

Minutes of a meeting of the board of trustees of Community Base held on 31st October 2006

Present: Sylvia Alexander-Vine (chair), Paul Evans, Lucy Stone

In attendance: Colin Chalmers (director and minutes)

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Sarah Bourne and Hong Lu.

2 Participant group meeting

Colin reported on the participant group meeting held on 26th October 2006. Participant group meetings are informal, unminuted meetings where issues of concern and suggestions for improving things at Community Base are discussed so they can be taken forward by staff.

The meeting was held shortly after participant groups had been told that Brighton and Hove Community and Voluntary Sector Forum (the forum) had had its licence ended. Colin wanted to use the meeting to explain why this had been done and distributed some papers concerning this matter. However the forum staff chief officer said they did not want to discuss this matter because they were getting legal advice and others at the meeting agreed with this view. A number of people said they did not feel the informal nature of the meeting suited the discussion of this matter and agreed to meet again to discuss calling an extraordinary general meeting.

A number of points of view were expressed by different people at the meeting including

- the fear that participant groups could have their licence ended for no reason by Community Base
- the view that participant groups should not have to inform or consult Community Base before starting new projects
- the view that groups should be allowed to use the space they licence for anything that is allowed by their own constitutions, including accommodating workers and officers from other organisations including statutory ones, without permission from Community Base
- the view that there needs to be a 'communication protocol' at Community Base although it was not made clear what this was.

The board asked Colin to email the Community Base email group reaffirming Community Base's central objects.

The board asked Colin to set dates for participant groups some time ahead in order to make it easier for groups to attend.

The board agreed to offer participant groups a chance to discuss the concerns raised at the participant group with Community Base staff or a trustee.