

## **Folk Camps Council Meeting**

12 May 2020

Convened by video conference due to Coronavirus pandemic meaning face to face meeting prohibited by government advice.

Present:

- Marcus de Frettes – chair
- Patrick Self (Vice Chair)
- Judith Jenkins (Company Secretary)
- Anne Guthrie
- Mel Horton
- Anthony Keen
- Sue Malleson
- Paul Weir
- Rebecca Boram
- Jenny Hopper
- Steve Porrit
- Graham Clements
- Kerstin Jewel

Apologies:

- None

Agenda:

- Minutes of April 12th meeting.
- Decision on Summer Camps re Covid-19 epidemic.
- Planning as a result of Summer camps decision.
- Virtual / remote activities – Zoom etc.
- Future Ad spend.
- AOB.

### **1. Topic: Previous Meetings Minutes**

Not everyone had read the previous minutes (possibly circulation was not obvious). Defer approval to next meeting.

**Action:** Patrick to re-circulate.

### **2. Topic: Summer Camps: Run or Cancel?**

Discussion on what evidence we have so we can make a decision.

Considered risk to our members of holding any events.

Considered financial risk of starting to prepare camps and then cancelling.

Over previous 2 days the UK Government published guidance on next stages of Covid-19 lockdown etc. Some timetable was published. However, some aspects were unclear with widespread press / political criticism. Government timetable includes a decision point of 4 July about some activities which would be relevant to us, however this is too late for us to make a decision for running the marquee camp. (Too little time between 4 July and 18 July of first marquee week for us to arrange all we would need to set up the camp).

Sue had circulated a scientific article that showed indoor gatherings (e.g. in restaurants, churches and halls) to be more risky re virus contagion than outdoor events. This is extra evidence that we cannot risk running the hall week, due to start on 8 August.

Government info implies “social distancing” (keeping at least 2 metres apart from other people not in one’s household) extremely likely to still be in place over summer (and even to October, given UK furlough scheme was extended to October). We cannot imagine running a Folk Camp with Social Distancing still in place. (Either for social reasons or for safety).

Even the August Bank Holiday camps are too soon for us to consider running, given government information and timing available at the moment.

From our staff survey (run in the previous 2 weeks) approx. 40% of our summer staff probably or cannot volunteer their services.

**Decision:** Cancel all summer camps (including August bank holidays) in 2020 and move programme to 2021. Proposed Sue, seconded Anne, agreed unanimously.

### **3. Topic: Communication of cancellation decision**

**Action:** Paul to compose message – to go to whole mailing list, explain decision, sad not to meet new Folk Campers, explain refunds, ask for suggestions for virtual Folk Camps events. All to review message. Send ASAP.

(Also email to staff. Can probably combine email to all and email to bookers if worded well. Consider content of previous such emails).

**Action:** Patrick and Kerstin to work together to send info out, and to mark camps as Cancelled on the website

**Action:** Patrick to create email address forwarder for [virtualcamp@folkamps.co.uk](mailto:virtualcamp@folkamps.co.uk) to receive ideas for online events.

#### **4. Topic: Discussion on online events for Folk Campers**

**Action:** Patrick to create slack channel (#lockdown2020ideas) for collecting ideas from Council and Contractors.

Plan to meet again to discuss online ideas in approx. 10 days time. Sue and Judith have been working on ideas already.

#### **5. Topic: Discussion of Finances**

Should we do any crowd-funding etc to cover losses? Discussion.

The email Communication should only mention refunds. If anyone wants to donate or turn deposit into future credit, they can make that decision themselves. (Some did after spring camps were cancelled).

We have reserves to cover a situation like this. Now is not the time to ask for crowd-funding, however it may become more relevant later (e.g. if still lockdown in 2021).

Our financial model for 2020 is out of date, with only a rough estimate of this year's losses. Many expenses this year have been reduced – not just camps, but Council meetings too.

**Action:** Marcus to produce 2020 revised budget.

Gift Aid: Anne had an action on this – can report back another time.

Could we run new camps in September? (For both members social benefit and maybe financial benefit?): No – expect Social distancing still to be in place – given UK government furlough extended to October.

Should we have Insurance to cover camps cancellation? Not been looked into for a long time.

**Action:** Mel to investigate insurance for the future.

Should we increase our membership fee to cover more of our overheads? Some discussion of pros and cons, no consensus.

**Action:** Marcus to investigate ideas for improving finances, e.g membership fee or other options.

#### **6. Topic: Logistics of Cancellations**

**Action:** Steve to contact venues and booked services – request to roll over to 2021.

**Action:** Marcus to contact the hall (as he contacted them to ensure we could run this year due to local groups conflict issue).

Can we run 5 weeks marquee next year? Yes: Dates work (very late Aug bank holiday again). Will need further planning work – OK if 5<sup>th</sup> week only has 3 caravans, but needs local authority interaction for more, they were not helpful in previous correspondence.

**Action:** Marcus + Steve re progress 5<sup>th</sup> week planning.

### **7. Topic: Advertising spend**

Facebook advertising has been continuing to collect further leads, however it is now generating approx 5 or 6 per week, rather than that many or more per day.

The virtual Lockerdowen events are likely to trigger a small number of leads organically anyway.

**Decision:** Stop Facebook advertising for now.

### **8. Topic: Virtual Chedworth Camp**

The musician for Chedworth (Richard Jones) wants to run a small (up to 30 people) online musical collaboration with his regular campers. He has already been running things with his SE London Folk Orchestra. Agreed for FCS to support this and to provide emails of this year and last year or 2 of campers to him.

### **9. Topic Any Other Business**

None, all covered above.

**Next meeting date** – week of 18 May to discuss online events – exact time to be agreed via Slack.

**End of minutes.**