

Woodcraft Folk Annual General Meeting

(and Annual Policy Meeting)

Sunday 24 June 2018, 9am – 1pm

At Biblins Youth Campsite, as part of Woodcraft Folk Annual Gathering

1. Welcome and Introduction of Candidates for Election

Stuart Walker (Chair) opened the Annual General Meeting and welcomed delegates and observers.

Stuart declared nominations closed at 9.28am.

2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2017 and Matters Arising

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2018 were accepted without amendment.

3. Election of Scrutineers and Tellers

4 scrutineers were elected:

- Ralph Sleigh
- Jennifer Johnstone
- Sean Wakefield
- Rebecca Sayers

2 tellers were elected:

- Tom Brooks
- Jack Walker

4. Consideration of the Annual Report and Accounts and the motion:

Jon Nott introduced the Annual Report and Accounts. He thanked participants for attending and, noting that this was his last time presenting the annual report, he declared that he would take the liberty of reviewing his time with Woodcraft. He reported that:

Global Village was his first experience of Woodcraft. He started as General Secretary in 2010, at the time of a change in Government, which was not aligned with WCF principles. He supported GC in taking the decision to allow our young people to have a say in the running of the organisation. He was proud that the then Chair came back to our last AGM as an MP.

In the lead up to Common Ground there is some sadness in leaving at this time, but Woodcraft now has its own campsite at Biblins and later this year there will be a standing camp to be named after Henry Fair (the first General Secretary back in 1930) and called Project Kudu. Other things he is proud of includes the Tree Project (promoting the engagement of children and young people in our democracy); Venturer Committee; and the

New Groups project. WCF has relied on a diversity of funding following loss of central government funding.

The contribution of projects to core has shrunk over the years, and GC has been working to close that gap. The ambition is to have core functions funded by unrestricted funding by 2020. Whilst not there yet, Woodcraft is on track to achieving this. This move towards sustainability is all really positive and all down to volunteers across the country.

This year's annual report summarises the great work being done in districts and by our centres up and down the country

Referring to the accounts Jon noted:

Page 21: statement of financial affairs – internal transactions get taken out of the figures on income to central WCF.

Page 8: Figures identify the internal financial activity – the big number is groups and districts, which is where the main activity happens. Small loss in regions, nations, centres etc

Office line loss is a planned deficit (less than planned) and part of the sustainability strategy. GC has also agreed a deficit budget for this year and next to continue to provide support to the districts, diversify the funding streams and build sustainability.

Jon thanked all the staff, current and past; all the members of GC and particularly the three Chairs he's worked with; everyone at the AG and all the volunteers who help out at Woodcraft Folk in whatever way.

Questions:

Eric Lukas (Bath District) asked whether we have made a decision to move bank accounts. Jon responded that we have set up a new account and are testing with a few districts. WCF will then ask districts to move to Unity Bank. All accounts will be linked and allow better management. Fees will also be lower. The changes will be rolled out later in the year.

The following motion was put to the meeting and agreed.

“That the annual report and financial statements of Woodcraft Folk for the year ended 31 December 2017 be received and accepted”

5. Re-appointment of Auditors

The following motion was put to the meeting and agreed:

“That Buzzacott LLP be re-appointed auditors and that they be paid for their services a sum to be determined by General Council”

6. Candidates for election

The list of Candidates was read out:

GC (16-24 years)

Pip Sayers
Zeph Deakin

GC (lay)

Jack Walker
Jack Brown
Richard Ball
Tom Brooks
Elliot Francis-Hewett
Kerry Stapleton

Standing Orders Committee

Alicia Francis
Richard Kirkwood
Mia Neibig
David Neibig
Iris Watson

7. Report of Standing Orders Committee

Jenny presented the report of the Standing Orders Committee:

Quorum

The meeting is quorate. Quorum is 58 and we have **76** delegates here so I can happily announce we are quorum. There are an additional **11** proxy votes who can vote in the AGM but not the annual policy meeting (the motions).

Motions

WCF received 3 motions before the deadline and 1 shortly (hours) after the deadline with an explanation that there had been email problems. Standing Orders Committee agreed to accept this “late motion” due to the extenuating circumstances.

Emergency Motions

WCF received one emergency motion which we have accepted as a. the topic was not one widely known about at the time of the original motion deadline, and the criterion of being able to justify rearranging business was met as with only 4 motions the impact was minimal. If WCF had a much higher number of motions this would not have been accepted it was a matter of weighing up the issue versus impact and the impact this year was very small.

Amendments

WCF received 4 amendments to the four non-emergency motions by the deadline. No amendments to the emergency motion can be accepted.

Nominations

WCF received 4 nominations for Standing Orders Committee, for 3 positions of 2 years and 2 bi-elections for 1 year. Nominations are closed for the 3 2-year positions and re-opened for the one year bi-election only.

WCF received 2 nominations for the 16-24 category for General Council for 2 vacancies. 4 nominations have been received for the 5 lay category vacancies and so nominations have been reopened for both of these categories.

