

Folk Camps Society Limited
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held at Toddington Village Hall, Toddington on 24th November 2012

The Vice Chairman, Patrick Self, began with a slide show, depicting plans for camps in 2013.

The AGM was declared open at 14:45 by Sally Clayden in the chair.

1. Present: 53 Governing Members

Apologies were received from 23 Governing Members.

2. Minutes of last meeting: Approval: Proposed by Cecil French seconded by Andy Malleson and carried unanimously.

3. Matters arising: Sue Malleson asked why there were no nail brushes at the 2012 camps. Sally Clayden apologised for this oversight and gave assurance that there would be plenty at the camps in 2013.

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 were elected to serve on Council for 2012-2013:-

Sally Clayden, Liz Cooper and Sean Hayden. Sally Clayden thanked retiring Council members Regine de Frettes and Laura Parrack for their work over the past years.

6. Adoption of report & accounts: Paul Weir commented on the stability of the bookings and gave council credit for maintaining this in difficult economic times. Mic Spenceley, administration manager, thanked him for this but commented that Council should be cautious as the longer trend did in fact show numbers decreasing and this needs to be considered carefully. Mic said this was one of the reasons Council would like to appoint a PR Manager.

Adoption of the 2011-2012 Accounts was proposed by Stuart Beattie, seconded by Paul Weir and carried unanimously.

7. Appointment of James de Frias as auditors: Re-appointment of Auditors proposed by Sue Malleson, seconded by Jon McNamara and carried unanimously.

8. Appointment of members of development fund committee:

Mic Spenceley explained that the development fund had historically been a virtual fund of £20,000, but had now been separated into a separate account that can decrease. This means the Society needs ways to replenish it. Mic said that one way to do this is through the Amazon Associate scheme and explained how this works.

Helen Self asked if there were more ethical organisations which run similar schemes as some members may have a problem with using Amazon because of their tax avoidance. John McNamara suggested 'Giving Machine' and said he would email some information to Mic. Sally Clayden said that Council would look into ethical alternatives.

Jacqueline Beattie asked for an explanation of what the development fund is and how it works. Sally explained it and how it affects the Society's charitable status by demonstrating its benefit to the public. Sue Malleson added to this saying that in the past the Society had made too much profit and so it had created the Development Fund in order to offset this.

Sally Clayden said that the Development Fund will continue to be used to train and develop new staff and sponsor Governing Members with folk projects that needed financial assistance.

Cecil French asked if the money in the Development Fund would in future be shown as a separate account. Mic Spenceley confirmed that it would.

He also confirmed that the current members of the Development Fund committee would remain and invited anyone who may be interested to join.

Caroline Tracey, Emily Malleson, Barry Pollard and John McNamara all agreed to continue on the committee.

9. Resolutions in Advance: There were none.

10. Any other business:

a) Sue Malleson asked what the financial implications of the changes to next year's camps would be, for example with the purchase of new equipment. Patrick Self confirmed that the costs are affordable and that some in particular, such as showers for the weekend camps would attract more people to book on camps and therefore pay for themselves.

b) Cecil French asked if it would be possible to have two weeks of hall camps every year as he and some others were disappointed that there was only one hall week in 2012. Sally Clayden said his comments would be taken on board in the planning for 2014. Patrick Self said that hall

weeks are considered alongside planning for camps in France. Patrick pointed out that there will be a choice of 3 hall weeks in 2013.

c) Jacqueline Beattie thanked Council for their hard work.

d) Mic Spenceley promoted the Winter Warmer as the bookings for this had been slow so far.

e) Sue Malleson said a few words about the new self-catered week and highlighted that the price reduction to £125 would make it very affordable for people on a tight budget. It could also be attractive to those requiring a special diet or those not happy doing kitchen duty for a day. She said there would still be an optional communal mealtime at 6pm for those who didn't want to miss out on the community spirit generated from shared meals.

f) Sally Clayden informed the AGM that the Society had received a bequest from the estate of Yvonne Hunt. She said there would be a discussion about how this money should be used. Sally confirmed the amount of the bequest as £13,885. Cecil French suggested this should be put in the next issue of Extent. Sean Hayden suggested adding the money to the Development Fund and Sally said Council would consider this.

Mic Spenceley had written to Mrs Hunt's daughter to express the Society's thanks. A vote of thanks from the AGM, was proposed by Marion Garnett and seconded by Jacqueline Beattie (nee Finn) and carried unanimously.

g) Lou Tribus asked why Wildhern village hall would not be used in 2013. Mic Spenceley explained that the hall had dramatically increased its rates and was no longer financially viable for the Society's use.

h) Chris Jewell asked why only two of the contractors had been mentioned in the introductory presentation before the AGM. Patrick Self thanked Brian Bull for his many years of work as a volunteer staff member as well as a contractor for Folk Camps.

i) Sally Clayden thanked Ann Tracey for providing catering for the reunion.

The meeting closed at 15:20

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Chair man 16 November 2013