

LGBT+ Thamesmead General Meeting – Tuesday 28 January 2025, 7pm to 8:30pm

Minutes

Meeting details

Date: Tuesday 28 January 2025

Time: 7pm to 8:30pm

Location: The Moorings Sociable Club, Arnott Close, Thamesmead, SE28 8BG

Meeting chaired by: Riordan Tyson

Notes taken by: Amanda Brent

Meeting quorum: Met – 60% of Association Members present

Attendees

Management Committee Members

- Chair: Riordan Tyson
- Secretary: Amanda Brent

Association Members

Nick Moody

Guests

Alexandria Hassett, Fiona Johnson, Dean Fudge, Mel Rosmade

Apologies

Management Committee Members

- Treasurer: Jamie Zubairi

Association Members

Martin Johnson

Agenda items

1. Welcome – 7pm to 7:10pm (10 minutes)

2. Association Membership update – 7:10pm to 7:15pm (5 minutes)

Amanda explained the group's new governance structure, why the decision was made to formalise how the group is organised, that Association Membership is £5 per year, and what the benefits are. Anyone who'd like more information or who's interested in joining as an Association Member should contact Amanda.

Questions asked by attendees were answered by Amanda:

- Will people now have to pay to take part in everything we've been doing?
- No - nothing will change about existing activities or participation and you do not need to be an Association Member to join the weekly drop in, coffee mornings, Shantays or WhatsApp group; these will always be open to anyone who wants to participate
- Do you have to be on the Committee to volunteer to help with events or activities?
- No – anyone can volunteer to help at events, activities or socials
- Will the Annual General Meeting will be held in January each year?
- At present, the current plan is to hold the Annual General Meeting in September or October (may be subject to change)

Actions

Amanda to create and share around an Information Sheet that explains Association Membership in more detail.

3. Treasurer's update – 7:15pm to 7:20pm (5 minutes)

In his absence, Jamie provided a written Treasurer's update.

- Last year, £3,000 of funding was received from Peabody to fund 6 Thamesmead Shanty events that took place during 2024:
 - Sold a total of £1968.70 in tickets, with an average of 41 tickets per event
 - Expenses included £2,206.95 to all performers, £1,287.09 on equipment hire, £1,210 on venue hire, £410 on security and £400 on printing costs, ticketing platform and bank fees, and other small sundries
- Thanks to an application made by Nick Moody to the Thamesmead Community Fund, £3,000 has been received for 6 Thamesmead Shantay events in 2025, starting February

4. Thamesmead Shantay Valentine's Ball – 7:20pm to 7:40pm (20 minutes)

The first Thamesmead Shantay of 2025 is on Saturday 15 February at The Birchwood - the budget from the funding received is £500 for entertainment, the venue and security.

- Alexa asked why the venue's changed from Sporting Club Thamesmead
 - Amanda explained that SCT FC told the Committee in October that they'd be unable to take any more bookings for the foreseeable future
- Riordan presented 4 options for potential drag performers for feedback from attendees – no majority preference for any act in particular
- Attendees were asked for their preference between hiring the room only without the bar for £100 or paying £200 for both the room and bar - discussion points raised were:
 - Having everything in one room gives people a safe space to be themselves and feel more comfortable in
 - Guests with mobility issues might find it difficult to try to reach the pub's main bar, which is down a corridor that's separated with 2 doors
 - The expectation that a bar should be open if the room's been hired for a function and that having a closed bar at a ticketed event would look unwelcoming
 - Unanimous agreement that preference was to have both the room and bar
 - Ideas and suggestions for potential raffle prizes:
 - Fiona said that The Beaumont Society is happy to donate £20 of raffle prizes
 - Alexa said that Book28 may be able to donate some books
 - Suggestion to ask Jamie if a photoshoot could be a potential 'top prize' again
 - Volunteers for promoting and helping at the event:
 - Dean and Nick offered to put up posters
 - Dean and Fiona offered to help on the door and with selling raffle tickets

Actions

- Jamie to confirm hire of the function room bar with The Birchwood.
- Riordan to contact all 4 performers about availability and cost.
- Amanda to provide volunteers with copies of posters.

5. LGBTQ+ History Month 2025 – 7:40pm to 8pm (20 minutes)

- Dean can offer a 1.5 hour workshop on Polari, including a teach-in about its history and delivering poems in the language - no cost to deliver, but may have a room hire cost
- Book28 have offered a 45-minute talk on the history of queer people in public libraries or a 2-hour poetry workshop - no cost to deliver, but may have a room hire cost

- Attendees liked the idea of arranging Book28's talk and Dean's workshop on the same day to create a full LGBTQ+ History Month celebration event
- General preference, if possible, is for Saturday 28 February, 2pm to 5pm, at The Nest either in the library or one of the community rooms
- Martin is planning Football vs Homophobia (FvH) with Sporting Club Thamesmead FC:
 - SCT FC's official FvH match is on Saturday 1 March; all members are invited to join
 - Martin will write the foreword of the match programme about his experiences - he invites LGBTQ+ Thamesmead to also contribute a piece to promote itself, and welcomes any further ideas for work with SCT FC to mark the FvH event

Actions

Amanda to confirm whether 28 February is feasible for both Book28 and either the library or the Community Properties Team, and to check whether there would be a hall hire cost.

Committee to draft a contribution to the SCT FC FvH match programme.

6. Open discussion of ideas and suggestions for LGBTQ+ Thamesmead throughout 2025 - 8pm to 8:25pm (25 minutes)

Fundraising ideas:

- Fiona explained that The Beaumont Society can offer funding of up to £500
- Riordan has been put in touch with Peabody's Economic Inclusion Lead, who's interested in potentially supporting the group to operate sustainably and explore different possible funding models

Ideas for promoting the group so that local LGBTQIA+ people find us:

- Alexa suggested having a stall at the Make Merry Plumstead Festival – last year, this cost £40 for the day

Other events and activities:

- Try to secure another LGBTQIA+ performance slot at Thamesmead Festival 2025
- Very strong desire for a Thamesmead Pride event in June – agreement to set up a sub-group for anyone interested in helping to plan, budget and organise this specific event

Potential evening drop-in:

- Riordan explained that many people have expressed a desire for an evening weekly drop-in as they're unable to attend the afternoon drop-in on Tuesdays

- A new evening drop-in would not replace the existing drop-in, which is now firmly established, well attended and successful, but be an additional one
- Mel suggested conducting a poll to gauge interest and learn which evening is the most popular option and, if there's interest, plan and run a 3 month trial
- Attendees confirmed that a General Meeting every 3 months is preferred

Actions

Amanda to create a poll gauging interest in an evening drop-in and share this on the Announcements Channel and other LGBT+ Thamesmead comms and social media.

Establish a working group formed of anyone who's interested in helping to organise a Thamesmead Pride 2025 event.

7. Any other business (AOB) - 8:25pm (5 minutes)

- Drag Quiz at The Abbey Arms on Thursday 30 January – Amanda will book a table
- The new LGBT+ Thamesmead website has a section for articles written by members about topics such as Trans Day of Visibility, Disability Pride Month and International Women's Day; anyone who'd like to contribute should contact Amanda
- Alexa's co-hosting a poetry workshop at Book28 from 4pm to 7pm on Friday 31 January - this is open to anyone who's interested and is free to attend

Next meeting dates

Committee Meeting: Monday 3 February 2025, 7pm (virtual)

General Meeting: TBC April 2025

Annual General Meeting: TBC (provisionally September or October 2025)