

MINUTES

GBA COMMITTEE MEETING –7th October 2019

GLASGOW SHERIFF COURT - COMMON ROOM 5.45pm

SEDERUNT

Ron MacKenna, Andrew Stevenson, William Lavelle, Lorna McCann, Katy Wilson, Lindsay Gaughan, Craig Dewar, Des Ziolo, Fiona McKinnon, Scott Adair, Alison Herron, Michael Gallen, Tracey Mulholland, Eddie Gilroy; Moira Deeney

APOLOGIES

Emma Crilley, David Fiskien, Jim Bauld

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Approved

TREASURER'S REPORT

In Credit

PRESIDENTS REPORT/CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

MEMBERSHIP

Moira Deeney advising membership remains at 450 and that there has been no update in relation to the corporate membership drive- However the committee feel it is an avenue to explore and as such shall endeavour to attract Corporate members

ANNUAL DINNER

Committee discussing the excellent feedback from members and those whom attended. Special thanks noted to the "dinner sub-committee" and Ron Mackenna whom worked extremely hard to obtain all the raffle/prizes and the smooth running of the evening. The committee wishes to express its gratitude to Aileen and Moira for their hard work in having another successful dinner especially given that it was the 60th anniversary dinner. Further, the Committee wishes to express its gratitude to Gordon Jackson QC and Donald Findlay QC for volunteering to conduct the auction .

YORK STREET

Andrew Stevenson advising that this is an issue to be monitored – no further update following the letter last month from the SP.

ISSUE WITH BARLINNIE

DZ and other committee members advising that there appears to be- at this stage- an improvement of sorts within the waiting area. No concerns raised this month from members regarding experiencing difficulties in lengthy waiting times etc. This is an issue that members are encouraged to keep the committee informed of as it is important that we alert Barlinnie if the situation starts to go back to an unsatisfactory way. MD will again contact the visits manager to ascertain whether the visits area will move to an 8am opening.

SOCIAL IDEAS

Tracey Mulholland & Lindsay Gaughan advising that they are exploring a number of events and in when these come to fruition, posters and emails will be distributed to membership.

CPD

Moira Deeney providing an update to the committee regarding the residential weekend at the Colessio Hotel in Stirling. This has been raised before and there were issues from those whom attended the weekend regarding the food on offer. Moira Deeney advising that she has explored further venues and there after discussing the types of venues and cost/facilities that can be offered.

MATTERS REQUIRING SPECIAL ATTENTION

Ron MacKenna advising the committee that a formal complaint has been submitted to GEOAmev regarding waiting times to enter the cells. Moira Deeney advising at the last custody court meeting GEOAmev advised that rooms behind court 2 and 3 are available for solicitors to see their clients however the feedback from the members was that it is simply not the case- given that the two backrooms within the cell area are not available for members a lot of the time because of the shortage of GEOAmev staff. Other issues will be raised at the custody court meeting on 22nd October. Clearly the main issue and problem is the loss of the Duty Solicitor Room next to “Evans Room”. That means the Duty Solicitor, especially on a Monday, is taking one of the three principal consultation rooms.

ENTRY TO SHERIFF COURT

Passes – it would not have been lost with members that a new regime regarding the showing of passes has quickly come into force in recent times. This has resulted because of a complaint from a solicitor whom was asked to show her pass by a member of security staff at the front door. Accordingly, the Sheriff Principal and the Estates have advised that any person entering the building and not going through the security screening process, must show their pass.

MEMBER’S PROBLEM WITH DISCLOSURE

A member has brought to the committee's attention ongoing issues surrounding email disclosure by the PF Office. A number of issues have arisen recently by the expiry of certificates and the changing of the binders used by COPFS. Members are encouraged to check their settings upon their computers and ensure that disclosure is not going into their Junk Email. The renewal of certificates is one of their essential parts of ensuring the disclosure by the COPFS. Members are encouraged to contact the COPFS Technical Help Team in this regard as many of the committee members have advised they are extremely helpful in diagnosing the issue.

CURRENT CONSULTATIONS FOR INFORMATION AND CONSIDERATION

CALL FOR EVIDENCE FACIAL RECOGNITION

Ron MacKenna and David Fisker to explore a response in this regard. Ron MacKenna making an impassioned plea about the importance of this issue and undertaking to prepare a robust response.

Next meeting –4th November 2019 at 5.45pm