

Minutes - Common Place general meeting Thursday Jan 17th

1) Go round/introductions

2) Requests:

TIDAL (Trade Injustice Debt Action Leeds), a group bringing together and working with trade injustice groups in the area, would like to have a monthly meeting, probably the third Tuesday at 6pm. No problem.

International Workers of the World (an international union run by its members) would like to put a A3 poster and small display up. No problem.

3) Bookings for the next three weeks announced.

4) Other things

Lights - a kitchen light is missing, Amanda to sort it. Outside light isn't working, Emlyn to have a look.

Broken windows - in cafe, Dave and Jess to cover with perspex on the outside. On 2nd floor - Andy to board up.

Finances - very low with accumulating debts (to individuals for beer and Climate Camp). We can't pay the rent this month. There's very little beer.

Discussions and solutions/ideas:

When we run at full capacity in terms of licensed events, we just about break even.

Discussions on borrowing from individuals, Newcastle social centre fund etc. - but this doesn't help our debt problem, just adds to it. Should there be an upper limit on debt accumulation? Then call an emergency meeting when this limit is reached. No limit decided, finance collective will bring a proposal to next meeting.

Membership - problems accessing membership box recently. To send out yearly e-mail to everyone who has ever been a member, including info on cash problems.

Fill in blanks in Fri/Sat nights with socials - bookings to keep an eye on this but anyone can spot a gap and offer to put on a social, e-mail cpbookings@yahoo.co.uk to book it in.

We currently get £300 in standing orders, this could be increased to enough to pay the rent if we make a big push to increase standing orders.

There is a 3rd birthday fundraiser on Feb 23rd - help needed please contact Tash.

Amanda to send out an e-mail far and wide asking for financial help - donations, standing orders, people to put on fundraisers, come and have fun and spend your money at events!

User groups who are funded to be asked to donate and/or apply for funding for 'venue hire'.

Amanda and Catherine to look into one-off grant funding. Concerns raised over more long-term

grant funding and this compromising a grassroots place.

Tash to ask people from the 'radical scene' who have cash for donations - idea of 20 people giving £50.

Put bar prices up? Objection raised. Organic spirits should be sold for £1.50.

What happened to fundraisers promised by those present when the theft happened? One is helping Mark do sound at a folk night. Bookings heard nothing. Fundraisers don't have to happen at The Common Place. Paul, Jess and Mark to talk to them.

There have been very popular bands/performers who have brought in loads of cash, possibility of more of these? People to look into.

Final thoughts that we need to be careful with our timing when asking for cash from people.

Everyone to keep their thoughts on the financial situation.

Beer - not much left, Manifesta will buy beer for Suck My Left One and take the money back at the end of the night. Finance collective asked people to make sure they put receipts in the book (in the beer lockup). Bar policy to be finalised after meeting then circulated.

Chill out space event - people from Radical Mental Health group would like to put on a night with nice lighting, fabrics, incense, singing etc. To talk to bookings collective.

New door/guttering - Nat to put in a quote for the work, Andy to chase up. Tash to help Nat with new door construction.

Heater - landlord will pay for service, we need to get someone to do it. Chris and Catherine to get quotes. Catherine to acquire carbon monoxide thing.

Banner - Grassroots have asked for a Common Place banner for their Feb 1st night, be good to have one to put lots of different places. Catherine and Amanda to make one.

Oblong fundraiser - possibility of Common Place being involved and benefiting. Catherine and Amanda to discuss with Oblong people.

First floor access - we have said we'll allow access from Feb 1st for landlord to do work. One room is clear, one full of rubbish mainly but landlord may not need access to that room. If you have anything useful on the first floor would be best to move it to the second floor. Jess and Mark to move computers.

Free shop - some stuff was bagged up then the bags were emptied again! Need to book in a date for a free shop scavenge/bag up. Maybe on a Sunday. Tash to have a look.