

**Folk Camps Society Limited**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**  
**held on Zoom on 21 November 2020**

The AGM was declared open at 14:05 by Marcus de Frettes in the chair  
**Present:** 64 Governing Members and 9 Associate Members including 9 Council members and 4 Contractors.

- 1. Apologies** were received from 7 Governing Members.
- 2. Introduction** – Marcus de Frettes stated that the meeting was being held under the conditions of the Coronavirus Act that permits virtual AGMs. Council Election and Resolution voting will all be by electronic secret ballot. Other votes by show of Zoom 'hands'.

In welcoming everyone, Marcus said how much he missed seeing everyone and that we must keep the spirit of Folk Camps alive whilst noting the good news about a vaccine giving us much hope.

- 3. Council Election** – Returning officer was Sean Hayden. As the ballot is counted electronically there was no need for tellers. Voting closed shortly after – results announced later in meeting.
- 4. Minutes of AGM 19 November 2019:**  
Patrick Self proposed that the minutes be accepted. Seconded by Marcus. Carried unanimously by show of hands. Signed by Marcus de Frettes.

- 5. Matters arising:** There were none.

**6. Adoption of Report & Accounts**

The 2019 accounts were not approved at last year's AGM. The EGM to approve the minutes had to be cancelled because of Covid-19 leaving too little time to arrange a virtual meeting by the Companies House filing deadline. A slide showing the 2019 highlights was presented. As there were no objections to the draft accounts posted on the Folk Camps website, Council filed without formal approval. The 2019 account totals do appear in the 2020 accounts comparison. There were no questions on the 2019 accounts.

Marcus presented the highlights of the 2020 accounts.

Sarah Malleon asked for clarification on the losses from 2019- was it mainly contracts and hire costs? Yes, but most of the loss came from Council based overheads. Contractors have now agreed to a change in the terms of their contract to be per hours worked not a flat rate.

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Sean Hayden asked where the investment losses had arisen. They reflect the stock market losses during the year – no change has been made to investment strategy as it is for the long term.

Beci Kijko proposed a vote of thanks to the Contractors for agreeing to a change in their contract terms. Seconded by Marcus and passed unanimously by show of hands.

Prior to the meeting Regine de Frettes had highlighted a minor error in the accounts which was not raised at the meeting so the Chair raised it now in the interests of transparency. The error concerned the presentation of the breakdown of certain comparison figures in the movement of funds section. It was the opinion of the Chair that this was insubstantive and an obvious error that should not prevent formal approval of the accounts. The opinion of the meeting was sought.

Jacqueline Beattie and Stuart Beattie expressed support for approval.

Paul Weir asked for clarification as to whether error was in the 2019 accounts. No.

Sean Hayden supported approval and said cost of correction should be taken into account.

Liz Cooper asked for clarification that the error was in the supporting information rather than the accounts figures themselves. Yes.

Richard Hicks felt uncomfortable approving accounts which are not accurate and wanted us to consider holding an EGM.

Sean thanked Regine for discovering the error.

Patrick clarified that the electronic ballot on the Resolution to approve the accounts was on the accounts as published in advance, not any amendments but a separate show of hands would show that the meeting's opinion on the issue.

The show of hands to agree that FCS does not need to revise the accounts and to proceed with approving the accounts if the electronic vote is supportive of adopting the published accounts was passed with one vote against.

## **7. Motion to amend the Memorandum and Articles of Association**

Sue Malleson presented the changes to the Mem and Arts. The amendments explicitly allow for use of electronic communications to execute the Society's business. The second is about preserving the eligibility of people to stand on Council while camping is suspended.

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Also changes to the gender of terms used in the Mem and Arts to be inclusive.

Cat McGill thanked Council for the gender clause.

**8. Council.**

Marcus introduced the current Council.

Vote of thanks for retiring members: Judith Jenkins for 6 years and retiring due to the rules and Anthony Keen (for 3 years: re-standing) should he fail to be returned to Council at the election.

**1. Results of Election and Resolutions**

After a 10-minute break to allow for completion of the electronic voting Sean Hayden certified the results which were then shared with the meeting.

Resolutions:

1. Adoption of Accounts: 70 in favour including 12 Chair proxy votes, 1 against. Approved.
2. Reappointment of Accountants: 66 in favour including 16 Chair proxy votes, 3 against. Approved.
3. Amendment of Mem & Arts 69 in favour including 7 Chair proxy votes, none against. Approved.

The result of the election for Council:

Claire Mycock: 109 votes

Anthony Keen: 90 votes

Marigold Gorick: 42 votes

Claire and Anthony were duly elected.

Marcus thanked the candidates.

**9. The impact of Covid-19.** Presented by Paul Weir.

Plans for 2021:

1. Craft camp already cancelled.

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2. Spring weekends decision will be made in early Spring.
3. Summer camps: FCS plans to open booking in April but may have to cancel right up until June. No deposits will be required. Payment will be required only once we are sure that the camp will go ahead.

