

LGBT+ Thamesmead General Meeting – Tuesday

29 July 2025, 7pm to 9pm

Minutes

Meeting details

Date: Tuesday 29 July 2025

Time: 7pm to 9pm

Location: The Parakeet Room, The Nest, Cygnet Square, SE2 9FA

Meeting chaired by: Riordan Tyson

Notes taken by: Amanda Brent

Attendees

Committee Members

Chair: Riordan Tyson

Secretary: Amanda Brent

Association Members

Alexandria Hassett, Fiona Johnson, Nick Moody, Kirsty Bashford, John Leslie Thompson, Phil Mayers-Bean, Alex Mayers

Apologies

Treasurer: Jamie Zubairi

Safeguarding Lead: Niamh Murray

Matty Andersen, Martin Anderson, Rhys David, Hannah Ehrlich, Jules Hien, Martin Johnson, Tee Lucas, Justin Martin, Kanesh Ram, Gary Sylvester, Pheng Taing

Meeting quorum met? Yes; 9 / 40% members present

Agenda items

Arrival and Association Membership completion – 6:30pm to 7pm

Welcome – 7pm to 7:05pm (5 minutes)

Treasurer's update – 7:05pm to 7:10pm (5 minutes)

In his absence, Jamie provided a Treasurer's update which included the following:

- Account balance at the beginning of April was **£2,924.33**
 - Income from April to July totalled **£1,392.96** - sources of income were Thamesmead Shantay entry fees, donations totalling £121.50 and £200 from Greenwich Healthwatch for mental health and wellbeing resources
 - Outgoings from April to July totalled **£2,446.41** - costs incurred included venue hire, event security and event performers

Members discussed potential approaches for trying to continue Thamesmead Shantay throughout 2026:

- Initial agreement is to apply to the Thamesmead Community Fund again when the application window opens again this autumn
- If the application is unsuccessful, other avenues of possible funding suggested included:
 - self-funding through a combination of crowdfunding, donations and entry fees
 - applying for a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund
 - approaching other funding organisations such as LGBT Consortium

Planning for Annual General Meeting in October - 7:10pm to 8:30pm (10 minutes)

Members discussed preferences for date, times and locations with the following results:

- **Date preference:** Saturday 11 October (unanimous vote)
- **Time preference:** 1pm to 4pm for the meeting, with a social at a local venue afterwards
- **Location:** Amanda will contact Peabody about booking The Nest or The Moorings for the meeting; preference for the social is the Unity Lounge & Bar, which Amanda will enquire about

Members were asked what processes they'd like to put in place to conduct elections at the AGM, with the following agreed:

- Existing Committee members will be assumed to be standing again for re-election to their current role – if they do not wish to do so, they must formally resign in writing
- Any members who'd like to put themselves forward for a role should apply in writing with a short explanation of why they'd like to be considered and any relevant previous experience, skills or knowledge they have that would be helpful in that role
- Written resignations and applications must be sent to team@lgbtthamesmead.co.uk by **Saturday 27 September**
- If only one person puts themselves forward for a role, they will be deemed as standing uncontested and will automatically be successful
- If more than one person puts themselves forward for the same role, each member will vote in secret by putting their preferred candidate's name into a hat - nominated tellers will then count the votes, and whoever gets the most votes will be elected
- A member cannot be a teller for any voting that they're also a candidate in

It was agreed that elections will be held for the following roles:

- Chair, Secretary and Treasurer
- Membership Secretary
- Safeguarding Lead
- Reserves for the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer who can step in if members in these roles are unavoidably forced to be absent for a prolonged period of time

It was also agreed to form 2 new groups starting from the 2025 AGM to help manage larger tasks and responsibilities and reduce burden and overwhelm on the Committee. These are not elected roles – any member of the Association is welcome to help with these.

- **Media Group** – designing and sending out communications, engagement and publicity materials, including writing the quarterly newsletter, coordinating news and blog posts on the LGBT+ Thamesmead website from themselves and from other members of the group, and creating social media content, graphic design and videos
- **Event Group** – planning, organising and delivering events such as the Shantays, LGBTQ+ History Month, Pride and the Thamesmead Festival, including sourcing raffle prize donations, buying items for stall giveaways or mini-game and costume prizes, distributing event posters and flyers before an event, setting up and tidying up venues before and after an event, and being responsible for certain tasks during events such as selling raffle tickets or managing entry on the door

Members also discussed what processes to put in place to allow members to propose and vote on amendments to the group's constitution at the AGM, with the following agreed:

- Any proposed amendments must be emailed to team@lgbtthamesmead.co.uk by **Saturday 20 September**
- All proposed amendments will be collated into a paper by the Secretary and sent to members alongside other papers and information before the AGM
- Members will be invited to share their thoughts or concerns about each proposed amendment before the group votes on it, with discussions kept to time by the Chair
- Voting on amendments will be done as a show of hands from members to confirm whether they think Yes or No to accepting the amendment
- If any suggested amendments conflict or directly contravene another suggestion, they will be considered together and voted on at the same time during the meeting

Actions

Amanda to email all Association Members with the date, time and location of the meeting once confirmed with Peabody, along with:

- copy of the current constitution for review
- descriptions of the different Committee roles and responsibilities
- instructions and deadline dates for proposing amendments, resigning from current roles, applying for a role, and how voting will work

5 days before the AGM, Amanda will email all Association Members with the meeting agenda and papers, including:

- election candidates for consideration
- all proposed amendments to the constitution that will be voted on
- the full annual accounts from the Treasurer
- the Committee's Annual Report

Any other business (AOB) - 8:30pm to 8:45pm (15 minutes)

Thamesmead Shantay Summer Ball:

- Volunteers needed for putting up posters locally

Thamesmead Festival:

- Volunteers needed for the stall and badge-making activity
- Nick announced that LGBT+ Thamesmead is hosting the after-party at the Thamesmead Social

Alexa suggested Plumstead Make Merry as another community event to potentially have a stall at next year – members agreed this would be good as long as it doesn't clash with local Pride events like it did this year.

Other upcoming local community events to be aware of:

- Friday 15 August is VJ Day – there will be a flag-raising event at 1pm and 9pm at the Abbey Wood Memorial Garden for VJ Day for anyone who'd like to attend
- Friday 15 August is also the date for the official launch party of the Unity Lounge & Bar

Meeting close and room tidying (15 minutes)

Social

The Abbey Arms

Next meeting dates

Committee Meeting: Monday 4 August 2025, 6:30pm (virtual)

Annual General Meeting: Saturday 11 October, times and location TBC