

# **Folk Camps Society Limited**

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

### **Held via Zoom on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

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

Present: 41 Governing Members including 9 Council Members and 4 Contractors

## **Agenda**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes from AGM of November 2023
3. Matters Arising
4. Adoption of Annual Report and Accounts to year ending 30 September 2024
5. Re-appointment of Accountants
6. Council Appointments (No need for an election)
7. Chair report on 2024, and looking forward to 2025
8. Any Other Business

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from 3 Governing Members

### **2. Minutes from AGM of November 2023**

Oscar Roberts proposed that the minutes be accepted. Seconded by Liz Cooper. Carried unanimously.

### **3. Matters Arising**

No matters arising.

### **4. Adoption of Annual Report and Accounts to year ending 30 September 2024**

The end of the financial year was moved to the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 making this year's financial year 13 months.

There were 364 summer camp bookings.

The funds have increased by £5,000 Income was about £134,000 and expenditure was about £133,000, the net increase in funds was due to the investments.

For this resolution, both the online votes (made in advance) and the show of hands showed unanimous approval.

Council were commended on this year's financial results.

## **5. Re-appointment of Accountants**

For this resolution, the online votes (made in advance) showed unanimous approval.

## **6. Council Appointments**

During the year Council co-opted Hilary Hill and Jenny Hopper. Brad Stokes stood down and Jane Wheeler was co-opted.

Liz Cooper has completed 3 years and stood again. No other nominations were received, therefore these four people were duly elected to Council.

## **7. Chair report on 2024, and looking forward to 2025**

Contractors:

Patrick Self thanked Jenny Hopper and Steve Porritt for their hard work as Provisions and Sites Managers. They have now both retired.

The roles of Provisions and Sites Manager has now been combined into the role of Logistics Manager, and Lorna Flower has been appointed.

Summer set up:

For the set up of the summer camps more people are needed to help Brian Flower. These people will receive a reward in the form of camp credits or money. Patrick Self asked for people to consider volunteering for this, or to discuss it with family members that may be interested.

The chair presented a table of total bookings over the years showing that numbers of summer week bookings have decreased significantly since the pandemic.

A discussion started about ideas for how to increase the numbers and whether weekend campers feed into summer weeks.

The decline of people attending the AGM day was also talked about, which has ultimately led to the AGM being on-line today.

Marquee weeks 2025 will be held at Rhayader in Wales. Folk Camps are still needing caterers and wardens for the summer marquee weeks. New apprentices in all staffing positions are always needed.

2025 will also see a 'youth camp' weekend at Little Horwood near Milton Keynes for people over the age of 18 with lots of new younger staff.

Council is aware that because many of the staff are new, there should be a support network in place. It was pointed out that the event is only open for people aged 18 or over, so no children's safeguarding issues apply.

Social media items promoting and attracting people to sign up to Folk Camps are happening thanks to the Social Marketing Team. Liking and sharing items is always helpful in getting Folk Camps noticed. Thanks were expressed to the Folk Camps Party Band and their family members who gave up so much time and effort to perform at the last ever Towersey Festival,

and to Susie Savage who manned a marketing stall all through the festival to advertise and promote Folk Camps. An appeal was made to anyone else who is happy to promote Folk Camps at a festival during 2025 to get in touch with the office for help and advice.

## **8. Any Other Business**

Liz Cooper spoke about a number of improvements that have been made in relation to Health and Safety. Many thanks to Brian and Lorna for all their hard work on this.

Jacqueline Beattie formally thanked all the council members and contractors for all the hard work they put in over the year to keep folk Camps running. Patrick Self thanked all staff members and everyone who contributes at camps in many different ways to make Folk Camps what it is.

Oscar Roberts announced a T shirt designing competition for promoting Folk Camps.

The generator was noisy last year at the marquee camp, so Brian and Lorna have purchased a battery back up system. It is hoped that this will supply the power for the quiet times in the evenings with no need for the generator during song circle and later, after the PA is off, and will be in use in the summer.

The meeting closed at 15.45