

Amnesty Sheffield City AGM
13th February 2019
Central URC Norfolk Street, Sheffield

1. Welcome

Present: Chris Webster (chair), Alex Jagger (treasurer),
+ 12 other members

Minutes: Peter Champion

Apologies: Amy Graham (secretary) (absent on holiday),

AGM

2. Chair's Report

Chris Webster (current chair) presented activities for the past year, and was thanked by the meeting.

3. Treasurer's Report

Alex Jagger (current treasurer) presented the financial report of the Sheffield A.I. Group

In 2018 we had a small (£36) surplus, compared to previous years (£689 in 2017 and £427 in 2016)

Our donations at stalls are significantly down on previous years. Membership subscriptions lower in 2018 than in 2017/2016 due to overpayment in those years

Street collections impaired by new rules by Council – we would need to send money to AIUK rather than keep it for the group. Mugen tea room had a book shelf from whence we sold books the team room has now closed. Call for suggestions of a new venue to host our book shelf

Central United Reformed Church hosts our meetings (and is significantly cheaper than the Quaker Meeting House)

Pride charged a lot for stall (£75) which may reduce as a new committee has recently been appointed.

Accounts accepted unanimously.

Question re expenses – for National AGM group can pay for someone to attend, on the proviso they cast the group's votes on resolutions – as well as determining how the group wishes to vote by democratic means

Alex estimated small deficit of around £200 for 2019

As the group has substantial reserves (around £2000) in its account Alex proposed donating £250 to Amnesty International UK Section. Vicky proposed increase to £400. Martin seconded, suggested second instalment in September 2019. Vote agreed to increase to £400.

4. Election of Officers

Vicky Seddon chaired this part.

a) Election of Chair – Chris Webster nominated by Julia and seconded by Robin. Chris was the sole nominee: declared duly elected Chair of Sheffield Group.

b) Election of Secretary – Amy Graham, nominated by Chris, seconded by Alex, There were no other nominees, and Amy was duly elected Secretary of Sheffield A.I. Group in her absence.

c) Election of treasurer – Alex Jagger was nominated by Robin, seconded by Chris. There being no other nominees, Alex was duly elected Treasurer of the Sheffield A.I. Group.

5. Other Roles

a) Letter writing coordinator – the details of the post were listed in the tabled agenda, and included: booking venues for monthly letter writing meetings, collecting letters, identifying subjects, from

A.I. centrally, or elsewhere, obtain expenses from treasurer, post letters.

Chris said he would continue to do this role, but on the understanding that he would hand it over during the year.

During a discussion, it was agreed to try to move venue around with a view to increasing attendance. Pubs free, Sanctuary House costs £25/hr but is slightly more central. Also mentioned were the Turkish Cultural Centre, and Costa Coffee. Peter volunteered to be a deputy to Chris.

b) Event subcommittee members; Julia and Raven volunteered to help fill this role. The Events sub-committee is chaired by one of the events sub-committee organisers, and includes the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer of the Group, together with any others who may be co-opted.

c) Social Media co-ordinator (=Facebook/Twitter) Raven will take this on

d) Press officer. Works with AI Regional Media Support Officer. Alex met someone who is interested in writing press releases for the group.

e) Faith Links Robin leads, Manju and Peter offered to help with contacts in the C of E. Alex will send all three an email to allow them to better coordinate

f) Country File Holders: at present Robin specialises in West Africa and Central Africa. Jonathan Former Soviet Union and Cuba.

6. Strategy

Alex presented the fruits of a recent sub-committee meeting, seeking to have a more outcome-based approach to campaigning, which we can review in 2020. The campaign focus will be "I Welcome"

The suggested targeted outcomes are

a) Ai Wei Wei's Human Rights Flag (<https://flytheflag.org.uk/>) to be flown from Sheffield Town Hall during the week of 24th-30th June

b) Council to make POSITIVE STATEMENT about Refugees

c) One of Sheffield Wednesday or Sheffield United to be involved with Amnesty's Football Welcomes campaign (<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/football-welcomes-2018>)

d) The completion of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights read by Sheffield celebrities video

In addition, we also to have stall at the following events

- Death Penalty Film Showings at the Showroom (April)
- Peace in the Park (June)
- Festival of Debate (June)
- Sheffield Pride (July)
- Lowedges Festival (August)
- Peace and Craft Fair (November)
- Human Rights Day (December)

7. AOB

The schools link was discussed, and remains a potential area of activity.