

## **Folk Camps Council Meeting**

19 April 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
- Jenny Hopper
- Steve Porrit
- Graham Clements
- Kerstin Jewel

Apologies:

- Rebecca Boram

Agenda:

- Minutes of March 25th meeting.
- Minutes of March 29th meeting.
- Actions and matters arising – list to be provided.
- Financial report.
- Report on refunding of bookings.
- Review of Covid-19 epidemic – analysis to be provided.
- Summer camps cancellation planning and mitigation.
- Summer camps go ahead planning – task list.
- 2021 camps.
- Extent.
- Community fund / Rainbow Holiday Trust.

### **1. Introduction**

Welcome from Marcus: This is mainly a preliminary meeting to establish threads of activity and information gathering before final decision making in respect of the summer camps.

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

**Decision:** Approval of 25 March 2020 Council Meeting minutes: Anne Proposed approval, Patrick Seconded, unanimous approval.

**Decision:** Approval of 29 March 2020 Council Meeting minutes: Anne Proposed approval, Marcus Seconded, unanimous approval.

**Action:** Marcus to print both sets, sign, scan and send to Kerstin to store electronically.

### **3. Topic: Actions and matters arising**

**Action:** Steve to pursue site on Anglesey.

**Action:** Patrick, Becks, Mel and Judith to recruit permanent Administrator. (deferred due to covid-19 crisis – will resume later in the year, decision previously made by Council to keep Kerstin in place for continuity)

**Action:** Marcus to liaise with Kerstin and Accountant to submit accounts to Companies House.

**Action:** Marcus to bring the QuickBooks position up to date to show the exact financial position.

**Action:** from 29<sup>th</sup> March meeting re Kerstin's contract – with Patrick at the moment. To sort and agree with Kerstin by end of the month.

### **4. Topic: Financial Report**

Bank accounts: £26,688

Savings account: £53,589

M+G Investment accounts (valuation): £71,355

TOTAL CASH at 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020: £151,632

M+G is split into bonds and shares. Bonds valuation is constant (approx. £40k), but shares was £41k at year end (Aug 2019), is now very volatile due to global crisis value dipped to £30k. Paul suggests that access to this is last resort, all agreed.

Therefore we have up to £120K of accessible funding.

Patrick pointed out that the company accounts showed a significant amount of campers' credits. It is not possible for campers to realise this as cash....only as credit towards future 'holidays' so this does not reduce our cash position.

Over recent years, we have been 'holding' cash for future holidays. This practice has been stopped.

Steve reminded us of an ongoing action to review re how staff earn credit and how that accrues. This is a separate matter and will be looked at in future, but not imminently. (Staff credits etc.)

### **5. Topic: Campers Refunds**

Kerstin reported progress on refunds for cancelled weekend camps.

59 bookers. Most sorted out. No reply yet from 8 people.

£4461 total to refund.

£3319 paid back.

£647 have been turned into future credits (the campers were informed that this cannot then be withdrawn in future as cash)

£198 generously paid to Folk Camps as donations.

£297 remaining – awaiting further replies from campers.

Kerstin suggested we thank the people who made donations. Agreed **Action: Anne** will write the thank you notes.

**Action: Anne** to investigate setting up Gift Aid for donations to Folk Camps.

**Action: Anne** to look at whether legacies can be treated with gift aid. This is at a lower priority.

## **6. Topic: Covid-19 pandemic and summer camps**

Discussion on what we need to do to make a decision on running or cancelling summer camps.

Important considerations:

1. We must act legally and within the spirit of Government guidelines at all times.
2. We must provide a safe environment for our campers (With the usual caveats on personal responsibility).
3. We must safeguard the long-term future of Folk Camps and in particular its finances.

Discussion on when enough would be known about the UK-wide in order to make a decision.

Differing points of view. We know the situation is changing fast, but also some activities have lead times that push us to an earlier date for a decision. We also expect (but don't know) that it could be quite late before UK situation changes enough such that we could make a decision to run the camps. Other events are cancelling earlier than us because they have more complicated set-up and hence longer lead times.

**Action: Mel** to collate a time line of activities/factors we would need to consider/carry out IF we run the summer camps. This will help make our decision. **All** to send Mel tasks and topics to consider.

**Decision:** Meeting in 3 weeks time (weekend of 9 May) to make decision on running summer camps. Sue proposed, Anne seconded. 7 of council agreed, 1 abstention – (stating opinion that this date is too soon).

Further discussion on staffing for summer camps: will we have enough volunteers able to staff? We need to know that before the decision meeting. But concerns were expressed that even to ask will result in people giving answers that are more negative than they might be at the relevant cut-off date.

Paul proposed + all agreed, to ask staff on around 3<sup>rd</sup> May (2 weeks from now, 1 week before next meeting).

**Action: Anne** to coordinate an informal contact to summer staff - this will not commit anyone. All council members will be asked to call a few staff volunteers.

## **7. Topic: Alternatives to summer camps**

If we cannot run summer camps, what can we do instead? Virtual Folk Camps activities? September events?

We noted virtual events (2 regular events on Cold Bogmarsh (Facebook) already: "Lockerdown"!), other organisations going virtual. – e.g. OxFolk).

**Action: Antony** to mention / ask for ideas in imminent issue of Extent.

**Action: Sue** to ask for ideas on Cold Bogmarsh

**Action: Patrick** to make sure the Folk Camps website reflects this activity. Link from website to the events.

**Action: Judith** To coordinate a group to consider all aspects of an alternative offering for campers in 2020. **All** to send ideas to Judith.

## **8. Topic: 2021 sites**

Deferred to future meeting. If 2020 summer events are postponed, Steve has established we can use same sites for 2021. Anglesey possible location still to be visited, but that is currently impossible.

## **9. Topic: Extent**

Extent will not contain sales pitch for summer camps.

**Action: Marcus** to summarise the Council view on summer camps in his chairman's article, info at level of previous mass emails and website news, not current deliberations.

**Action: Antony** to circulate draft Extent by Weds, aiming to get extent published this week.

## **10. Topic: Community Fund**

Discussion on setting up a community fund. A number of our community could be in extreme hardship after this year. Folk camp may be unaffordable for some campers. Marcus broached the possibility of having a community fund to assist. It could be possible to run this anonymously and removed from direct control from Council.

Some concerns on logistics, means testing, GDPR, etc. This might be too complicated to set up at this crisis time. For it to become viable it needs effort from membership because Council does not have the time.

**Action: Anthony** to create an item in Extent: a call for interest with mention that this is a response to an item in the AGM. **Anne** offered to be the contact person.

Sue has contacted the Rainbow Trust. This could relate to community fund. No useful info back yet.

## **11. Topic Any Other Business**

Sue asked to remove unneeded channels from Slack for clarity. **Action Patrick**

**Next meeting date** – weekend of 9 / 10 May – exact time to be agreed via Slack.

**End of minutes.**