



6 April 2020

Woodcraft Folk 2020 Annual Gathering - IMPORTANT CHANGES

Dear Friend,

In the light of the current situation with the Covid 19 virus, General Council has decided to postpone the AGM which was scheduled for 30th May until Sunday 13th September 2020 and to hold the meeting electronically. We consider this to be the best way forward to ensure we meet our democratic and legal obligations in this very difficult time.

Here is some more information about this decision.

On 27th March we were due to send you the preliminary agenda for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Annual Policy Meeting of The Woodcraft Folk (the governance bit of the weekend 29-31st May).

General Council, as the directors of the organisation, have, on the advice of Standing Orders Committee, taken the decision to cancel the physical meeting, and, in light of the current situation with Covid19 to postpone the date until later in the year.

By way of explanation, as a charity there are TWO key votes at an AGM which are needed in order for us to comply with legal obligations. These are:-

1. For the members to confirm they have received the annual Statutory Report and Accounts
2. For the members to agree the appointment of the auditors

Both of these decisions require a majority of those voting to approve, and we need a minimum of 1/5 of our registered groups and districts to vote. Therefore, it is our priority to ensure that we can undertake both of these votes with enough people - there is more on the process of voting below.

As a registered Company, we have to hold our AGM within 15 months of the last one, which took place in June 2019. We have decided that the new date will enable more time to prepare the Statutory accounts which are likely to be impacted by the current situation.

Motions

This year we only received 2 motions for debate, and they were both on the same topic: to increase the gender diversity of General Council; and so would have been combined into one resolution. Technically, 2020 is not a year in which we can propose amendments to the

Standing Orders, and this motion would impact on those Standing Orders, so we do not need to accept these 2 motions. They also both require some technical development with Standing Orders Committee, so we have chosen to roll these motions to 2021 and spend time over the next year ironing out the possible models for making this change. The wording of these motions is below. We encourage all groups and districts to discuss the issues raised throughout the next year.

Elections

Finally, we intend to postpone the elections for General Council and Standing Orders Committee in line with the new date for the AGM and will hold these elections via postal vote. This means there will be no option to accept nominations from the floor this year. We strongly encourage everyone considering standing for one of the roles to do so, and for everyone to encourage their friends and district-comrades to do so too. The new deadline for receiving nominations is Friday 7th August.

So what next?

We will send all district contacts the following documents on or before 28th August 2020,

1. A copy of the annual accounts
2. A proxy voting form
3. The Candidates information
4. A voting form for elections

We ask everyone to complete both a voting form and a proxy form. Please put your proxy vote to the Chair of the AGM.

We will then hold a short AGM using online video technology. This will be short and cover the essential items.

The voting forms will be passed from the office to Standing Orders Committee who will manage the election.

Amended Timeline

Fri 10th Jul - Preliminary Agenda issued

Fri 7th August - Nominations deadline

Fri 28th Aug - Final Agenda, Accounts, proxy forms and election voting forms emailed

Mon 7th Sep - deadline to return proxy forms and voting forms

Sun 13th Sep - online AGM held and election results announced

Submitted motions (rolled over to 2021) for information only

Submitted motion 1

"This Annual General Meeting resolves that, from 2021, at least one of those elected each year to General Council in the age group 18-24 age group must not be a cis-man, and that at least 50% of all members elected to General Council must not be cis-men.

Proposed by General Council

Rationale

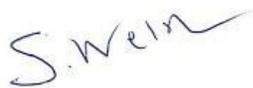
General Council has noted that this year's body did not have enough women members or members of minority genders. We feel this is a detriment to General Council and the movement as a whole. We also noted that including age quotas to General Council elections has improved the age make-up of general council, and we wish to do the same for the gender make-up of General Council."

Submitted motion 2

This annual gathering agrees to make general council more colourful and have more women members. As pioneers, we feel that everyone is treated equally in our group and our group is run by both men and women. We want general council to be as fair as our group.

Submitted by Kelvingrove Pioneers

Blue skies



Sarah Welsh
General Secretary



Debs McCahon
General Secretary



Pip Sayers, Chair
General Council



Jeni Dixon, Chair
Standing Orders Committee