

**Folk Camps Society Limited**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**  
**held at Toddington Village Hall, Toddington on 18 November 2017**

**\*\*NB draft minutes amended at point 10 on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2018.**

The AGM was declared open at 14:30 by Liz Cooper in the chair.

**1. Present:** 29 Governing Members and 2 Associate members, 9 members of Council and 4 Contractors  
Apologies were received from 23 Governing Members and no Council Members.

**2. Minutes of last meeting AGM:** The minutes of the 2016 AGM were discussed; an error was advised by Patrick Self on text – 8 year H&S plan should read 5 year plan. Jacqueline Beatty proposed and Claire Mycock 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: Sharon Hopwood. The following member stood down from Council at the meeting: Tony Mealings. The following member was re-appointed to serve on Council for 2017-2018: Judith Jenkins. Two new members were elected to serve on Council for 2017-18: Anthony Keen and Chris White. Council now up to strength with 9 members.

Liz Cooper 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 2016-2017 accounts was proposed by Patrick Self and seconded by Jon McNamara and carried unanimously.

There was a question from Jon McNamara about why operational costs are increasing, responded by Liz Cooper that this is due to normal inflationary costs in the wider economy. A question from Claire Mycock on the balance led to a discussion on accounting points. Patrick Self (former Chair) advised that the loss on trading is related to the number of campers, and we need to look at balance costs versus numbers.

**7. Appointment of James de Frias as accountants:**

Reappointment of James de Frias as Accountants was proposed by Regine de Frettes, seconded by Faith Kemp and carried unanimously.

**8. Resolutions in Advance:** There were none.

## **9. Council Reports to Members:**

### **a) Spending on Development and Bursaries**

Liz covered the discovery bursary awarded this year, development fund awards for apprentice staff (5) mentors (1), external course on "Songs of Change", internal training courses for contractors and project development grant for publication of "the Callers Manual" given during the year.

There is also a report available from Viv Baker regarding her promote bursary project from 2016. A slide show of the project photographs and music is available on the new website.

### **b) Staffing – Barry Pollard**

Barry talked about the apprentice programme – an opportunity for people thinking about staffing to try it out. It is a good way to encourage people to staff without risk.

Barry advised that we need more people to come forward for staffing roles.

### **c) Training – Liz Cooper**

During the last year contractors have had training on COSHH and Fire Safety, Council on H&S regulation compliance, and catering staffers on Food Hygiene. Liz advised that any member who is considering staffing can ask for training, requests in the first instance to the Admin Manager who will follow up.

### **d) Discover Bursary**

Liz discussed the recipient of the Discover bursary – a new camper from Spain who found us on the web, and has already promoted Folk camps amongst her circle in Spain.

### **e) New Website**

Liz introduced the new website, recently launched. She thanked Patrick Self for his exceptional work on the redevelopment, and all the other contributors who have assisted Patrick in the process.

Patrick commented that the new website provides other opportunities to promote the activities of Folk Campers.

### **f) Publicity – Marcus de Frettes**

Marcus advised members of the recent EFDSS magazine article on 50 years of Folk Camping by Phoebe Wright. He also mentioned that copies of the current marketing leaflet are available for members to circulate in their areas.

## **10) Folk Camps Party Band Project - Marcus de Frettes**

Marcus introduced the Folk Camps Party Band project, initiated by Jenny Newman. The Band will promote Folk Camps to a wider audience, a huge opportunity to show the quality and breadth of the music at Folk Camps. It is an opportunity to demonstrate how families can have fun playing music and dancing together, to attract our future musicians and leaders.

The 2-year project was proposed by Jenny, a ceilidh band to represent FC, playing at 3-4 festivals a year. It will have a unique, multi-generational character, about 17 players, all Folk Campers. Playing specially arranged music – more is needed. A positive reception so far, as Jenny is sourcing band members and talking to festival organisers. This is an ideal investment as it addresses our stated aims and also supports marketing activities. Council would like to thank Jenny for her proposal.

Promotional demo was played to members (thanks to Andy Glass for editing the video) – this is a sample from camp, not yet representative of the future band, but shows the FC atmosphere. Music has been selected to appeal to the festivals. The band will have a formation day in the Christmas holidays, with 2 whole weekends of rehearsals and the first gig will be at the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. There is a Party Band web page on the website carrying news and progress of the project.

**Discussion:** Jenny took questions: Barbara Pollard - will the band be the people in the promo? – No, the promo gives the general atmosphere of Folk Camps; Emily Malleson thought it was brilliant and useful for marketing generally; Claire Mycock – how can people get involved and what is the selection process? Jon McNamara – Will there be a band of the year? Jenny responded – they will choose people they know, particularly with family groups in order to cover safeguarding issues. Members can put themselves or others forward for consideration.

**\*\*\*Amendment 17/11/2018** Stuart Beattie commented that there was no mention under Party Band Project about the question and answer in the amount of money that council was going to be investing in the party band. A specific amount of £ 40,000 was discussed. Stuart proposed and seconded by Patrick Self. Wording to be put "a figure of £40,000 was discussed as a budget for the two-year project, there were no further questions". This revision put to members for vote at 2018 AGM, 9 abstained, other members were in favour of the amendment.\*\*\*

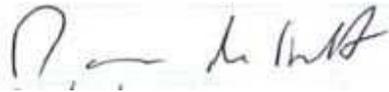
### **Any other business:**

- Stuart Beattie advised that he likes the strapline with the new logo and offered congratulations to the marketing committee. Members showed their appreciation.
- Lou Tribus announced Council are collecting names of folk campers past and present for a new section on the website – talented people from Folk Camps, in the manner of alumni achievements.
- Jacqueline Beattie commented that this is the result of a huge amount of work and proposed a formal appreciation of Council and Liz for her leadership. Members showed their appreciation.

- Emily Malleson commented that there are lots of new and exciting things to look forward to this year.

Liz finished with 'we are moving forward'.

The meeting closed at 15:57



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Chair Marcus de Frettes 17 November 2018