

Folk Camps Society Limited
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held at Toddington Village Hall on 19th November 2022

The AGM was declared open at 14.30 by Patrick Self in the chair.

Present: 41 Governing Members including 8 Council Members and 6 Contractors

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes from AGM of November 2021
3. Matters Arising
4. Adoption of Annual Report and Accounts to year ending 31 August 2022
5. Re-appointment of Accountants
6. Resolutions to amend Memorandum and Articles of Association
7. Council Appointments (No need for an election)
8. Chair report on 2022, and looking forward to 2023
9. Any Other Business

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from 18 Governing Members

2. Minutes from AGM of November 2021

Marcus de Frettes proposed that the minutes be accepted. Seconded by Barbara Pollard. Carried unanimously.

3. Matters Arising

There were none.

4. Adoption of Report and Accounts 2021

Lower booking numbers resulted in a trading loss of £14,000.

The adoption of the annual report and accounts was proposed by Liz Cooper, seconded by Oscar Roberts, passed unanimously in the room and there were 46 online votes for and none against.

5. Appointment of Accountants

Council recommended that the new accountant who started providing her service this year, continues next year. She has made recommendations to improve our financial management and is significantly cheaper than our previous accountant.

The appointment of Lightwater Accountants was proposed by Patrick Self, seconded by Andy Malleon, agreed unanimously in the room and there were 46 online votes for and none against.

6. Resolutions to amend Memorandum and Articles of Association

The first resolution was to change current wording in the Memorandum & Articles of Association, Paragraph 8 to the following:

8. Every member shall pay an annual subscription such amount as shall from time to time be fixed by the Council of Management.

The current wording is as follows:

8. Every Member shall pay an annual subscription of such amount as shall from time to time be fixed by the Society in accordance with a resolution in General Meeting.

Rationale: The proposed changes are in order to minimise the need for general meetings to be held for such minor administrative changes.

Voting was done electronically with 46 for and none against.

The second resolution was to change current wording in the Memorandum & Articles of Association, Paragraph 35 (e) to the following:

(e) Any existing member of the Council is of their immediate family. (In this context, immediate family means parent, child, sibling, spouse, partner.)

The current wording is as follows, (with the context setting of paragraph 35 also provided):

35. No person shall, in any circumstances, be eligible to hold office as a member of the Council if:

...

(e) Any existing member of the Council is of his immediate family. (In this context, immediate family means parent, child, sibling, spouse.)

Rationale: In order to reflect the modern tendency for unmarried cohabiting couples, but still maintain the Folk Camps' precaution against undue familial influence, we propose to add the word "partner" after "spouse". Also changed "his" to "their".

Voting was done electronically with 46 for and none against.

7. Council Appointments

Rebecca Boram, Anne Guthrie, Sue Malleson and Paul Weir have completed their 3 years on Council and decided not to stand again.

Sarah Richardson has resigned from Council.

Patrick Self has completed his 3 years on Council and stands again.

The current Council were thanked by Patrick for their work in this year.

There were 6 vacancies and 5 candidates, so therefore there was no election.

Amanda Colman, Barry Pollard, Oscar Roberts, Susie Savage and Patrick Self were appointed to Council.

8. Chair report on 2022, and looking forward to 2023

There are 2 new sites for 2023: Halsway Manor in Somerset for the Craft Break and Peakhill Farm in Suffolk for the summer site. The majority of the weekend camps will repeat in 2023.

For setting prices for the next year, Council have predicted a 15% increase in costs from 2022 (taking account of general inflation at 11%) and are aiming for a trading break even. Council are assuming summer camps will be at least 84% full and have therefore set the price for an adult on a catered week at £325.00. If we have better camper numbers than this, then future price rises may be lower.

Our accountant advised us that campers credits needed to be looked at. Council have decided that all credits gained by staffing or introducing a friend will expire after 5 years starting in January 2023. Family and friends will be able to use these credits too. All campers with more than £20.00 credits will be notified.

Council are always very interested in comments from campers. This year was full of lots of positive feedback and constructive criticism.

Council is looking into perceived fairness and understanding of duties and a better explanation of duties for new campers.

Folk Camps will now start providing What3Words locations for ease of navigation to camps.

Patrick Self expressed a huge thanks to the Equipment Manager Graham Clements who retired after working hard for 8 years. The attendees gave him a big round of applause.

Brian and Lorna Flower were welcomed as the new Equipment Managers.

Jenny Hopper retired from being Provisions Manager after 9 years. Liz Cooper thanked her very much for all her hard work. The attendees gave her a big round of applause.

Applicant for the position of the Provisions Manager were invited.

Patrick appealed for Governing Members on Working Groups e.g. sites finding, marketing, catering or submitting articles for Extent.

Although the numbers of campers were not as high as in former years, there was a higher percentage of new campers than in the past. Their source has been mostly from recommendations/word of mouth along with Facebook marketing and Party Band.

Patrick thanked all Volunteer camp staff, Council, Contractors and anyone who contributed something at a Folk Camp.

And he thanked all Governing members for supporting Council in continuing to provide Folk Camps holidays.

9. Any Other Business

Sarah Richardson asked if Folk Camps plan to return to Hall Camps for summer weeks. The answer is if the Marquee weeks are getting full, then a hall week is possible. Unlikely in 2023, but hopefully soon in future.

Will Folk Camps return to Rolvenden as it is an excellent site? Yes, it is planned to return in 2024.

Why can't Folk Camps return to other sites where we have been before? Council would love to return to some previous sites, but for various reasons it is not always possible.

Richard Kenyon asked that sometimes summer camps should be further north. Patrick Self said that no site had ever been rejected because of its "too far north" location.

Barry Pollard suggested changing the venue of the Reunion and advertising it more. Council will look into it.

It was suggested that there is a tickbox on the booking form so campers understand they will have to help and do a duty whilst at camp. Council is already looking into this.

It was agreed that the allocation of duties by wardens should be as fair as possible regarding hours spent. This is also something Council intend to make more visible / informative on the website.

We all have responsibility for welcoming new campers and help them understand how Folk Camps run.

Jenny Glass asked that we should remember Doug Brown who sadly died recently.

The meeting closed at 15.50.

Chair November 2023