

Minutes of Woodcraft Folk AGM 2016

Birmingham Midlands Institute, Saturday 24 September 2016

Conference Co-Chairs: Pat Hunter (Chair) & Tom Gower (Vice Chair)

Minutes taken by: Ann MacGarry

1. Opening session

Pat Hunter welcomed everyone to the AGM.

2. Annual General Meeting Business

Pat Hunter confirmed Conference to be quorate and open.

2.1 Introduction of Candidates for Election

General Council (16-24) -2 places to be elected

Sax Rendell

General Council (lay members) - 5 places to be elected

James Bowring

Tom Brooks

Margaret Fleming

Tom Gaffikin

Pat Hunter

Sonia Kelly

Jack Walker

Standing Orders Committee - 3 places to be elected

David Neibig

Richard Kirkwood

Ash Taylor

2.2 Minutes of 2015 AGM

Matters arising – none

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

2.3 Election of Scrutineers & Tellers

Tellers: 3 required

Tom Brooks

Ralph Sleigh

Naomi Wilkins

Scrutineers (non-delegates): 4 required

2.4 Annual Report & Accounts

Jon Nott pointed out that the AGM was for the calendar year 2015. In that year we were up to 316 registered groups, held the 90th anniversary celebrations, had our last engagement with the NCS (National Citizenship Service) and started the New Groups and Heritage projects. It was a year for very difficult financial decisions.

Accounts

Roland Susman (National Treasurer) presented the accounts. It's a broadly positive picture (p8). There was a small surplus in the office core (the basic expenses of running the organisation). There is a total surplus of £90,000, £30,000 of which is restricted funds.

There are new financial regulations for charities in relation to reserves policies (p10).

There was a question about what these cash reserves were. Roland said that it includes all the resources in district accounts.

Decision: The AGM adopted the accounts and accepted the Trustees Annual Report unanimously.
Proposed: Veronica Hammerstone

Decision: The AGM unanimously approved the appointment of Buzzacott for another year.

Events in 2016

Jon Nott outlined events in the current year. Outputs in this year of the 90th Anniversary have included a book, a film and a badge with activities developed by Pioneers. A group is already looking at how we can celebrate the 100th anniversary in 2025.

We can now do DBS online which has greatly speeded it up.

The new groups project ended with 42 new groups, 17 established groups helped, new groups resources and the sustainability checklist.

We had a very successful Folk Assembly and IFM camp. Carly Walker Dawson was elected as Secretary General of IFM-SEI.

We had a very successful Venturer Camp.

Looking Forward – Jon Nott

We are working on reclaiming our identity, being proud of it and expressing it. We need to remember that internationalism is a very important part of our identity and find ways to maintain our international activities with the challenge of leaving the EU. We will be involved with events for Holocaust Memorial Day.

At the Folk Assembly work was started on a new leaders' handbook. The current one is 20 years old. Owen Sedgwick-Jell is working on this and wants feedback from members on activities that you do.

Other activities

Co-op local funding

Tracy Cleveland (Bromley) – the Co-op have relaunched the local funding that comes from the 5p bag levy. Ask at your local shop.

International camp

Tom Brooks and Naomi Wilkins – intending to have an international camp in 2020 with a programme that will engage Elfins and Pioneers, as well as older members. They want to ensure that it is successful without over-stressing people. The plan is to employ people to work on it and it will therefore be more expensive. There will be an online launch in late October with volunteer role job descriptions. Election to roles will be at Folk Assembly.

There was a request to make it easy for Elfins to come for a 4-5 day camp by programming and enabling easy booking.

London regional camp for Elfins

Angus Forbes (Newham) Next August bank holiday – Elfins from elsewhere welcome.

IFM rainbow network

Ash Taylor reported that Claye Bowler is now the co-ordinator of the IFM-SEI rainbow network

Sheffield 1929

Sam Charlesworth – 2 weeks ago a brass plaque was set up to mark the founding of the Woodcraft Folk district in Sheffield in 1929.

International camp 2017

Monica Eady (Ealing) – there will be an International camp in Austria 15-29 July 2017.

Ceilidh

On 15 Oct near Kings Cross – they need bookings

2.5 Standing Orders Committee (SOC) Report

David Neibig (Chair of SOC) reported that we were quorate and that eight motions had been received and all were in order. Motions 1-5 related to constitutional changes and so were part of the formal Company Meeting and proxy votes did count. 113 voting cards (including proxies) had been issued and constitutional change needed 75 to pass.

Motions 6-8 were not part of the formal Company Meeting and proxy votes did not count. Motions 4 and 5 were mutually exclusive. The proposer of Motion 4 was not present, but the motion could be proposed from the floor by any delegate wishing to do so.

The use of proxy votes was explained.

David reminded delegates that they had 3 minutes to speak on motions, with the exception of the proposer who has 5 minutes and the right to reply.

