

ELLGaS General Meeting

Minutes 25th July 2001

Present

Alistair, James, Jason, Jeremy, John, Les, Mark, Peter, Simon.

Apologies

Alison, Maggie, Sharon.

Agenda

Minutes of the last meeting

Matters arising

Memberships

Face to face counselling

Call Statistics

Burnley

Web Site

A.O.B.

The Chair formally welcomed James to his first general meeting.

Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were read.

Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

Memberships

Mark informed the group that Anthony has tendered his resignation from ELLGaS.

The application from Steve was accepted and ratified on the basis of two successful references.

Face to face counselling report

Alistair informed those present that all members of the face-to-face counselling group are currently seeing clients.

The next face to face group meeting was provisionally booked for Tuesday 14th August, 3.00pm, Jarman Centre.

Call statistics

Mark is to discuss with Maggie the new procedures for monitoring calls.

ACTION: MARK, MAGGIE

Burnley

Alan and Maggie are to coordinate the running of the Burnley office.

ACTION: ALAN, MAGGIE

The Burnley phone line still needs setting up.

James enquired if staffing the lines on Tuesday nights would always be quiet. Alistair responded by saying that it is difficult to judge how many calls we will receive on any one night. It is hoped that our forthcoming publicity drive will increase awareness and raise the number of calls that we receive.

Jeremy said that the computer for the Burnley office would be installed very soon.

Peter asked whether a press release had been issued regarding the opening of the Burnley office. He was informed that one local paper has been informed and it was planned that a press release should be issued. Jeremy and Peter agreed to work together on this.

ACTION: JEREMY, PETER

Website update

Mark told the group that he was in the process of updating the member's page of the web site and any members, who wished to either change, remove or have their photo on the site should contact him as soon as possible. Peter mentioned that a digital camera was available for use at the Jarman Centre and he would be willing to take any members pictures if they did not have access to a camera.

Mark went on to say that he had received more articles from members for the website and would put these online soon. He requested that more members contribute articles.

The website is at the stage now where it only requires maintaining. It is now up to ELLGaS members to provide their input in order for the ELLGaS website to grow and become what it was originally envisioned.

A.O.B.

The answering machine at the Blackburn office has not been working recently and is to be replaced. It was mentioned that the call diversion should be set up so that all answering machine messages be received at the Blackburn office.

A press release is to be issued concerning the face-to-face counselling group, which is now an important part of ELLGaS' services. It was agreed that a good time to do this would be when the group receive their diplomas. The photos of this event could then accompany the press release.

ELLGaS is in the process of joining the Consortium. The Northwest conference is coming up and ELLGaS will be expected to attend.

A caller has requested to join ELLGaS. Jason asked him to attend the next social so that the matter could be discussed further.

The possibility of developing a Young People's Group as part of ELLGaS was raised. Maggie is currently talking to a young Asian man aged 16 and it was felt that we need to be more aware of younger gay and lesbians in the area.

Maggie will be attending a health strategy meeting on 26th July 2001.

Jason asked that all members with ideas on how we can spend next year's budget should get in contact with him as soon as possible.

Ideas for advertising ELLGaS' new range of services and the new Burnley office are requested from members. Ideas suggested by members present included: Posters on the back of buses; new leaflets and posters; talks at local educational establishments; business card handouts distributed inside the Blush packs and phone book listings specifically under the headings of Gay and Lesbian.

It was suggested that we invest in a larger advert in the Yellow Pages.

A contact list has been drafted and is available in both the Blackburn and Burnley offices. A proposal was put forward that a member's directory be created which would contain contact details of all members, typically a mobile phone number. This directory would only be available to ELLGaS members and any member who did not wish to be included on the list would not be.

It was suggested that a social trip be organised for ELLGaS members as a team-building exercise. ELLGaS would pay for any travel expenses. If a night out were to follow on from the team-building event then member's partners would be welcome to attend that at their own cost.

ELLGaS has been requested to provide a stall at Manchester's GayFest in August. The new posters would not be ready in time for this event. But more leaflets could be printed provided we inform the printers straight away.

With regards to monitoring call statistics Jason suggested that we take a look at the software developed by the Turing Project as it could provide the functionality that we require for producing our statistics.

The September general meeting may be held in Burnley.

Next executive meeting: 8th August 2001.

Next social: 2nd August, 7.30pm onwards, Eanam Wharf, Blackburn.

Next general meeting: 29th August 2001.