

Folk Camps Society Limited
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held at Toddington Village Hall, Toddington on 19 November 2016

The AGM was declared open at 14:37 by Patrick Self in the chair.

1. Present: 38 Governing Members and 4 Associate members, 6 members of Council
Apologies were received from 32 Governing Members and two Council Members.

2. Minutes of last meeting AGM: The minutes of the 2015 AGM were discussed, Stuart Beattie proposed and Regine de Frettes seconded acceptance of the AGM minutes and members voted their approval.

3. Matters arising: There were none.

4. Tellers for a ballot: Tellers were not required as there was no election and no members' resolutions.

5. Election of New Council members: The following members finished their allowed terms on Council: Anne Kenyon and Patrick Self. The following member had stood down from Council during 2016: Susan James. The following member was re-appointed to serve on Council for 2016-2017: Lou Tribus. Two members who were co-opted in 2015-16 were elected to serve on Council for 2016-17: Marcus de Frettes and Tony Mealings. Three new members were elected to serve on Council for 2016-17: Val Coleman-Porrirt, Emma Daniel, and Barry Pollard. Council now up to strength with 9 members. The chair advised that Council were confident that although there were relationships between new Council members and contractors, this was not in conflict with the rules, and that Council would manage issues around potential conflicts of interest as they arose.

Ray Garnett proposed a vote of thanks for those Council members who were retiring, which was agreed enthusiastically by members

6. Adoption of report & accounts:

Adoption of the 2015-2016 accounts was proposed by Sue Malleson and seconded by Jacqueline Beattie and carried unanimously. Sue also thanked Council and Contractors for doing a good job in keeping the finances on an even keel.

7. Appointment of James de Frias as accountants:

Reappointment of James de Frias as Accountants was proposed under AOB by Barry Pollard (in honour of Cecil French), seconded by Brian Pollard and carried unanimously.

8. Resolutions in Advance: There were none.

9. Presentation of Promote Bursary Project – Viv Baker

Viv played her presentation – a collection of sound clips and images with natural lighting inspired by Folk Camp. Her intention was to highlight different aspects of the experience not already covered by the video from 2015. She explained that the source material was now available to be part of a sound and image bank which offered the potential to create sets of images and sound clips to create little cameos of Folk Camps experiences, including drawings and paintings as well as film.

Patrick invited volunteers to come forward to progress these opportunities. Viv also mentioned that the presentation includes a sound clip of Bill Rutter's son Julian making an emotional speech at the Roch camp, which was near his home.

Other forthcoming projects to be supported by the Development Fund were discussed:

Sue Malleson has some Playford Morris and folk songs arrangements for descant recorders arranged by her dad, and she proposes to digitise these and make them available for others via the website with the aid of a Dev Fund grant.

Tony Mealings advised of a joint project between Keith Gregson and John New to make recordings and transcripts of John's compositions for wider circulation and enjoyment.

10. Any other business:

- The Chairman, Patrick Self, ran through a slide show, firstly recent initiatives: the purchase of new items including cookers to replace the very old ranges, kitchen shelving, fridges, and individual shower tents as used at Roch. He advised that the marquee camp shower tents will be replaced by individual ones next season, this is partly due to their age and partly their weight and bulk.
- The 2016 season was discussed. Jacqueline Beattie praised the quality of the toilet ramp at Rhayader, and a discussion followed about toilet provision, Sarah Richardson highlighted that toilets represent a significant proportion of the costs of marquee camp. Patrick discussed the challenges of the Roch camp, advising that we had been told the building work would be completed by the time of the camp, but that Steve and Graham rose to the challenge to make the camp safe and manageable.
- Successes of the season included the fine work of new staff, and work on welcoming new campers. Lou Tribus talked about the new campers' tea and recommended it become a fixture. Sunday afternoon tea helps to

introduce new campers at a relaxed pace with cakes. Lou suggested a loose definition of "new" for invitations.

