

Minutes of the First Annual General Meeting at Community Base 3rd November 1997

Present: (Trustees)

Tehmtan Framroze (Chair)
Sylvia Alexander-Vine
Rob McLaren
Zosia Koc
Lynette Gwyn-Jones
Jenny Langston
Clive Hewitt
David Nicholls
Graham Gordon

Participant Group Representatives:

Amy Lenzo (R.O.R.E.)
Clive Pepe (R.O.R.E.)
John Kelly (B&H.C.V.S.)
Sejal Shah (MOSAIC)
Rita Bowman (Crossroads)
Paul Corrin (Lesbian & Gay Resource Centre)
Andy Rogers (Lesbian & Gay Resource Centre)
Christina Liassides (Rough Sleepers Project)
John Holmstrom (B.H.T.)
Phil Ingles (Lesbian & Gay Resource Centre)
Paul Munday (R.O.R.E.)

Members:

Roisin Murphy
Dick Allen
Peter Bunker

Newly Elected Trustees:

Jenny Bennathan
Bob Skinner

In Attendance:

Colin Chalmers
Sue Cole

Apologies:

Carousel send their apologies.
Brighton, Hove & Lewes Interpreting Project
send apologies.
Money Advice & Community Support Scheme sent
letter of apology.

Correction to Trustees Report, signed 6/10/97 by Tehmtan Framroze and Sylvia Alexander-Vine.

It was noticed that the list of Trustees in the report was incorrect, that it stated Roisin Murphy served between **9/2/97 - 28/7/97**, it should have read **9/2/96 - 28/7/97**. Also Councillor Jenny Langstons' name was entered twice.

Welcome from the Chair:

Councillor Framroze welcomed everybody and thanked them for attending.

Councillor Framroze expressed his, and the Boards, thanks to Dick Allen for all the work he put in for the A.G.M. ensuring all paper work was in order.

Adoption of Accounts:

Financial report inclusive 31/3/97. Copies sent out to all Trustees and Members. Thanks was given to Rob McLaren for the tremendous amount of work he has put into the report.

A proposal was made by David Nicholls and seconded by Zosia Koc for the formal Adoption of Accounts. All Trustees and Members voted in favour.

As some people had not received copies of the Financial Report a brief explanation was given by David Nicholls:

This Financial Report is of financial activities up to 31/3/97, showing three years work to make the theory of Community Base a reality.

A project such as this takes a lot of support and consideration, as it begins to reach more ambitious objectives and is an important part of the Voluntary and Community Sector. Stage one of the Vision of Community Base within the Voluntary and Community Sector.

A question arose as to who was permitted to vote at the A.G.M. and answered with Trustees and Members. This led to the question of who are Members and was answered that Members are those that were founding Trustees that have resigned.

As the Financial Report is a public record, anyone can have access to it several people requested a copy and their names have been noted.

Re: Election of Trustees:

All Trustees stand down at the end of the year and stand again for re-election they are:

Sylvia Alexander-Vine

Councillor Tehmtan Framroze

Zosia Koc

Clive Hewitt

Councillor Jenny Langston

David Nicholls

Rob McLaren

Graham Gordon

Councillor Lynette Gwyn-Jones

Peter Greig

Rosemary Cooper - Is withdrawing from the Board, due to health reasons.

For this part of the proceedings, the Chair handed over to Dick Allen, Member, who proposed the election be taken on block. Proposed by Dick Allen, seconded by Peter Bunker, Member and carried. Dick Allen then handed back to the Chair.

Tribute was paid to:

Peter Bunker resigned

David Lovesey resigned

Nicole Dickens resigned

Roisin Murphy for her tremendous work beyond the call of duty.

Appointment of new Trustees:

Five people put themselves forward as new Trustees they are:

Bob Cristofoli Management Brighton & Hove C.V.S.

Diane Bates Qualified solicitor, who will help to fill the legal gap on
Peter Bunkers resignation.

Bob Skinner Social Services.

Jenny Bennathan Very willing to join the Board (PACT) Project Manager.

Dorothy Engham Director with Age Concern (Brighton).

Trustees and Members all voted in favour.

Independent Examiner:

Nick Erickson from Clark Brownscombe was asked to examine all Books and Records and approve them, which he did.

A proposal was made to appoint Nick Erickson as Independent Examiner, seconded and carried.

Amendments to Articles of Association:

Tehmtan Framroze read aloud the articles as follows:

4.1 To add to the Memorandum of Association a power to borrow as follows; To borrow or raise money for the objects of the Charity on such terms (and with such consents as are by law required) and on such security as may be thought fit and in particular by mortgage charge or lien upon all or any of the property or assets of the charity.

4.2 To amend the quorum for Annual General Meeting by altering line 2 of clause 7 of the Articles of Association to read “three persons entitled to vote upon the business to be transacted..”

Voting was called for:

Seek Specific Power to Borrow - Carried.

Amend Quorum - Carried.

The original number was ten but has been changed down to three, the reason for this being the need always to have the meeting quorate.

Security:

Concerns were voiced over the security measures in the reception area, while the emphasis is on an open and welcoming atmosphere, safety measures have to be considered and this is a shared responsibility. It was suggested that a panic button at reception be attached to B.H.T. Now the Managers office is on the first floor this does offer more support to reception. It was also pointed out that some groups would find it useful for their clients/visitors to have the reception hours changed at some point to close at a late time, e.g. 6.00pm instead of 4.30pm as it now stands, also Saturday and Sunday access especially in the Summer Months. At present there is entry through the Staff Entrance.

Concerns over usage of the toilet by the public coming from Brighton Housing Trust, having people wandering in the building. Clearer guidelines needed so as not to contradict peoples expectations.

Participants and Trustees alike were very supportive to Sue the Receptionist expressing both thanks and concerns over security.

Participant Meetings:

Are Participant meetings helpful, some thought it would be more useful to have meetings focus on one item and ‘any other business’. But the meetings are useful to exchange views. It was suggested that Participants take turns to service the meetings currently facilitated by Colin Chalmers, who also produces an excellent Newsletter following each meeting in order to inform Participants of progress, in all areas of Community Base. The original aim was for everyone to work together, bridge building, working as a team in Community Base with no ‘them and us’ feelings.

Andy Rogers , from the Lesbian and Gay Resource Centre was praised for all his hard work.

Paul Corrin, from the Lesbian & Gay Resource Centre requested a copy of the Constitution, Memorandum and Articles of Association..

Tribute was paid to Steve Baker for all his hard work and to Colin Chalmers for his input. The Chair stressed the need to keep lines of communication open at all times, to avoid misunderstandings.

Membership:

Organisations who are already here, and are up to date with their rent could be offered Membership. But this needs more discussion and a draft produced for Participant Meetings.

Fundraising:

The Trustees biggest task is to raise funds to complete transactions on the Community Base building.

Each organisation is autonomous, therefore can approach Funds also approached by Community Base, and the Trustees are aware of concern felt in this issue by Participants, although it could be advantageous for organisations to be seen as part of Community Base.

Concern was voiced over the long term status of Community Base, after a baseless rumour of imminent bankruptcy was started. Community Base will continue.

Peter Bunker paid public tribute to Councillor Tehmtan Framroze for his hard work in the founding of the Community Base Project, without which we would not be here.

The meeting was closed by the Chair who then invited all present to take refreshments.