

SOUTHWARK LGBT NETWORK

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2010

MINUTES OF MEETING

Held on Tuesday 2nd March 2011 at 6.30pm at InSpire - the Crypt at St. Peters Church,
Liverpool Grove, London, SE17 2HH

ATTENDANCE

22 members were present.

Also present: Kevin Dykes and Michael Cleere (Southwark Council)

Gaby Charing in the chair.

1. WELCOME AND GUEST SPEAKERS

Gaby welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced the two guest speakers, Mark Healey of 17-24-30 and Clare Dimyon of Pride Solidarity. Mark's presentation was taken before the formal business, and Clare's afterwards.

2. PRESENTATIONS OF PROJECTS

The meeting heard presentations by Magda Devas and Robert Brown of their ideas for projects for the coming year. Magda led a discussion of her idea for a mentoring project. Robert spoke briefly about his proposal for a cafe/community space, which he intended to present more fully to the EC.

2. MINUTES

Minutes of the AGM held on 27 January 2009 and the Special General Meeting held on 11 June 2009 were agreed to be a true record.

3. REPORT BY THE CHAIR

Gaby Charing introduced her written report on the year's activities (attached).

4. HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

Gene Dugan-Brause introduced his written report (attached).

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following were elected unopposed:

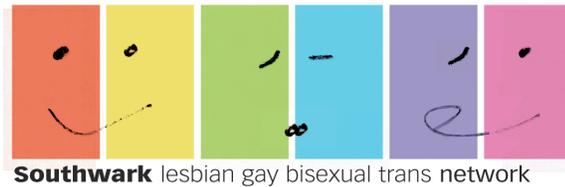
Chair:	Gaby Charing (proposed Carol Vincent, seconded Mark Healey)
Hon. Treasurer:	Gene Dugan-Brause (proposed Gaby Charing, seconded Liz Day)
Secretary:	Carol Vincent (proposed Gaby Charing, seconded Mark Healey)

6. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following offered themselves or were nominated for membership of the Executive Committee and were elected unopposed:

Robert Brown
Liz Day
Magda Devas
Roger Moore
Terry Spencer

The Chair closed the formal part of the meeting.



SOUTHWARK LGBT NETWORK

CHAIR'S REPORT

2 March 2010

At the end of another highly successful LGBT History Month, we should reflect on the current situation of LGBT people in Southwark and beyond. We now enjoy legal rights that seemed only a dream a few years ago. There is far greater acceptance across society of our right to equality. Yet the past year has been a challenging one for our community, with rising levels of hate crime, and a difficult economic climate which is placing pressure on the most vulnerable members of society.

It is worth remembering that the Network was founded nearly 10 years ago to complement the work of the Forum by building and strengthening the LGBT community so as to reduce our vulnerability to hate crime, harassment and discrimination. The need for this work has never been greater.

We are a borough with some of the highest levels of poverty and deprivation in western Europe. We have 10,000 children living in poverty, some of them in LGBT households. This is a truly staggering figure. The Network must find ways to engage with every section of our diverse community. How far we manage to do so is the standard by which we should judge our work.

The Network has had a difficult year, because of the changes which have taken place within the council itself. A year ago, we expected that the LGBT Development Officer post (Dax's post) would move into the community, to be hosted by one of the major voluntary sector organisations

in the borough. This raised all kinds of exciting possibilities for LGBT organisations within the borough. Last year's AGM heard how I and William (Chair of the Forum) had been holding discussions with four potential host organisations. The links formed with Community Action Southwark (CAS) and Volunteer Centre Southwark (VCS) in particular will be of lasting value.

However, in the end Dax moved to a new job working on LGBT community safety within the council. This is very important role and we wish him well in it. Inevitably, we shall see less of him. The debt we owe him is incalculable.

In the light of that decision, a merger of the Network and Forum has seemed less urgent, but we continue to work together closely.

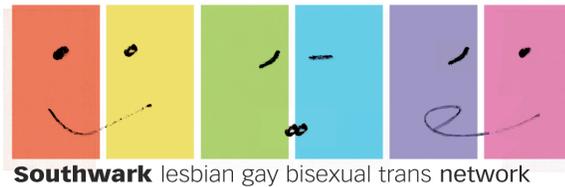
The uncertainty within the council has made it difficult for us to plan ahead, and there has been a lower level of activity than the year before. However, our two flagship events, Pride and History Month, went ahead as before and were very successful. I want to thank Dax for organising Pride and Michael Cleere for putting together the History Month exhibition *The Other Side of the Rainbow* at short notice.

We are continuing to receive practical support from the council, but the intention is that this should be time limited and we should become more independent. In my view, this is a good thing.

The challenge is to find new ways of sustaining our activity in a difficult financial climate. During the year work has been done on a business plan, initially by a broadly based planning group, and then by Dax. At tonight's meeting we shall hear ideas for new projects which can come under the Network's umbrella.

Members of the Network were involved in organising the vigil against hate crime in Trafalgar Square last October. It is clear that Southwark is in the forefront of community activism, but there are lots of new ideas and new activists emerging all over south London. I challenge the Network to think big, and be ambitious for what we can achieve in the 2010s.

Gaby Charing
Chair



SOUTHWARK LGBT NETWORK

TREASURER'S REPORT 28 February 2010

The Network's financial year runs from 1st April to 31st March. This report shows our current financial position.

Liabilities are amounts due for payment. There are no outstanding liabilities as of 28 February 2010; however there will be expenses for the Annual General Meeting on 2 March.

A restricted fund is money that has been given for a specific purpose. We have no restricted funds at this time.

We will end the financial year with money in the bank, but the months to come will offer some real challenges. Funds that have been available to us in the past will be harder to access. The membership and executive committee will need to continue to explore how best to use our efforts and resources to benefit LGBT people in Southwark in a financially responsible and sustainable way.

GENERAL FUNDS	£	£
Deposit Account	7,843.85	
Current Account	12,564.19	
Balance		20,408.04
Liabilities	Nil	
Restricted Funds	Nil	
Total available funds		20,408.04

Gene Dugan-Brause
Hon. Treasurer
28 February 2010