- Folk Campers are generally happy, this year's comments are largely positive.
- In 2017 we have three new locations and will run the Miserden In-betweener again – between Session and Singers South. Steve Porritt described the format and recommended it to members as a relaxing break. Patrick discussed Orcop, the hall venue, a beautiful area, a rather homely village hall with a huge field, and Gaunts the marquee camp, which at present has a choice of two fields to choose. Sarah requested that members don't contact the Gaunts' Estate which is a separate concern to do with the main house. For August Bank Holiday we will be going to the Meon Hall, a big hall in Hampshire, quiet, lovely area and big field, with showers and toilets which can be accessible overnight.
 - Helen Self asked if there were problems with Kington Langley but Patrick advised that we were looking to develop a relationship with Meon Hall, as it might be a suitable summer camp venue if we make a good impression.
- Patrick introduced the change to booking conditions for summer camps this season, explaining that Council had increased the pay before date to two months in order to help manage waiting lists and increase uptake of places. Marigold Gorick commented that the change disadvantaged those with casual contracts in education, but Patrick responded that the change aligned us better with other holiday supplier arrangements.
- Liz Cooper discussed the recent advice of a Health & Safety advisor. We have made considerable progress on this in the last few years. The advisor was interested in the fact that we own no land or property and said that this makes things much easier for us in terms of obstacles to overcome. This is another factor in the field feasibility project closure. Council have an 8 year H&S plan to progress, documentation needs to be updated, particularly management checklists.
* STET - should be 5
- What could members do? Tony showed samples of the "Ask me about Folk Camps2 badges and hoodies, and explained that Council wish to target marketing in a more focussed way on those already doing folk activities. He said we are looking at a trickle of new recruits rather than a deluge, and that the intention is to focus on those with a degree of commitment to the folk world. Tony covered the summer promotion, that had provided materials for people to take to festivals, clubs etc to start conversations. He explained that the promotion was done in a rush, and

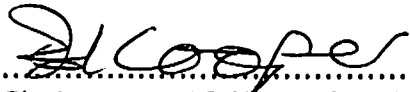
that only one size and colour of hoodies had been specified, with the badges worn at the same time. The reward system devised had been a bit complex. After review, the promotion has been changed to use the current Introduce a Friend system. Anyone interested in promotion with the current materials, please contact Marcus and advise what is planned. Introduce a Friend is an effective option, last year two people earned over £100 in credit.

- How do we communicate with potential recruits? We need members help, our best methods are word of mouth and press releases or editorials for magazines and websites. Please get in touch with the marketing group with suggestions.
- Facebook presentation. Lou gave an extensive presentation about Folk Camps current and planned use of Facebook as a marketing & publicity tool, and the development of Facebook groups for staff to share information and best practice. Suggestions included: a joint staffing group (Will Riding, agreed to contribute to development); concern about privacy when posting & sharing to groups (Viv Baker / Jenny Newman) & need for moderation; privacy of people in sensitive jobs (Simon Hopper); guidelines for posting and interaction (Helen Self); request that paper process not overlooked when promoting (Faith Kemp); looking for admin for re-launched or new Mushroom City group.
 - **Actions – LT – investigate moderation, policy about implied promotion / advertising of commercial ventures.**
 - **Comment – Patrick advised that opt out is already addressed in the booking conditions**
- Patrick reported on interaction with EFDSS prompted and led by Jacqueline and Stuart Beattie. Jacqueline discussed Folk Camps origins – Bill Rutter worked at EFDSS as an organiser, and her research with Faith Kemp and Christine Corkett has highlighted the archive prepared by the organisers of the 30th anniversary. Volunteers are requested for archive management and development. At the meeting with EFDSS Jacqueline and Stuart covered a brief history and explored options of joint working. The current EFDSS management had not heard about us and were impressed and keen to support us. They would like a rep on their Folk Educators group and offer us publicity in EDS journal. Jacqueline encouraged people to be involved in smaller ways to contribute.
 - Ray Garnett observed that he and Marion started Folk Camping after picking up a leaflet at CS House.
- 50th anniversary in 2018 – Do we want to celebrate? General agreement. How, where, when? Comments included: CS House can be inaccessible

especially for those with reduced mobility (Faith Kemp); suggestion of a Reunion weekend (Jenny Newman) possibly a holiday park out of season (Helen Self).

- AOB from the floor:
 - Appointing James de Frias as accountants (Barry Pollard) see above s 7.
 - Marigold Gorick suggested the purchase of a couple of ipads as a physical educational resource at camp, carrying a bank of material, books etc. **Action: Council to consider.**
 - Sue Malleson thanked retiring and current Council members for their hard work on behalf of members. General agreement
 - Liz asked for a vote of thanks to Patrick, gave a speech and made a presentation of gifts. Patrick responded in kind

The meeting closed at 16:08



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Chairperson 18 November 2017