



# Exeter Queer Festival

## Meeting Minutes

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> September, Start: 1900 hrs, End: 2030 hrs
<b>Meeting Venue:</b>	Exeter Phoenix, Workshop room
<b>Attendees:</b>	Annie Bennet (AB), Annie Westbrook (AW), Catherine Dawson (CD), Christopher White (CW), Lewis Bell (LB), Martin Niebroj (MN), Tim Fairhead (TF), Wayne McGee (WM, Minute Taker)

### Agenda Items



Exeter Queer  
Festival Agenda.docx

Item No.	Item description	Owner	Action / Decisions
1.	<b>Welcome, Apologies and Introductions</b> Apologies received: Marina O'Shea (MOs) Rachel Bolt (RB), Roscoe Hastings (RH), Tanya Sprunks (TS), Willem Tapper (WT). Other: Kris Hewings (KH), Russel Back (RB)	AW, MN, WM	
2.	<b>Why are we here: Queer Festival</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Over the past 18 months, there have been discussions with various people about creating a festival to support the LGBTQ+ community.</li><li>The goal is to create a professional structure to support the community in a way beyond just social events. The festival should help promote the growth of the community over time.</li></ul>	AW, MN, WM	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The long-term plan is to raise the profiles of LGBTQ+ groups and events, and to make the community more visible and accepted.</li> <li>For the programme of work to cover arts, leisure, sports and advocacy.</li> </ul>		
3.	<b>Our open approach as a collective</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is important to create a work culture that is collaborative, equitable, and non-hierarchical (no scope for dominance control).</li> </ul>	AW, MN, WM	
4.	<b>Declaration of conflict of interests</b> Declarations of those in attendance - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AB is a committee member of Exeter Pride and a trustee at a state school.</li> <li>AW is a director of a Private Limited Company (PLC) who wishes to donate £5,000 to the charity, with no strings attached.</li> <li>CW is the founder of a Community Interest Company (CiC)</li> <li>LB is chair of chair of an LGBTQ+ football soccer club</li> <li>MN and TF are founders of a local LGBTQ+ night event</li> <li>WM is a director of a CiC and a dormant PLC</li> </ul>	AW, MN, WM	
5.	<b>Non-negotiables</b> All in agreement that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The organisation should be set-up with charitable status</li> <li>All involved should be subject to DBS check to protect children and vulnerable people</li> </ul>	AW, MN, WM	<b>Decisions:</b> Agreement on charitable status, and DBS checks
6. & 7.	<b>Review of the online PageTiger document and Open Discussion - <a href="https://www.pagetiger.com">Queer Festival Society - 1 (pagetiger.com)</a></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Governance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suggested Roles and responsibilities were highlighted.</li> <li>Charitable status and DBS check were discussed and agreed (see item 5).</li> <li>Basic tasks for setting up a charity were outlined.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	AW, MN, WM	

- **Aims and Values**

- The five core aims from the PageTiger link were discussed.
- Other suggestions included supporting young people, funding youth spaces, connecting people with community groups, leaving a legacy, getting people involved in queer culture, and offering resources for people with different abilities.

- **Vision**

- The word "queer" can be off-putting to community members, but championed by others.
- A hybrid structure was discussed as outlined in the PageTiger link.
- Events should be made affordable by offering free and inclusive events, as well as schemes such as pay it forward, low income rates, pay what you can, and concessions.
- Partnerships should be created with local venues, groups, and organisations.
- We should partner with Intercom to include students in participation discussions.
- The festival can differentiate itself from other community events by focusing on culture, offering opportunities, a holistic approach to wellbeing and health, measuring success beyond attendee numbers, and linking people to the community all year round.
- A program to be created that has pathways through sports, comedy, arts and advocacy.
- Funding can be sought from local businesses that do not already support similar charities and events. Alternative ways of raising revenue should also be explored.
- Under the hybrid model, programming other people's events is cost-effective and gives scope for growth, but we would need to establish the funds to put on our own events.
- The festival should be held centrally, using the quay, Belmont park, street performance spaces, Ludwell valley, and venues for sports, leisure, theatre, cinema, and arts.
- A license will need to be applied for, for street performance and park spaces such as High Street, Ludwell and Belmont. We can then programme these spaces at low costs.
- An exhibition of some sort could be put on, and information points and volunteers will be strategically located around the city.
- Programming big names would allow us to work with hotels in reducing rates.

- **Dates and Timelines**

- July and August are not ideal months because of clashes with other established events that attract similar audiences. Theatre venues are also in shut-down.
- Agreement that the festival will be held in mid-September.

**Decisions:**  
Festival to be held  
in mid-September

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ School, college, and university students will be back in session. People will not be occupied with other events and will be back into routine after the summer months.</li> <li>○ September is freshers' week and is the start of a theatre season, which gives extra time for programming.</li> <li>○ The festival can be promoted throughout the summer at prides and festivals.</li> <li>○ A timeline needs to be created working backwards from September. See PageTiger for an example of a timeline.</li> <li>○ Local venues and organisations need to be quickly communicated with to get them onboard.</li> </ul>		
8.	<b>Review Actions and Next Steps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time to be given to be people for reflection.</li> <li>• Questionnaire / email to be sent out to group to gather people's thoughts post-this meeting and to gage availability and preferences for next meeting.</li> </ul>	All	<b>Action:</b> Questionnaire and email to be sent to gather thoughts and meeting availability
9.	<b>AOB</b> None discussed	AW, MN, WM	

### Summary of Decisions

- Agreement on charitable status, and DBS checks
- Festival to be held in mid-September

### Summary of Actions

- Questionnaire and email to be sent to gather thoughts and meeting availability

**Next meeting date:** (TBC) - XX<sup>XX</sup> September 2023, at XXXX hrs