



Minutes of the Inaugural General Meeting held 10th October 2011

The Council House, College Green, Bristol BS1 5TR

Present: Adam Cutler, Andy Foyle, Andy Hole, Charlie Beaton, Cheryl Morgan, Chris Leigh, Dale Wakefield, Jane Mowat, Leighton de Burca, Paul Taylor, Robert Howes.
Apologies: Berkeley Wilde, Chris Brown, Jo McDonald, Kim Renfrew, Sarah-Louise Minter.

1. Welcome

Chris Leigh welcomed people to the meeting on behalf to the organising committee and gave everyone an opportunity to introduce themselves. The meeting opened at 7pm.

2. Appointment of a chair and a note-taker for the meeting

It was agreed that Chris would chair the meeting and Charlie would take notes.

3. Purpose of the session.

The general meeting was held for the sole purpose of considering a formal constitution for OutStories Bristol to become an unincorporated association as a step towards becoming a charity. People were invited to the meeting to consider the proposed constitution, make modifications and to adopt it if suitable.

4. Background to OutStories Bristol

A small group of people has met regularly since November 2008 to consider ways to capture the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans stories of Bristol and the surrounding area. Since then, the group has organised a couple of public events each year and presented information in a display at Pride Bristol in 2010 (First for Bristol) and 2011 (significant people and places, dead and defunct). The group originally used the working title, "LGBT History of Bristol" and latterly adopted the name "OutStories Bristol".

5. Proposal to adopt a constitution

Whilst the group has adopted a set of aims, it does not have a constitution to guide and control its activities and, as it is considering how to raise funds to promote its activities, including the possibility of applying to grant-giving bodies, it is now time to adopt a constitution formally, with the long-term possibility of becoming a charity. The constitution

put to the meeting was taken from the Charity Commission's model set. Taking the process one stage at a time, the constitution should formally identify OutStories Bristol as an “unincorporated association” and put the group in a good position then to apply for charitable status.

6. Adoption of the constitution

After consideration, debate and amendment, the attached constitution was proposed by Charlie Beaton, seconded by Jane Mowat and adopted by those present and voting at the meeting.

7. Nomination of officers

The adopted constitution requires that the membership elect a board of trustees from its number comprising five officers, being two co-chairs of different gender, a secretary, a treasurer and a web administrator. The following members were proposed by Leighton de Burca and seconded by Andy Hole: co-chairs – Andy Foyle and Jane Mowat; secretary – Charlie Beaton; treasurer – no nomination; and web administrator – Chris Leigh.

8. Nomination of trustees

The constitution allows for any number of ordinary trustees to be elected by the membership from its number. The following members were proposed by Chris Leigh and seconded by Charlie Beaton: Cheryl Morgan and Paul Taylor..

9. Election of the board of trustees

On being put to the meeting, the officers and the ordinary trustees were elected without dissent. The members present agreed that the secretary should write to people on the e-mailing list and subscribers to the OutStories Bristol facebook group to invite someone to self-nominate to be considered by the trustees for co-option as treasurer or for the position of ordinary trustee.

10. Any other business

a. LGBT History Month 2012 Adam Cutler of Bristol City Council Library Services explained arrangements for the development and marketing of a programme for the forthcoming LGBT History Month. He will notify OutStories Bristol of the person and the deadline for the submission of details of events.

b. Oral History Event, Sunday, 27th November 2012 It was agreed that OutStories Bristol should formalise arrangements for people to volunteer to collect the stories and relevant artefacts of people who wish to contribute. Charlie Beaton will arrange an opening event for interested volunteers on the afternoon of Sunday, 27th November as soon as a venue is found.

c. Grateful thanks was expressed to the Rainbow Group, the Bristol City Council LGBT Employees Self-organised Group for hosting the meeting, which closed at 8:55pm.