

# EAST LANCASHIRE LESBIAN AND GAY SWITCHBOARD

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

30<sup>th</sup> January 2002

7.30 p.m. at Jarman Centre

**Present** Members: Jeremy S., Alistair C. R., Peter C., John M., Chi K.,  
Observer: Mel S. Employee: Maggie Turner

**Apologies** Simon, Sharon, Les

### AGENDA

- Apologies**
- Matters Arising**
- Membership**
- Face to Face Counselling Work**
- Youth Work**
- Befriendings**
- Burnley**
- Web Site**
- Report back from executive meeting**
- Citizen 21**
- Information dissemination**
- Any Other Business**

Jeremy opened the meeting by welcoming Mel to the meeting and to ELLGaS membership.

### **Matters Arising**

There were no minutes of the previous meeting as there have been problems with lack of attendance at meetings by the secretary due to personal difficulties. Also there has been a lack of attendance by members at General meetings. The paid worker is now completing the minute taking duties but this matter needs to be attended to by an Executive member as soon as possible.

Jeremy read through the minutes of the last Executive meeting and spoke on the areas covered. These were as follows:

**Memberships** There have been some minor problems with the application packs being sent out. This matter is now being addressed and we look forward to a successful resolution of this matter in the near future.

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**Face To Face group matters** A meeting of the counsellors is in the process of being arranged

**Youth work** Mel told the meeting about her qualifications and experience as a youth worker. Chi said he has experience of the Manchester Peer Support project and feels we could work with it to support our clients. Jeremy mentioned his experience with it was positive and that they have offered their meetings to our clients if we can get them to the venue in Manchester. This is not possible as it is on Saturday and members have other commitments on Saturdays.

**Befriendings** Jeremy said there was nothing to report as Les (Befriendings Co-Ordinator) was away. Maggie said that as she and Viv did a number of befriendings that were not discussed or reported on then the report back was not a true reflection of the group's activities in this area.

**Burnley** Jeremy said he is keen to get more people on line at Burnley. It was said that more calls are needed but Peter pointed out that Burnley can be a very busy night. Maggie agreed with this. Discussion moved to **publicity** and people pointed out the new advertisement in the Pink Paper for ELLGaS' counselling service. People felt it was a big improvement on what went before.

**Newsletter** Maggie distributed and presented a newsletter that she has planned in order to keep members informed of what comes in to the organisation. Jeremy expressed a concern that these do not take the place of a general meeting. Maggie expressed the intention that the format was to spread the organisation's receipt of information more widely and empower individuals within the group by giving information that they could act on or not as was the case. The group read the items and questions were invited from the group.

**National Friend** The organisation is in a state of limbo at the moment with no straightforward reasons given as to why this is so. What is clear is that there will be no national conference this year. Discussion was had around running a conference ourselves and Jeremy and Maggie have been talking about this. It would not be this year though and separate funding would have to be sought to apply for this.

This led to a discussion of what we could do as a training event with the money that is ring fenced for the purposes of whole-group training via attendance at National Friend conferences. A whole group residential was proposed. Jeremy expressed a concern that attendance at group training events was generally poor. Maggie asked to take a longer view and notice that attendance had been excellent overall. The group's motivation was questioned, countered by the point that when asked to carry out tasks then motivation was high. It was asked if the Executive could look at what was being offered to the group.

**Web Site** Former members have asked to have their photographs removed from the ELLGaS web site urgently. As these people have not been members for a long time now it

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would seem that their request is reasonable. The meeting said it wanted the web site design re-jigged as it was now out of date. Maggie pointed out that the web site and database project is one that is a condition of the grant and that the 3 year project is coming to an end and has to be reported on in full. The Community Fund can ask for the money back if the project is not completed. Jeremy said he will talk to Mark as soon as possible about this. Mel offered the services of the group she works for. This is a computing organisation with a large number of gay men working for it and she thinks they would be willing to do this work for us. Jeremy said he wanted to speak to Mark first.

**Lancashire Pride** The first meeting is on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February at Drugline in Preston. Chi will go to represent ELLGaS. Maggie told the meeting that we will be asked to take charge of the Rainbow Flags initiative again and that we have now got more information after all the mistakes made over the past two years. It is a great opportunity to talk to local authorities about lesbian and gay issues.

**Preston coffee evenings and Bolton Lesbian Line** Chi said he would check with Preston to see what is happening there and Mel offered to check with Bolton lesbian line (Chi also said he would ring Jean Murray re this matter).

**Citizen 21** This is a Stonewall initiative and Chi presented the meeting with some information regarding their grants to small projects. He feels we can access some money to set up collaborative working with the Asian communities. He will talk to Naseeb and take charge of the project fund raising.

**The meeting ended at 9.15 pm.**