

**Midlothian Peoples' Equality Group
Annual General Meeting
Thursday 21st May 2015
4.30 – 6.00
Dalkeith Arts Centre**



1. Present

Caroline Crozier, Sandy Florence (Chair), Jan Irvine, Nila Joshi, Evgenia Kochkina, David Ledner, George Maben, Fiona Wallace



2. In Attendance

Rona Duncan, Paul Johnson, Bryan Pottinger, Lynne Robson, Caroline Rodger, Christine Schaffer

3. Apologies

Ronnie Chisnal, Sandra Mason, Mizan Rahman, Ryan Sturrock, Anika Wycislik



4. Chair Person's Report

Sandy Florence gave thanks to Margaret Petrie who had supported the initial setting up of the group. Sandy also thanked Ronnie & Ryan for their contributions to the group, recognising that as a result of taking up employment opportunities it had more difficult for them to attend meetings during the previous year. The Chairperson also thanked CLD Worker, Paul Johnson for all his support and contribution to the work of MPEG during the past year.

The chairperson recognised the contribution to the work of MPEG by Councillor Bryan Pottinger, who had joined the group in April 2014 as the Elected Members Equalities Champion. The group had also been pleased to be joined in January 2015 by Erin Cuthbertson in her role as Equalities Engagement Officer.

MPEG has also welcomed the support from ELREC, Police Scotland, People First and Health in Mind.

5. Annual Report

Paul Johnson presented the Annual Report and briefly highlighted the achievement of individuals and the group as a whole. During the previous year, (2013-14), group members had undertaken research to examine the place of Migration in Midlothian. During the year 2014 – 15 the findings of this research was presented in an exhibition which

was displayed across the in libraries throughout the Midlothian area. Members of the group have received training in updating the MPEG website. It is important that members feel confident to keep the website up to date. It was acknowledged that minutes of recent meetings require to be uploaded.

Both Fiona and David have added contributions to the website recently. Fiona carried the Queen's baton for the Commonwealth Games and David told his story as part of the Human Library event held in February 2015. Caroline, Jan and George also participated in this event. David said that he had enjoyed taking part in the Human Library event. Fiona said that she is pleased to be able to show her friends and family about her achievement.

Black History month was held in October 2014. MPEG is grateful to Bryan Pottinger for driving this event forward and for the inputs from ELREC and Health in Mind in support.

6. Financial Report

The Annual Report will be sent to OSCR along with the completed Accounts. Ronnie was not able to attend today so Paul presented the accounts in his absence. The accounts have been signed by Ronnie in his role as Treasurer and Sandy as Chairperson. The accounts have been verified.

Expenditure for the year 204-2015 amounted to £66 – for hosting the domain name and a monthly fee for the Website. There has been no additional income. Erin had been working on funding bids but the outcome of these is unknown as yet.

The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Jan and seconded by George.

7. Nomination of Committee

Nominations for committee membership were accepted (see attached document). Those present at the meeting agreed that Office Bearers will be elected at the next meeting. Roles to be filled are *Chair Person, Vice Chair Person, Treasurer, and Secretary*.

This may provide an opportunity for members to take on new roles, developing their knowledge and expertise. Support will be provided for Committee members who wish to take up new positions on the Board.

8. A.O.C.B.

Fiona raised the attendance of Council officers at meetings and expressed concern about potential conflict of interests. It was agreed to give this further consideration and that there might be a step change towards no Council officers in attendance and the group being self sufficient.

Jan Highlighted the concerns, raised by other members that the current Nationwide deposit account made it awkward to carry out transactions. The proposal – to move the account from a deposit account to a cheque accounts was discussed and then, after a vote, was accepted by those present.

Paul will discuss the possibility of changing the type of account with the Nationwide. If unable to, then the account will need to be moved to a Bank where a cheque account can be used. Paul will keep the group informed.

On behalf of the group, Jan expressed support and sympathy for Erin during a time of personal difficulty.

9. Date & Time of Next Meeting

Paul informed the group that he will be on Annual Leave at the time of the next meeting in June. He will book Fairfield House, Conference Room 1. The group agreed to move the date to the second Thursday in June

- **11th June 2015**
- **4.30 – 6.00**
- **Fairfield House, DALKEITH**

Nominations for Committee:

Name	Nominated by:	Seconded by
Mags Bryan	<i>Withdrawn</i>	
Ronnie Chisnal	Fiona Wallace	Sandy Florence
Caroline Crozier	George Maben	Jan Irvine
Sandy Florence	Nila Joshi	Caroline Crozier
Jan Irvine	David Ledner	Nila Joshi
Nila Joshi	Sandy Florence	Jan Irvine
Evgenia Kochkina	Sandy Florence	Caroline Crozier
David Ledner	Jan Irvine	Evgenia Kochkina
George Maben	Evgenia Kochkina	Nila Joshi
Sandra Mason	Jan Irvine	George Maben
Ryan Sturrock	Sandy Florence	Evgenia Kochkina
Fiona Wallace	Caroline Crozier	David Ledner