Clarification of impact of late decision-making might have on cost of marquees etc. Council will endeavour to avoid commitment to substantial cost until camp is certain.

Cat McGill asked about staff, what if they had to pull out? Council is looking at back up staff and aiming for flexibility.

Marigold Gorick suggested Hall camps might be safer than Marquees due to better toilets etc. Council has considered this. Aerosol transmission inside is an issue. Also, Marquees are much more popular.

Carol Burnett speculated that the week camps in the summer may fill more quickly. Marcus responded that we shall be offering 5 weeks of marquee. We had not filled all camps across the board in the past so we are very likely to have sufficient capacity.

Richard Hicks thanked Paul Weir for his very clear explanation.

Jacqueline Beattie expressed thanks to Council for creative and adaptable solutions. Richard Hicks agreed.

Lockerdown online virtual events, started by Linsey Tree Sim, saw 40 events over the summer including music workshops, singalongs and potato peeling.

## **10. Next year's camps (2021)**

Largely similar to the cancelled 2020 programme.

## **11. Any Other Business**

- a. Nancy Khan – asked for update on outreach, marketing and development fund. Mel Horton presented Council's current thinking. Nancy felt the distinction between outreach and development fund was still not clear. Sue Malleson stated that Covid-19 makes it difficult to be clear yet. Accepted by Nancy.

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- b. Cat McGill - Arts Council Funding. Cat felt that we are missing a really big trick here and potentially losing out on external funding. Cat sees the value of using the development fund to be the seed money to put in bids, especially as we have made a loss. There have been funds opened for all sorts of 'recovery' in the arts.
- c. Marigold Gorick – local folk networks can really help us recruit and grow even in this difficult year.
- d. Jenny and Andy Glass read a statement about the Folk Camps Party Band. Full text available on request.

Cat McGill added that a significant number of non-campers are coming on the workshops. Cat feels it is excellent free advert for Folk Camps which should be taken up.

Richard Hicks said he had a marvellous ceilidh at Bromyard, thanks to the Party Band. Marie-France Hicks reiterated that.

Liz Cooper wishes to thank Jenny and Andy for their Party Band efforts.

Mel Horton expressed the view that the Party Band does so much in line with the objectives of the organisation and promoting folk music but its status, particularly with regard to remuneration, needs clarification possibly with an EGM.

Marcus clarified that spending on the Party Band is suspended and that Council has made no future commitment to the Party Band beyond the completion of the contracted year-3 bookings.

Cat commented that other musicians are paid for their activities and that she has used the development fund money to pay herself for doing her musical work as it is her livelihood.

Steve Porritt said that the Party Band is a wonderful resource, and we need to look at outside funding for projects like this.

Cat reminded the meeting that her offer to help with grant funding, mentioned at the last two AGMs has not been taken up.

Beci Kijko said that having at first being concerned about the band she now realises that it is not just an issue of paying band members but it's advertising, it's development, it has brought us into the folk world fold.

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Tony Mealings following on from Cat saying that we have an ideal product to go for an Arts Council bid. A track record, and investment of our own already. It would be a positive thing, and possibly quite healing to do this. Tony is prepared to help and give any assistance to Cat.

Sue Malleson wondered what we would be applying for and that our bid would not be inclusive and accessible to all members.

Cat McGill said whole point of the funding now is about doing something new. Money in the bank won't impact on the bid. What we need from the membership is a mandate.

Richard Hicks thanked Cat for the volunteering.

Jacqueline Beattie: EFDSS has funding for a lot of staff posts, they apply for Arts Council funding all the time. You don't have to be on your uppers.

Indicative Proposal: Mel proposed that the meeting requests that that we should pursue an application to the Arts Council for Folk Camps Party Band funding and/or other outreach projects which doesn't commit Folk Camps to future funding. Seconded by Beci Kijko. Agreed by members with 2 dissenters.

- e. Sarah Richardson – 2019 Year of the Dance. Sarah felt this was a bit of a wash up so could it be carried forward into a future year with a full suite of activities?

Sue Malleson said one of the problems is that we are diluting the expertise on the camps. There is a need to recruit more dancers, and for more to want to learn to call. Council has been doing more on e-communications with folk groups. Council would appreciate help with this.

- f. Val Coleman – how would we monitor health of campers in 2021. Council has this under serious consideration.

**12. Thanks.** Marcus de Frettes thanked Chris Jewell for the music workshop, Paul Weir and the Band (Chris again) for the reunion ceilidh and 'Live to your Living Room' for hosting our first ever virtual AGM.

A vote of thanks was proposed for the Contractors.

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Marcus thanked the whole community for keeping Folk Camps alive.

Jacqueline Beattie proposed a vote of thanks to Council seconded by Liz Cooper.

The meeting closed at 16:50.

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Chair November 2021