

Folk Camps Society Limited
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held at Toddington Village Hall, Toddington on 21 November 2015

The AGM was declared open at 14:35 by Patrick Self in the chair.

1. Present: 59 Governing Members and 8 Associate members
Apologies were received from 14 Governing Members.

2. Minutes of last meeting AGM: There was an objection to the AGM minutes of November 2014 by Stuart Beattie, due to there being no mention of the discussion regarding the purchase of a field. The chair, having been pre-notified of the objection, read out a draft statement he had prepared on the discussion. Patrick advised the meeting that the Field Feasibility Committee had been set up in response to the discussion, they had received a Terms of Reference document from Claire Mycock as agreed at the 2014 AGM, but were yet to make significant progress on the issue. This was accepted by the meeting and agreed as an amendment to the minutes, which will be signed at the March 2016 Council meeting. There were no other objections. Jacqueline Beattie proposed and Regine de Frettes seconded acceptance of the amended 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 member was re-appointed to serve on Council for 2015-2016:- Liz Cooper. Patrick advised the meeting that Sean Hayden had stood down, and Council is two members short. He announced the co-option of Marcus de Frettes and requested volunteers from the membership for the remaining place.

6. Adoption of report & accounts:

Adoption of the 2014-2015 accounts was proposed by Stuart Beattie and seconded by Regine de Frettes and carried unanimously.

7. Appointment of James de Frias as auditors: Mic Spenceley; retiring administration manager, commented that the current auditors were continuing to provide a very quick and efficient service which enabled the arrangement of the AGM in November.

He also informed the members present that the auditors had advised that we have for some years been paying for a full audit which is no longer a legal requirement. The threshold for a full audit is now a turnover of greater than £1

million, whereas ours is in the region of £140K. The auditors have proposed that we move to an accounts only service, rather than the current accounts service with parallel audit.

Council recommend to members that we take the advice of the auditors, which will save approx. £1K per year.

Members discussed the differences – Mic Spenceley advised that the audit produces the verbal statement given in the meeting pack, and the accounts the financial statement. Comments from Sarah Malleson about what is included in an audit, and Cecil French about cross referencing with banks and physical evidence.

Acceptance of the auditor's advice regarding dropping the audit stage proposed by Sue Malleson, seconded by Dennis Conner and carried unanimously.

Reappointment of James de Frias as Accountants was proposed by Sarah Malleson, seconded by Sue Malleson and carried unanimously.

8. Resolutions in Advance: There were none.

9. Any other business:

- The Chairman, Patrick Self, first presented a slide show reviewing 2015 and presented the program of Camps for 2016
- Patrick reminded the members of the Yvonne Hunt legacy of £14K which underpins the Development Fund
- He played the video created by Brian Hazleden as part of a development fund bursary which has been posted to the front page of the website. Members applauded the quality and accuracy of the video as a sound representation of the Folk Camps experience. Emily Malleson asked to post the video on Facebook, which was agreed as it is copyright of Folk Camps. Sue Malleson proposed a formal vote of thanks from the AGM to Brian, which was agreed unanimously.
- Patrick introduced the new Administration Manager, Sarah Richardson, and informed members of the recruitment process leading to her appointment, initially for 18 months from July 2015.
- Mic Spenceley's retirement as Administration Manager was notified to members – Patrick thanked him for his sterling service over the last 9 years, and a gift presentation and acceptance speeches were made. Jacqueline Beattie proposed a thank you to Mic on behalf of the

membership, which was unanimous, and several books of messages from members were given to Mic.

- Patrick proposed a vote of thanks to Sally Clayden for 6 hard-working years on Council, especial note of Sally's taking the chair after only one year's service, and her leadership of an inexperienced Council at a difficult time. Sally's role in overseeing the bursary committee, and several changes of contractor, as well as her Chair and Vice-Chair roles were acknowledged, and flowers were presented as a mark of appreciation. Sally gave an acceptance speech.
- Patrick went on to introduce Steve Porritt as the new Site Finding Manager, initial appointment for one year from Sept 2015.
- Patrick Self explained that it wasn't necessary to stand for election to council in order to participate and support the Society. Sub committees could include non-Council members and cited the publicity, sites and development fund committees as examples. He also stated that a training day scheduled for next year would be open to members considering volunteering to staff camps as well as those currently volunteering.
- Patrick then appealed for more volunteers to come forward, as camp staff and Council members and participants on committee activities. He also appealed to members to actively promote Folk Camps and to try and recruit new campers, reminding them of the reward credit for the following season of 10% of a new camper's fees in the current season.
- AOB from the floor:
 - Sue Malleson thanked Council for everything and for keeping the finances on balance. She warned that accountants are not happy if we make too much surplus with our charity status.
 - Emily Malleson advised that the Facebook Folk Camps page will close, to be replaced by Folk Camps Holidays page. She also mentioned the Cold Bogmarsh closed group on Facebook that members can join.
 - Val Porritt mentioned a petition at several camps for more comfortable chairs particularly for musicians. After discussion it was agreed that the Florida Marquee blue chairs were more comfortable than the brown chairs, which are "tippy". The seats need to be flat not slope backwards. Equipment Manager to inspect the chair options and make a recommendation.
 - Helen Self raised the issue of distribution of duties at catered camps, particularly cooks' duty. This prompted extensive discussion. Key points: Admin Mgr to watch age distribution; Camp

warden/s to be attentive to duty allocations; Caterers (and Leaders) to participate in duty allocations to verify suitability of teams, and to ask for volunteers if short; discussion on elaborate or simple lunches – arguments for both; emergency menu options if cooks' teams are short-handed; Camp staff to consider the camp attendance before it starts and do some planning about job distribution based on the attendance reports.

- Tony Mealings suggested that we contract out loo cleaning. This view was not widely supported.
- Richard Kenyon proposed a second generator or additional electric power for the kitchen. To be explored by Equipment manager and Council.

The meeting closed at 15:40

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Chairperson 19 November 2016