

Dialogue For Diversity

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

13 April 2011 at 2.15 p.m.

At 211 Churchill Park, Portadown, Northern Ireland BT62 1EU

Present: Davy Byrne (Chair), Norma McConville.

In Attendance: Brendan MacPartlin, Frank Brady, Brian Lennon,

Apologies: Alan McGuckian, Terry Howard, Michael Bingham and Olive Hobson

In the absence of Alan McGuckian, Davy Byrne took the Chair.

1. **Minutes:** As this was the first AGM there were no minutes

2. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that the Group decided to seek charitable status at a meeting in Broovale Avenue, Belfast on 3 March 2010 and that Trust Deed was accepted by Inland Revenue on 13 May 2010.

Alan McGuckian, Tom Layden, Davy Byrne were the first Trustees.

Alan McGuckian was appointed Chair, Brian Lennon was appointed Secretary, and Brendan MacPartlin, Treasurer.

At the same meeting the group also appointed the following as members of the Management Committee:

- Brendan McPartlin
- Michael Bingham
- Olive Hobson
- Norma McConville
- Frank Brady
- Brian Lennon

The Treasurer was asked to open a bank account in the name of the Trust in the Bank of Ireland, Portadown and this was done. Brendan McPartlin, Michael Bingham and Brian Lennon, any one of the three having the power to sign cheques.

At a meeting on 20 May 2010 Norma McConville was appointed as an ordinary Trustee. Terry Howard was appointed a primary trustee on 4 November 2010.

The Chair congratulated the Management Committee on the considerable progress that had been made in implementing the objectives of the Trust during the year.

3. Treasurer's Report

The account of Dialogue for Diversity became active with a lodgement of £270.21 (a donation of €300) in September 2010. Similar lodgements of donations each month have met expenditure on rent, electricity and telephone of a similar magnitude leaving the account at a balance of £302.85 on 01.03.2011. This account was inspected and signed by accountant Denis McCourt. The meeting accepted this report.

Other finance matters

- It was agreed that the financial year should run from 1 April. Proposed Norma McConville, seconded Davy Byrne.
- Denis McCourt 5 Ashley Heights, Portadown, was proposed as the qualified person to approve accounts: proposed Norman McConville, seconded Alan McGuckian, passed unaimously.

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- Accounts for the financial year have, been approved by Denis McCourt. The accounts were accepted by the Trust: proposed Norma McConville, seconded Alan McGuckian.
- Brian Lennon will meet an invoice for £150 for Damian McCann for web design and invoice the group later.

The following is a breakdown of income and expenditure:

Dialogue For Diversity Financial Report

Period

01/01/11-
02/11/2011

Category Description

INFLOWS

Gift Received	7,183.99
Interest Inc	
Bank Interest	2.39
TOTAL Interest Inc	2.39
Other Income	4,250.00

TOTAL INFLOWS 11,436.38

OUTFLOWS

Bank Charge	45.59
Rent	1,800.10
Utilities	
Electricity	462.03
Telephone	335.98
TOTAL Utilities	798.01
Work Expense	863.55

TOTAL OUTFLOWS 3,507.25

OVERALL TOTAL 7,929.13

4. Legal status of the group

- Phil Nichols has recommended that we move from Charity status to a Charitable Company status. Brian Lennon was asked to bring proposals to develop this recommendation back to the Trustees.

5. Report of the Chair of the Management Committee

1. Aims

The aims of DFD are, from the focus of deprived people, to develop more respect and esteem for all groups in society, especially the marginalized, and to promote peace and the welfare of migrants and prisoners. The Trust also hopes to increase collaboration and synergy between the work of Jesuits in Portadown and Armagh.

2. What did we do?

2.1 Migrants

In the past year a new drop-in centre, Migrant Support Service, has been opened in the Mayfair Centre, Garvaghy Road, Portadown. 150 people are on record as having used the

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service, mostly but not exclusively, Portuguese speaking. Daniel Gouveia, a Portuguese national and Brendan Mac Partlin are working together on this. Abed A. Natur works alongside volunteering legal services. Ways of integrating people who volunteer services are being looked at. A need for assistance in learning English has been identified and ways to meet it are being considered.

3 Prisons

3.1 Prison Chaplaincy

- Chaplaincy work in the prisons continued with Michael Bingham working two days a week and Frank Brady one day a week in Maghaberry. Michael brought in a Polish and a Lithuanian priest to meet fellow nationals. He liaised with stakeholders to reduce conflict between the prison and segregated prisoners. He arranged a visit by the South Ulster Orchestra to Maghaberry prison in December 2010. He is giving the Exercises in Daily Life to a group of prisoners. With the Executive of the Northern Ireland Prisons Chaplains Association of which he is a member he made representations to the Northern Ireland Prison Service about mental health provision and met with Minister for Justice, David Ford, in February 2011 on this issue. The prison system as a whole remains seriously flawed. It would be good if DFD had the resources to address some of these weaknesses.

