

Minutes of a Meeting to Discuss the Formation of the Scottish Hypnotherapy Foundation held at Mannerston Holdings on Saturday 26th June 2010

Present:

John Lawrence, Jo Goss, Rae Jenson, Liz McConnell, Susanne McMahon, Tam Munro

Apologies:

Tom Cottrell, Gordon Kerr, Lynnzie Stirling, Kay Strang

The meeting commenced at 2.15pm.

Item 1. Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Saturday 15th May 2010 were accepted as a true record.

Item 2. Ongoing Actions.

a. Draft constitution

Discussion and ratification of the draft Constitution were deferred until the next meeting.

b. Bank account – update

Jo reported that the application for a Community Directplus account with the Co-operative Bank had been submitted together with members' donations totalling £500. The Bank had requested further documents from the named account signatories, and these would be submitted to the Bank immediately. Should our application then be accepted it was anticipated that we would receive confirmation within two weeks.

Jo had attended a course on accounting procedures for charity organisations. This highlighted the need for an accounting procedures policy. Jo agreed to prepare a draft policy and circulate it to all prior to the next meeting.

Action:

Jo to prepare a draft accounting procedures policy for discussion at the next meeting.

c. Yellow Pages

Jo had contacted Yell's Corporate Trading Department to enquire about the provision of a Corporate Box for the SHF in which members could advertise at a subsidised rate. Such a facility is only available to organisations with a minimum membership of 300. However, once we met this requirement we could apply for this form of corporate advertising. Yell would then design a template for us, to include our logo, address, website etc, and would help us publicise the facility to our members. The cost of this would be covered by members' fees, and there would be no charge to the SHF itself.

It was agreed that the requirement for Corporate Advertising would be readdressed once the SHF met the minimum membership requirements.

d. Conference venues

Liz had investigated the cost of selected conference venues. The estimated charge for a 2-day conference, including overnight accommodation, in venues such as hydros and dedicated Conference Centres was quite high at £300.

There was some discussion concerning whether we should hold a 2-day Conference, as discussed at the Meeting of 15th May 10 (Items 2(b)ii and 2(b)iii of the Minutes refer) or whether it would be preferable to hold a 1-day Conference. It was noted that accommodation was still likely to be required for some members if we held a 1-day Conference.

It was noted that, with 2-day conferences, there was a tendency for people to leave early on the second day. However, should we hold a 1-day Conference it might still be beneficial to hold a dinner in the evening. Not only would this allow for socialising and networking, but also it would encourage members to remain for the AGM.

An estimated daily cost for a one-day conference, excluding accommodation, would be £32 per head. This would include the provision of breakfast rolls, coffee and tea both in the morning and during the afternoon, and lunch. Should we wish to include dinner this would incur a further charge of approximately £20 per head. Accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis would be in the region of £32 per head.

It was suggested that our first event should take the form of a Launch Day, which would be open to all. This could be either a half day or a full day, and refreshments would be provided. This event should be held early in 2011, with a proposed date of 1st April. The main aims of this would be to promote the SHF and recruit members. A full-length Conference, to include an AGM, would be held within 13 months of the organisation's establishment.

It was agreed that one method of publicising the Launch and the SHF in general, was to target members of both the NCH and the HA.

Whilst there was no need for solid bookings in advance for the Launch Day, it would be necessary to encourage these for Annual Conferences to avoid incurring cancellation fees in the event that the Conference had to be cancelled owing to lack of numbers. Most conference venues have a cut-off date for cancellations, after which such fees would be incurred. However, provision should be made for last-minute applications and for the possibility of people turning up on the day on the off-chance. (*Minute Secretary's note: It was agreed at the Meeting of 15th May 2010 that Early Bird Discounts would be offered to encourage early bookings. Item 2(b)iii of the Minutes refers.*)

It was agreed that the interim page 1 of the web site should go live by January 2011 in order to give publicity to the SHF prior to its launch in April.

Action:

Rae to complete the interim home page of the SHF in liaison with the appointed web site technician and to go live by January 2011.

e. Sources of training and mediation

Discussion was deferred for a further meeting.

f. Salisbury Centre

Discussion was deferred for a further meeting.

Item 3. Any Other Business.

a. Social Enterprise

It was noted that in the current climate people were generally more interested in funding Social Enterprise projects than in giving grants to charities, and John proposed that the main focus for the SHF should be to become involved in such projects. It was considered that a particularly worthwhile project for the SHF in the first instance would be to provide therapeutic services at a subsidised rate for carers, for whom the psychological toll was particularly high.

John further proposed that we could offer our services to Carers UK (www.carersuk.org). The aim of this organization is to fight for equality for carers. They want carers to have the same right as everyone else to an ordinary life, including a fair level of income and access to support to protect their health and wellbeing. The provision of subsidised therapies would be very much in keeping with this. One advantage of teaming up with this organisation would be that the selection of beneficiaries would be external and thorough, and that there would therefore be no danger of individual therapists being given preferential treatment in the allocation of clients.

It was agreed that as soon as we were in a position to do so we would contact Carers UK to offer our services.

b. Voluntary Self Regulation (VSR)

John provided an update on the progress towards VSR. It was apparent that there was some dissension amongst certain organisations involved in the process, and three organisations, the NCH, the GHR and the Hypnotherapy Society were holding discussions to decide whether they wished to accept the proposals. It was noted that, should these organisations decide to dissociate from VSR, UKCHO would still be able to go ahead with the process. As the name implies, regulation is not mandatory but voluntary.

It was noted that Prudential Health will only send clients to an UKCHO-registered hypnotherapist.

A stumbling block appears to be that those subscribing to VSR would be required to be regulated by the Complementary and Natural Healthcare Council (CNHC) and to adhere to the Code of Conduct, Performance and Ethics of that organisation. Part of the problem was that certain training schools would be required to alter their practices to comply with this Code. However, as John pointed out, the CNHC is about therapists, not training schools.

John further advised that the Department of Health only recognises the CNHC as a regulating body, and it was likely that the Scottish Parliament would follow suit. Furthermore, the EEC has indicated

that it will also recognise CNHC as a regulating body. Therefore those who were not registered with the CNHC would be at a distinct disadvantage.

If for any reason the English based hypnotherapy community (and therefore by default the national hypnotherapy community) reject VSR it need not be the end of the road. There still might be a case given the separate and distinct devolved health service for the Scottish based hypnotherapy community to seek mandate from the Scottish based therapists. This could be achieved via a majority wish for VSR from our 300+ based therapists registered on the joint UKCHO/Working Group register. If met we could apply separately for CNHC registration.

(Minute Secretary's note: It appears that, at the meeting between the NCH, GHR and the Hypnotherapy Society, the majority voted in favour of supporting VSR. An email to this effect has been forwarded to all members of the SHF Working Group).

c. Committee appointment

The following Committee post was proposed and approved:

<u>Position:</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposed by:</u>	<u>Seconded by:</u>
Company Secretary	Thomas Munro	John Lawrence	Rae Jenson

Item 4. Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting will be held at Mannerston Holdings from 2-4pm on Saturday 28th August 2010.

The meeting closed at 4.30 pm.