

PRISON SPONSORSHIP MINUTES SUNDAY 4 APRIL 2021

Present: Seamus sponsor liaison, Paul, chair Lucy treasurer, Nicola, Ellis, John postbag people, Darren S Welcome Pack
Apologies Jane (Main postbag co-ordinator), Eve (vice treasurer)

Positions vacant
Secretary (2 yr clean time)

Approval of last month's minutes done

Expenses:
£32.00 Darren - agreed to take to Craig at region until we get a stipend

Post person's report /see elsewhere

Questions for post: Shay pointed out those from the past 2 days were not last month's but this

Darren: can info pack on log be marked 'with letter'

Welcome Pack Person report/See elsewhere

No questions

Sponsor liaison report/See elsewhere
Seamus: 2 ratifications 1 was from questions sent the previous month

All female sponsor enquiries referred to distance sponsorship

Could region be reminded we need more M sponsors

Frustration at the slowness of responses from sponsors. Those highlighted red in the left hand column are those who are yet to reply. In the telephone column they are also highlighted red. Also sponsors are not informing us of change of address and only do so when chased up. Which happens when letters go missing.

Seamus congratulated on trying to get a response from over 100 addicts and doing an incredible job.

Problems with when the server crashed and didn't add one of the email addresses to the email server. Is now sorted.

Paul says if someone doesn't respond, there is a guideline to cull names on database after a given length of time. Discussion: annually? Conscience is after two years we anonymise the sponsee list. Problem: we get letters for sponsors who are no longer on our list. We need to keep records. People are serving life sentences. Nobody has been deleted or anonymised this year unless they asked to be (ie relapse). Seamus congratulated again for all he does.

Secretary's report. Not given. Which leads to:

We urgently need a secretary!!!

Treasurer report.

Lucy spoke with Craig from region who gave the figures from May20 - March 21, ie 10 months
Expenses average £282.18 monthly.

Lucy wanted some guidance on this - spoke to Barclays about community account. At the moment to do so, need a face to face appointment and so at the moment this is not possible. To keep checking website to see when this is possible. Lloyds not possible as Lucy cannot open an account with them.

Paul to speak to a previous treasurer to link with Lucy for guidance.

Lucy said Craig said until an account was opened he would deal with expenses. Until we get set up, region will cover our expenses

Seamus: TSB does a clubs and charities account, worth investigating. Would Lucy be keeping a spreadsheet even though Craig was dealing with the money, and issuing a monthly report? Lucy to start doing this for next month.

Paul: Natwest do one. Lucy to look into these banks as well.

Reminder: Community account with complex mandate Lucy, Eve and Paul as signatories

Chairperson's report

Paul went to Region, it was enjoyable. UK H&I: we formed a committee, Lucy was ratified. We are a fully stand alone ratified committee by the RCMs. RCMs have knocked guidelines back again. What do they want? Frustration at the picking over the words in the guidelines, how does this help carry the message? Has taken the offer of support. Will continue to change what needs changing and keep going. The clean times have to be aligned with regional bodies. Which keep changing. Had also been linking in with all the other reports. Have linked in different H&I's chairs (Devon and South Coast different chairs so they can link up)

Darren: no point in fighting guidelines. Clear direction of what they want changed, bring it back to this committee and we will go ahead. But we need clear guidelines. More clarity! Waiting a response

Any other business (2 items)

1. Seamus: Sponsor sponsoring someone of a different gender. Different sexual orientation. Has got literature to (M) sponsee. Ready to start step 1: how do you hear step 1 from someone in prison with the cost of phones? Also about to relocate from Jersey to Toronto.

History to this: we were contacted by her some time ago. Suggestion then was that we could sponsor him and offered our services.

Darren: remembers this from 2016

Seamus' reply: our guidelines are clear about sponsoring someone of the same gender/has she considered email a prisoner? She could scan literature and send it. Gave his number.

The prison are hoping to get NA in but are having some security discussions.

All we can do is share guidelines but not really interfere in something that might be working on its own terms, despite the obstacles.

She can still do whatever she wants to do. Has she missed the point of email a prisoner? Give her a bit more info to her.

Seamus to include our guidelines for her about how the correspondence should happen.

Paul: she needs more support? Add her to FB group

Gender ? Is he (?) identifying differently?

Darren M for M and F for F outside of our committee/ anyone can do what they want?

2. Ellis: proposal for prison sponsorship to make provision for sponsors from the trans, gender non-conforming and non-binary community in NA to represent transwomen, transmit, gender non-conforming and non-binary prisoners? (who may be in a prison that does not fit their gender identity)

Ellis: gender identity is self defining. People on the trans/gender non conforming/non binary spectrum may or may not disclose. Some trans people you may never know they are trans and for some members of the trans/gender non conforming/non binary (and intersex) community, disclosure is part of their journey. In both cases, it's about safety first of all.

Providing sponsor support is part of this safety.

Suggestions: as interested sponsors come forward, we trust them to guide us.

So we word something for the WhatsApp group and it's a call out then for trans and non binary sponsors to Region?

The questionnaire should say do you identify as m, f, T/I/NB/GNC/prefer not to say

Would you like a sponsor who is?

This was seconded by John and then voted on and it was passed.

Meeting closed.

Put it on the questionnaire - are you interested in a Trans

