

ELLGaS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY 25.11.98.

Attending:-

Jeremy, Paul, David, Clive, Ken, Bev, John, Alistair.

Apologies:-

Diane.

Minutes of the last meeting:-

Nobody raised any issues from these. They were deemed to be accurate and accepted by those present.

Worker's Report to the General Meeting:-

This was read by those present and matters arising from it were discussed:-

Publicity:-

Leaflets and posters that have been drafted up were passed round, read and in general approved. Any minor changes necessary were noted.

It was agreed that the recruitment poster was ideal for that purpose specifically but that another poster needs to be designed purely for community awareness purposes. A switchboard for the gay community does exist in East Lancashire and we need to get this fact more widely known.

Such a poster would need to be very eye-catching and concise. We need essentially to devise a poster as soon as possible, which can in due course be subject to review. Certain criteria such a poster would require include:-

- Name of the organisation – the words “Gay” and “Lesbian” need to be prominent. Our vernacular title “ELLGaS” is meaningless to anybody not involved with it in some capacity.
- Telephone Number of the Switchboard.
- Services on offer:- information, support, listening, befriending, socials etc.
- Minicom Number; P.O.Box Address; Registered Charity Number.

It was decided that recruitment needs to be addressed separately and so can be targeted to more specific areas of the community, e.g. at gay venues etc.

2.

The switchboard publicity poster can be targeted at:- CVS Buildings, Public and Student Libraries, Citizens Advice Bureaux, Colleges and Student Diaries, Doctors' waiting rooms, and any others that spring to mind.

It was discussed how we should approach publicising our new address. It was agreed that we should continue communicating with outside agencies via a P.O.Box whilst for administrative purposes, to those who know us, the Jarman Centre address could be given out at the discretion of the worker. The address could also be given out to clients we are "familiar" with or consider "suitable", only at the discretion of the volunteer liaising with that client. The volunteer concerned will be responsible for whatever decision they choose to make.

The P.O.Box needs to appear on every piece of publicity we send out, and the P.O.Box rather than the Jarman Centre address will appear in The Phone Book.

Posters to publicise the Burnley and District Police Forum Initial Meeting on 8.12.98 are to be blown up to A4 size for The Garden Bar. (Ken and Jeremy have both agreed to go – anyone else interested is very welcome to attend.) At the meeting on Wednesday 18.11.98 it was a question of putting out feelers and discussing what issues we want to work around. On 8.12.98 problems around policing Burnley town centre close to the Garden Bar and cottaging are to be raised amongst others. This is all on a very informal and tentative basis. Jeff Lee, our main contact at Burnley and District Police in connection with this matter, assures us that homophobic attacks should be treated in the same way as racial attacks and that officers concerned would be sympathetic and not derogatory towards lesbians and gay men.

Item 2 on the worker's report concerning the bill from Pegasus debt collectors:-

It was agreed that we should contact Pegasus with a degree of urgency to inform them of the full facts surrounding the outstanding debt.

Item 5 concerning the Burnley office and saving unnecessary rent costs:-

It was agreed that we should give notice at Hammerton Street and thus save £325/quarter. We also need to find out when we can use the office in the CVS Building and when we can move the old number and the divert to that office.

The divert is expensive and the sooner we can publicise the new number sufficiently and relinquish the old number, the better. We need to consider a date for having the old number cut off.

3.

Item 6 – Co-Options onto the Executive Committee:-

The motion was raised that Jeremy, who has expressed an interest in joining the Executive Committee should be voted on. The motion was carried unanimously.

New Volunteers:-

An application has been received from Rob Kinalczyk who is known to several members. The application was accepted subject to character references which will be sent for in the next week. References are also being sent for in connection with Duncan Berry.

Doorbell at The Jarman Centre:-

When in the office, the door needs to be wedged open so that the doorbell can be heard as otherwise it is inaudible and people are left stranded in the doorstep for - in certain reported cases – minutes !!

Visit to European Parliament in Brussels:-

Ken and Maggie are representing ELLGaS on a trip to The European Parliament in Brussels, organised by Mark Kendrick, M.E.P. for East Lancashire. On this trip, ELLGaS has an opportunity to let other groups at The Resource Centre know who we are and to become more central to voluntary sector life. Funding opportunities for volunteer groups from European sources will be explored. Delegates will also witness what kind of work AIDS Organisations in the E.U. are doing. (It was stipulated that it should be groups' chairpersons and paid workers that are eligible to go.)

Other Business:-

Clive has published the switchboard statistics for the year ending October 1998. The total number of calls, (including all answerphone messages) is very close to last year's, that being just over 800. Graphs displaying breakdowns of this figure are to be seen shortly on the office walls.

The next General Meeting will be on Wednesday 27th January 1999. VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED.

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be on Wednesday 9th December 1998 at The Jarman Centre.

The next Social will be on Thursday 3rd December 1998 at The Burnley Mechanics.

The Annual General Meeting will be on Wednesday 28th April 1999. (There will be no General Meeting that month).