

Folk Camps Society Limited
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Wing Village Hall
21st November 2009

The Chairman, Paul Weir, began with a slide show, introducing the contractors, the Council to be for 2010 and showing slides on camp costs breakdown. There were also slides introducing the sites for 2010

The AGM was declared open at 14:53

Present: X Governing Members; X Associate Members; Apologies received from 29 members

Minutes of last meeting: Approved: Proposed Malcolm Bright, 2nd Cecil French passed nem con

Matters arising: None

Tellers for a ballot: No tellers required for ballot as no resolutions and no elections for Council

New members Sally Clayden & Laura Parrack were welcomed onto The Council of Management together with Regine de Frettes, reappointed for a further term.

Adoption of report & accounts: No questions. Adopted proposed Jason Rosser , Seconded Stuart Beattie.

Under this heading discussed suing A1 Loo Hire. Mick Green spoke of the situation & progress with solicitors against A1. Some discussion took place regarding future toilet hire. Mick Green stated Council's intention to continually review suppliers to get best supplier at best price. Paul Weir asked the meeting if people generally would prefer Council to go for quality rather than price (not just toilets, but everything) and the answer was 'yes'. Brian Bull explained about Folk Camps requirements i.e. only 1 type of toilet is suitable for our purposes, like the ones supplied by Portaloo to Woolserly. Helen Self suggested we should stay with Portaloo, Jaqueline Finn praised Council for trying to get best deal and for sorting out the problem with A1 Loos. Jason Rosser said Council had done best possible with problem and that he's happy Council is doing their best to get suitable equipment and A1 was just a bad experience we should move on from. Council will continually review loo hire arrangements to make sure the Society is getting the most suitable equipment at the best price.

Bob Carter asked if Council had considered buying a portaloos unit. Paul Weir said 'no' as storage is an issue, but talked about Council's consideration of a marquee purchase, currently rejected, and the possibility of buying a field which may solve the storage issue in the future.

Mick Green apologised on behalf of Council for the situation with the toilets this year.

Council were asked if they had ever considered eventing type sites / county showgrounds which already have toilets etc.. Paul Weir said Council were happy to consider any suggestions from campers but we wish to consider the beauty of the site first and infrastructure second.

Appointment of James de Frias as auditors: Regine DeFrettes commented on excellent performance of accountants, allowing us to move AGM forward to November.

Andy Malleson gave thanks to Mic Spenceley for obviously doing a good job of the books to help the auditors to be quick preparing accounts.

Mic Spenceley told attendees Folk Camps now runs almost a paperless office and all booking forms etc.. are scanned and then shredded. Data is all backed up locally but also at a remote backup service.

Appointment of auditors proposed by Andy Malleson, seconded by Cecil French and passed nem con

Appointment of members of development fund committee: Mic Spenceley spoke. Listed current members and asked for any volunteers to join. No meetings are involved. It's all done via emails. The Committee only has to respond when applications are made for funding. The current members are happy to continue but Barry Pollard did encourage anyone else to join if they want a bit of experience / involvement.

Resolutions in Advance: Paul Weir proposed thanks to the Society's contractors, members of Council and volunteers working on sub-committees.

Paul Weir also thanked John & Faith Kemp for kitchen and all the volunteers staffing camps.

Jason Rosser proposed special thanks to Don Thompson for his work in difficult conditions on the first 2 weeks at Woolsery.

Any other business:

Pamela Humphreys said she was interested in the cost breakdown graphs shown by Paul Weir before the meeting. She had never realised breakdown of costs of marquee sites and asked if there was a comparable chart of costs for hall camps. She said she preferred hall camps as they are situated amongst inhabited areas, showcasing what we do, whereas she perceives marquees as more isolated. She asked why there was no busking this year. Paul Weir explained that the choice of activities is down to individual staff. Emily Malleson explained why people like marquees as they have a different feel, can be in more appealing surroundings and are safe and pleasant for children, amongst other things. Paul Weir will publish the hall camp cost breakdowns in the next edition of Extent.

Stuart Beattie asked if it was necessary to make the members only website more secure e.g. with password protection. Council said they thought not as there is nothing confidential on there. Mic Spenceley pointed out that Folk Camps is a very open society and has nothing to hide from its members or the general public.

Heather Tracey thanked Paul Weir for showing the breakdown and said it would be good to see it again next year for both hall and marquee sites.

The additional kitchen marquee facility at Breinton hall camp was discussed. The first gazebo supplied was unsuitable and members and Council want to ensure similar is not used again. Council's intention is to make sure a suitable heavy-duty tent is always used in future.

Jason Rosser suggested we talk to the Scout Association as they often sell off items at reasonable prices and may have cooking tents for sale. They can also hire out marquees and may be able to help with shower tents. Mick Green will speak to them.

The need for two ovens on 100+ person hall camps was raised. Sue Malleson confirmed Council had made Barry Moule aware of that.

Helen Self proposed thanks to all involved with the food at Woolsery this year.

In response to a question from Pamela Humphreys about longer hall camps Brian Bull informed members that it's more difficult to hire a hall for more than 2 weeks as they have other events to cater for. It's easier to hire a field for longer periods so we can run marquee camps for 4 weeks.

Jaqueline Beattie acknowledged the turn around in the state of the Society's finances and bookings since 5 years earlier when the dropping of marquee sites had been proposed.

Mic Spenceley pointed out that all of the Society's camps are currently subsidised by the summer camps, and that all the weekend camps make a loss. He encouraged all to come to more weekend camps.

The meeting closed at 16:06.