2.8 Motions, session 1

Motion 1: replacement of SO.7(ii) and removal of SO.8(i)

Proposed by: Ralph Sleigh (General Council)

Seconded by: Iolo Walker (Newham)

Naomi Wilkins requested a point of information

No-one spoke for or against

Decision: Motion carried

Motion 2: Insertion of new SO.8

Proposed by: Ralph Sleigh (General Council)

Seconded by: Ros Epton (Lewisham and Greenwich)

Adam Tucker requested a point of information

No one spoke for or against

Decision: Motion carried

7 against, 1 abstention

Motion 3: replacement of SO.2

Proposed by: Tom Brooks (General Council)

Seconded by: Claire Knight (Leicestershire)

No-one spoke for or against

Decision: Motion carried unanimously

Motion 4: Amendment of DEF.2

No-one proposed the motion

Motion was not put

Motion 5: Young people to be registered direct members

Proposed by: Stuart Walker (General Council but as Newham)

Seconded by: Adam Tucker (Leeds)

The following requested a point of information:

Eric Lucas (Bath)

Melissa March (Leicestershire)

James Bowring (Hounslow)

Adam Cleveland (Bromley)

Ros Epton (Lewisham and Greenwich)

Sam Charlesworth (Sheffield)

Monica Eady (Ealing)

Sally Mattson (Cambridge)

Melissa March (Leicestershire) (again)

David Feldman (New Barnet)

The following spoke for:

Richard Kirkwood (SOC but in personal capacity)

Eedie Thompson (Newham)

Bethan Lloyd (Newham)

Adam Tucker (Leeds)

The following spoke against:

Naomi Wilkins (General Council but in personal capacity)

Becky Harris (Camden)

James Bowring (Hounslow)

George Davey (Teddington)

Ros Epton (Lewisham and Greenwich)

David Neibig (SOC but in personal capacity)

Right to reply: Stuart Walker

Decision: Motion was not carried

In favour 16, abstentions 7

2.9 Standing Orders Committee (SOC) Elections Report

Paul Ticher presented the Standing Orders report.

Paul explained the voting process including STV (Single Transferable Vote) and RON (re-opening of nominations).

3.0 Motions, session 2 (non-Company business)

Motion 6: participation in AGMs

Proposed by: Ralph Sleigh (General Council)

Seconded by: Monica Eady (Ealing)

The following requested a point of information:

Sophie Holden (Midlands DFs)

Richard Kirkwood (SOC but in personal capacity)

Tracy Cleveland (Bromley)

The following spoke for:

Stuart Walker (General Council & Newham)

Ash Taylor (SOC but in a personal capacity)

Biddy Purser-Healy (Machynlleth)

Freya Thomas Dry (Brighton)

George Davey (Kennington)
Iolo Walker (Newham)
Claire Slocombe (GC but in a personal capacity)
Hazel Pilling (Exeter)
Millie Burgh (GC but in a personal capacity)
Naomi Wilkins (GC but in a personal capacity)
James Irving (Cambridge)
Ros Epton (Lewisham & Greenwich)
Josh Hope-Collins (GC but in a personal capacity)
Susanna Walker (Newham)

The following spoke against:

Sally Mattson (Cambridge)
Steve Vine (Cambridge)
Richard Kirkwood (SOC but in a personal capacity)

The following spoke neither 100% for or against:

Kieran Kirkwood (Hackney)
Melissa March (Leicestershire)
Sophie Holden (Midlands DFs)

Decision: Motion was carried

Against 2, abstentions 2

Motion 7: Supporting vulnerable communities

Proposed by: Alicia Francis (Newham)

Seconded by: Kieran Kirkwood (Hackney)

The following spoke for:

Richard Kirkwood (SOC but in personal capacity)
Kieran Kirkwood (Hackney)
George Davey (Kennington)
Adam Cleveland (Bromley)

The following spoke against:

Claire Knight (Leicestershire)
Melissa March (Leicestershire)
Eric Lucas (Bath)

The following proposed the motion be put on the table:

Sophie Holden (Midlands DFs)

The following spoke against the procedural motion that it be put on the table:

Alicia Francis (Newham)

No-one spoke for the procedural motion

Decision: the procedural motion fell

For 13, abstentions 1

The following then spoke for the motion:

Stuart Walker (General Council but in personal capacity)

Decision: the motion was carried

Against 5, abstentions 7

Motion 8: International camp 2020

Proposed by: Biddy Purser-Healy (Machynlleth)

Seconded by: Eric Lucas (Bath)

Procedural motion to remit motion 8 to General Council

Proposed by: Hannah Mitchell-Bowman (Exeter)

The following spoke for remitting the motion:

Tom Brooks (GC but in personal capacity)

The following spoke against remitting the motion:

Eric Lucas (Bath)

The following requested a point of information:

Sally Mattson (Cambridge)

George Davey (Kennington)

Decision: the procedural Motion was carried

Against 15, abstentions 3

4. Election Results

General Council (16-24) -2 places to be elected

Sax Rendell

General Council (lay members) - 5 places to be elected

James Bowring

Tom Brooks

Pat Hunter

Sonia Kelly

Jack Walker

Standing Orders Committee - 3 places to be elected

David Neibig

Richard Kirkwood

Ash Taylor

Company AGM closed

5. AOB

There will be an online evaluation

Battle of Cable St 80th anniversary – Sunday 9 Oct

There will be an evaluation meeting for Venturer Camp – details to follow

Ceilidh in Exeter - 22 Oct