

Update on Motions Discussed at Annual Policy Forum 2017

NB the Annual Policy Forum 2017 was not quorate, so informal discussion took place and indicative straw polls were taken. All motions were formally remitted to General Council in line with our rules. General Council has taken action on the basis of the views expressed in the indicative straw polls.

Motion 1: Remote Participation in the AGM

This Annual General Meeting notes the 2016 motion passed to allow AGM participation without physical attendance.

This Annual General Meeting therefore agrees that from the 2018 AGM forward participants will be able to vote:

- Remotely before the meeting, from the date of publication of the final agenda to the day before the physical meeting.
- Remotely during the meeting at the same time as participants at the meeting vote.

Remote participants will be able to vote on/in:

- Company Business.
- Elections for GC, SOC and any others held.
- Policy motions taken as part of the Annual Policy Meeting.

Rationale

This motion is to implement the changes requested last year. The plan is to take the motion in parts and vote on the bullet points individually so delegates can choose the scope of the changes.

Update: Following the poor attendance at the AGM, General Council took the decision to re-launch Annual Gathering – an event combining formal business, with camping, skill-sharing, socialising and activities. Plans for remote participation were put on hold pending the trial of the re-launched Annual Gathering.

Motion 2: Safeguarding training

This Annual General Meeting agrees that all adult members that work with children or young people once a month or more, or attending a residential/overnight stay, must complete the online "Staying Safe" safeguarding module. Exemptions may be made at the discretion of the Local Safeguarding Officer for those adult members that have completed other suitable safeguarding training (LSCB Level 2 and above).

Rationale

This motion is proposed by General Council on the recommendation of the Members Safeguarding Review Group.

Update: General Council have accepted this recommendation as part of our safeguarding policy.

Motion 3: Group Registration

This Annual General Meeting agrees that group registration fees will be frozen at 2016 levels for 2018.

This AGM re-states the principle that no group or district should close due to inability to pay their registration fees.

This AGM encourages those districts which are able, to continue to make solidarity payments in addition to their registration fees to help ensure that no group closes due to lack of funds.

This AGM requests that General Council reviews the group registration system and fee levels and brings proposals to the 2018 AGM which take into account the following principles:

- 1) Group registration fees should reflect the size and financial health of groups and districts.
- 2) Group registration income, along with individual membership and donations should enable the core infrastructure of Woodcraft Folk to provide the minimum agreed level of support for volunteers, reducing over-reliance on one-off grant income.
- 3) Future rises in group registration should be incremental to reflect rises in costs and should be planned and communicated to the movement as part of a 3-year financial planning cycle.

Rationale

In 2015 the membership of Woodcraft Folk voted to adopt a new method for calculating group registration fees to apply from 2016, resulting in significantly higher contributions from groups and districts to the core infrastructure to avoid a reduction in support to frontline volunteers.

The 2015 motion introduced the option to apply for reduced fees and also established a solidarity payment scheme to reflect variations in Districts' ability to contribute to core infrastructure costs. Following the introduction of the new system, group registration fees for 2017 were frozen at 2016 levels. All applications for reduced fees were covered by solidarity donations in both 2016 and 2017.

General Council therefore proposes to freeze fees at 2016 levels for a further year, but wishes to avoid a repeat of the situation where group reg fees lag behind rising costs and then need to rise significantly again at some point in the future.

Update: General Council are considering this as part of the next three-year budgeting cycle, but were not in a position to bring a proposal to the 2018 AGM.

Motion 4: Campaigning on issues relating to our values

This Annual General Meeting believes that the current period of debate around political and social issues offers a significant possibility of promoting Woodcraft Folk's values, aims and principles to a wider audience.

This AGM therefore urges Woodcraft Folk at all levels, local, regional and national to engage as fully as possible with campaigns around issues of social justice, equality, peace, international friendship and environmental concerns. These will include campaigns to defend and expand public services, in support of diversity, multiculturalism, welcoming refugees and migrants and for full equal rights for all as well as for peace and against climate change.

This AGM urges groups, districts and other Woodcraft bodies to make or commission banners which can make our presence visible at events around these issues and instructs General Council to commission a national banner for this purpose.

Update: General Council have produced and circulated guidance for groups campaigning and a process for members and groups to propose that Woodcraft Folk nationally take action in support of campaigns. Groups from around the country have been making use of this.

Motion 5: International Camp 2020 Gift Aid

This Annual General Meeting agrees that for every £1 eligible for Gift Aid donated for International camp 2020 the 25p of gift aid claimed from the government shall be split in the following way:

- 4p will go to core finances as an admin fee,
- 10p will go to the camp
- 11p will go back to the district making the claim.

Rationale

Gift aid, is a government initiative where it adds 25p to every £1 donated to a charity by an eligible donor. For each £205 donated towards costs of International Camp 2020, the government will give in addition £51.25. Splitting this: £8.20 for central £20.50 for the camp and £22.55 back to the district enables all parts of our organisation to benefit.

Update: This motion has been noted and built into the Common Ground budget.

Motion 6: Badgework

This Annual General Meeting notes the new badgework resources and welcomes their development. This AGM calls on all members to help improve these resources by adding activities they have carried out with their own groups to the Woodcraft Folk website.

Update: This motion has been noted and the work of the badgework group continues.