Pat has accepted the membership of the ELLGaS executive committee.

Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were read and agreed to be a true and accurate account of the proceedings.

Matters arising

Shared information between the two offices: this matter is still pending.

Maggie and Jason have met to discuss the budget.

The payment for Internet access can only be made by credit card. Jason has offered to use his and ELLGaS will reimburse him.

ACTION: JASON

Maggie has made a start on reorganising the Blackburn office.

The business plan is still pending. The executive membership agreed to look at this.

ACTION: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Telephone diversion is still in place.

Checklist of tasks for line operators is still pending.

ACTION: JEREMY

The General meetings to be held in Burnley have been set for every quarter not every other meeting as previously discussed.

The deposit account has not been set up as yet.

Memberships

Outstanding references for Steven, Alan and James have been received. Steven's membership will be passed on for ratification at the next general meeting.

Maggie has received two membership requests from women.

Face to face counselling report

The F2F group meeting has been set for Thursday 14th August at 3.00pm

Befriending report

Les and Jeremy did a befriending on Monday and will do another next week. These will be recorded under the new system.

Maggie pointed out that what we refer to as befriendings could more accurately be classed as outreach work. She suggested that from this point on we refer to befriendings as such. This important dis

Treasurer's report

Jason was concerned about overspending on general running expenses and the under-spend on training. Peter suggested that we organise ad hoc training exercises for members as we can afford to hire external trainers with the possibility of inviting other groups to attend these sessions. Alistair and Peter will look at possible ideas.

ACTION: ALISTAIR, PETER

It was agreed that we should spend the training allocation before other items swallow it up.

The revised lease for the Burnley office has arrived. Jason has read it over and told the group that this new lease is still unacceptable, as it does not address the issues that we raised with the old one. We would still be liable for any costs for damage to the building however much these may be. We need to negotiate a more reasonable lease for a charitable organisation, as the current one is more suited for a commercial concern.

ACTION: JASON, JEREMY

Jason asked the executive membership to agree to a moratorium on capital spending. This was agreed.

Training

Maggie has received requests from members in Burnley who wish to take their certificate in counselling. She suggested that we hold back until she knows what these members are doing. They need to decide quickly however as these courses start shortly.

Alistair suggested that we set up courses that are run on a yearly basis such as help line training. Jeremy pointed out that Gloucester runs these types of courses monthly.

Business Plan

Maggie informed the group that part of ELLGaS' grant was allocated towards the production of a business plan. This has been half completed, but in order for it to be ready for the deadline in December she required input from other members. Jeremy, Jason and Peter offered to help on this.

ACTION: MAGGIE, JASON, JEREMY, PETER

Worker's report

Maggie has been attending the Health Strategy meetings. She will be getting together with Steve and Pat for a multi-agency consultation and will report back on the outcome of this meeting.

As from the 1st April next year, the East Lancs. Health Authority will no longer exist. It will become the Strategic Health Authority instead. This will be devolved to a primary care trust. Peter said that in terms of funding the New Health Strategy could be beneficial to ELLGaS as we meet several of the targets required. Maggie wanted to make it clear that we are independent of the Health Authority and would like us to remain that way. Jason's concern was that if we do not get the Community Fund grant that we expect when our current funding runs out then this could cause problems. Peter pointed out that the Health Authority money is time-unlimited meaning that once granted it would not need to be re-applied for each year.

Mark pointed out that the Lottery and Health Authority funding work on much the same principles. So we shouldn't be reticent about applying for grants from both agencies.

Maggie raised the issue that the F2F counsellors should begin to receive payment for their services. Jason said that this money should come from those services who refer us to clients who would normally be seen by them but would be better seen by our counsellors as a specifically gay/lesbian organisation.

On the issue of changing ELLGaS' name this could prove problematic, as we are known by the current name. This needs reviewing by the general membership.

Two women who came to the last social evening have applied to join. More outreach work is to follow.

We may not have a stall at Manchester's GayFest. 'The goalposts have been moved'. Peter suggested that we concentrate more on Lancashire Pride, as it is a local event. Jason asked if we should consider a commercial stall instead of one of the community one, even though this would mean having to pay for it. The Jarman Centre will be concentrating on Lancashire Pride and will therefore not be involved in GayFest. Peter said that it was too short notice now to do anything effective and that we should abort plans for this year and concentrate on next year's event. Maggie is waiting to hear from the organisers for the outcome of the meeting.

We are now members of the Voluntary Sector Consortium.

ELLGaS will be leading the initiative for Lancashire Pride's Rainbow Flag Day by coordinating the requests being sent out to local councils asking them to fly the rainbow flag.

Maggie is currently dealing with the case of a young man from Syria who is experiencing problems in this country.

Website update

No new business.

Volunteering Policy

Peter and Jeremy have gone through this. A lot of it needs changing. A draft of the amended policy will be circulated. Maggie was concerned that the calls policy was being removed from the volunteering policy. It was suggested that a separate calls policy be created.

It was suggested that a zero tolerance policy towards drink and drugs for both clients and volunteers be included in the new volunteering policy. This code of conduct will cover issues such as what we as volunteers are prepared to offer to the service and what we expect from our clients. It would have to be self-policing and this raises the problematic issue of volunteers being online alone.

ELLGaS anniversary

ELLGaS' inaugural meeting was on the 20th October 1992. This year it falls on a Saturday. We may issue a press release next year for our tenth anniversary. This year we could arrange a birthday party as a team-building event.

A.O.B.

Mark told the group that Steve mentioned the possibility of combining ELLGaS' social evenings with the Wednesday night Health Strategy advice nights. This could be a problem because socials have always been specifically non-gay events and attendees may feel uncomfortable with the combined event. This issue has been deferred to the General meeting.

The leaflets re-run has been ordered, these will come in handy for Lancashire Pride.

It was decided to ask Academy Print to design the new publicity for ELLGaS. We need to decide what we want from the new publicity.

Next general meeting: 29th August 2001.

Next executive meeting: 12th September 2001.

Next social: 6th September, 7.30pm onwards, Burnley Mechanics, Burnley.