3.2 Community Chaplaincy

- Since October 2010 Frank Brady, Michael Bingham and Brian Lennon have been developing a Community Chaplaincy pilot project. This is based on similar projects in England. In October 2010 Frank Brady and Brian Lennon met with many of these in Birmingham.
- The DFD Management Committee appointed a management committee for the project: Pauline Campbell, Gerry Gribbon, Frank Mallon, and Frank Brady.
- Brian Lennon has been appointed Volunteer Coordinator.
- Four volunteers have been identified and we anticipate adding two more to this list. The project expects to go live in September 2011 with six mentees. The project will run for 6-12 months when it will be evaluated. If deemed worthwhile an attempt will be made to extend it to Northern Ireland as a whole.
- An Advisory Committee has also been appointed with representatives from many of the statutory bodies and NGOs involved in the sector: Rodney Cameron (Maghaberry chaplains), Sile McClean (NIACRO), Janette McKnight (Quakers), Robin Scott (Prison Fellowship), John Warren (Extern), Paul Bullick (Resettlement), Jackie Bates-Gaston (Psychology, Hydebank), Roisin Muldoon (Probation).

4. Peace Work

4.1 Dialogue

- Olive Hobson and Brian Lennon have continued their work on several fronts:

A. *Between Loyalist bandsmen and Republicans:*

- A residential was held for Loyalist bandsmen and Republicans
- A dialogue was held in which a Loyalist went to a Republican stronghold
- A third event took place in which a Republican went to a Loyalist group

B. *For people affected by the Troubles:*

- An 8 session process was given for a small group of people whose loved ones were killed in the conflict.
- A residential was run for with the same group.

C. *General good relations work:*

- A third residential was run for a mixed group of women on the theme of sectarianism. It turned out that some of the group wanted to avoid the theme while others wanted to engage.
- Feed back on the above events was positive.

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D. *Other dialogue*

- Frank Brady took part in two 'mixed identity' residentials and also assisted in residentials with Olive Hobson and Brian Lennon.

4.2 *Mediation*

- Michael Bingham and others met Bishop Donal McKeown with a view to developing a mediation service within the Churches and offering this in seminaries and to clergy
- He helped set up Portadown Interchurch Forum which has now been established.

4.3 *Prison dialogue*

- Olive Hobson, Brian Lennon and Frank Brady continued the bureaucratic work to have Magilligan Prison apply for a Lottery grant to run a diversity course in the prison. The Lottery seem keen. The current remaining block is getting the Prison to give their bank details on the application form.
- With Doug Baker and Fred Graham Michael Bingham gave a course on dealing with conflict to a group in the Pastoral Centre in Dundalk.

4.4 *Other dialogue*

- Olive Hobson and Brian Lennon have engaged in private dialogue with some other groups.

5. *Justice in the Church*

- Frank Brady represents the Armagh religious on the Diocesan Pastoral Commission, and Brian Lennon is on the Justice Commission.
- Frank Brady attended all the public meetings of Vatican Visitation of Armagh diocese, wrote notes on the meetings and circulated them to members of religious orders in the diocese. These have now been placed on the web site.

6. *Community Development work*

- Ongoing support was given to the Drumcree Centre, the Mayfair Business Project, and Drumcree Health House in Portadown and SPRING Trust in Armagh.

7. *Writing and reflection*

- Brian Lennon has completed a text of a book 'Can I stay in the Church?' related to the abuse crisis and is looking for a publisher. He commented on a number of draft articles and books for others on the similar themes. He wrote leaflets on sectarianism and on the Saville Report for Community Dialogue, and a piece on the Saville Report for the British Jesuit website: www.thinkingfaith.org.
- Frank Brady published a book as gaeilge on a pilgrimage he did to Walsingham.

8. *Education*

- We investigated a proposal for a new learning centre and decided against it. The key need is probably not for a new centre because there are many educational opportunities available but rather to help and facilitate people from economically disadvantaged areas who have difficulty accessing these, often because of poor personal confidence.
- Brendan MacPartlin, with help from Brian Lennon, ran a six session course on back to employment for a small group of men in Portadown.
- Brian Lennon looked into options for a boxing club in Armagh, as a lead into education but found no takers among young men.
- Brian Lennon ran a weekly discussion group for alcoholics in Armagh.

9. *Other*

- Placements for Jesuits Tertiaries and Novices: Frank Brady liaised with Paul Nicholson, Master of Novices, re a possible placement for Summer 2011. We came up with sufficient options for work and support but Paul decided not to take up the offer this year. He is interested in re-visiting the option next year.

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- Michael Bingham and Olive Hobson gave a workshop at an international conference on trauma and spirituality in March 2011.
- Tom Layden resigned as a Trustee on 15th November 2010, following a major appointment and change of location.
- Terry Howard was appointed a Primary Trustee at a meeting in Brookvale Road on 4 November 2010.

10. *Administrative*

- During this period a bank account was opened with the Bank of Ireland, Portadown
- The web site is now active: www.dialoguefordiversity.org
- The group is now recognised as a charity in the UK and is going through the process or registering with the new Northern Ireland Charities Commission.
- The group now has public, employers (including volunteers) and trustees liability insurance.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 4.30 p.m.