Re-opening nominations

After re-opening of nominations **0** additional nominations for General Council 16-24 category were received and **2** additional nominations were received for the lay category. Standing Orders committee has met to discuss the matter of under 16s standing for election to General Council. It is not clear across all our documentation. The articles of association (which are the legal things we need) and the WCF constitution are not 100% consistent. The important thing to stress is that if someone under 16 is elected to General Council they cannot (by law) be registered as a trustee of the organisation; this does not stop them from acting as an official observer (who can still do lots of things for general council) to General Council.

WCF also received 1 additional nominations for the SOC bi-election

Please note that in all our elections there is the option to Re-open nominations in your voting preference.

The report was agreed

The Company AGM was adjourned for the consideration of non-company business]

ANNUAL POLICY MEETING

1. People we have lost this year:

Stuart reported on the Woodcraft members / supporters who had been lost in the last year.

2. Policy Motions

A. Consideration of Motions 1-4 and Amendments

Motion 1: Supporting participation by menstruating people

The motion was presented by Roz and Zoe, Lewisham and Greenwich District. They made the additional point that period poverty is an issue for people and that many people menstruating cannot afford period products.

Amendment to the motion:

Prima Jones presented the amendment

They put forward an amendment as a separate space might make people feel isolated and excluded.

Consideration of amendment to motion 1

The amendment to the motion was unanimously carried.

Consideration of amended motion 1

The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion 2: Integration of isolated groups, Venturer Committee

The motion was presented by Kerry Stapleton, Devon Venturers

Amendment to the motion:

The amendment was presented by Iris Walker, Camden Venturers
The proposers accepted the amendment

Questions:

Eric Lukas (Bath District)

– does the GC feel that they have not been doing that and why/ And will the strategic plan and Common Ground do this?

Debs responded – has been activity, but not written down in a strategy document. Strategic Plan states it as an intention but doesn't say how it will be done. A strategy document

Speakers for and against the motion:

Ghee Bowman (Exeter District)

David Neigbig (SOC but in personal capacity)

Consideration of amendment motion 2

The amendment was carried

2 against

3 abstentions

Remainder in favour

Consideration of amended motion 2

The motion was carried

Motion 3: Diversity in decision making process

The motion was presented by Kerry Stapleton, Venturer Committee

Proposer supports the amendment.

Some feeling that GC and Folk House, are distant to the districts. Want to improve the way we engage with the movement and improved the

Prima – proposed the amendment from Camden Venturers

Consideration of amendment to motion 3

The amendment was carried.

4 abstentions

0 votes against

Remainder voted in favour

Consideration of amended motion 3

The amended motion was carried

No votes against

2 abstentions

The remainder voted in favour

Motion 4: Establish a fund to support young people's attendance at AGM

The motion was presented by Sophie Holden, London Region DFs

Consideration of amendment to motion 4

The amendment was proposed by Iris, Camden Venturers

Speakers

Sophie Holden (London Region DFs).

Eric Lukas (Bath District)

Adam Tucker (Leeds district)

Joel Street (Glasgow Venturers)

Becky Harris (Camden District)

Kerry Stapleton (Deveon Venturers)

The amendment was carried

For: 36

Against: 16

Abstentions: 10

Consideration of amended motion 4

Speakers:

Ian Cleveland (Bromley District)

Suzannah Walker (Newham Watersmeet District)

Anne Draper (Bristol District)

Adam Tucker (Leeds District)

Joel Street (Welsh DFs)

Iris Watson (Camden Venturers)

Elliot Francis-Hewett (Bristol District)

Procedural motion

Jenny Thompson proposed that the motion be sent back to GC, to develop a workable plan and come back in a year's time with a motion that includes a ballot

Eric Lukas, Bath, seconded the procedural motion

Sophie Holden, London Region DFs spoke against the motion

Consideration of the procedural motion (2 thirds majority of delegates required for the vote to be carried)

For 38
Against 18
Abstentions 3
59 voters
39.33 needed

A recount was requested by SOC

For 41
Against 22
Abstentions 3
66 voters
44 votes needed

The procedural motion fell.

Speakers

Linda Osborne (Southwark District)
Ghee Bowman (Exeter District)
Karry Stapleton (Devon District)
Sophie Holden (London Region DFs)

The amended motion was carried

For 40
Against 8
Abstentions 7

B. Consideration of emergency motions

The motion was proposed by Kieran Kirkwood, Hackney District

This is an emergency about Woodcrafts participation in protesting the Trump visit.

Speakers

Ghee Bowman (Exeter District)
Roz (Lewisham and Greenwich District)

The motion was carried

For 58
Against 0
Abstentions 2

[Company AGM reconvened]

8. Declaration of Election Results and Appointment of General Council members

Election to General Council

Elected to serve for two years in the 16-24 category:

Pip Sayers

Zeph Deakin

Elected to serve for two years in the lay category:

Tom Brooks

Jack Brown

Elliot Francis-Hewitt

Jack Walker

Elected to serve for two years as an official observer:

Kerry Stapleton

(Venturers can be elected to General Council, but cannot legally become Directors and Trustees until they turn 16 - on their 16th birthday they move from official observer to lay category)

Election to Standing Orders Committee

Elected:

Alicia Francis

David Neibig

Mia Neibig

Richard Kirkwood

Iris Watson

Congratulations to those who were elected and thanks to all those who stood.

9. Other Business

There was none.

10. Close of meeting at 12:30pm