

AGM 15th June 2024 minutes

Present: Ros Epton (Lewisham & Greenwich), Emily Crane (Oxford), John Tippins (Hounslow), Beth Riley (Edinburgh) Jan Harker (Waltham Abbey), Jammie Malcolm (Clapham), Helen Spilsted (Ipswich), Nancy Hawker (Highgate & Holloway), Veronica Hammerstone (Clapham), Suzannah Walker (Newham), Cornelia Wilson (Hounslow), Tom Searle (Colliers Wood)

Trustees present: Aggie Taylor (Chair of General Council), Tom Brooks (General Council), Nadia Asri (General Council), Eddie Moriarty (General Council), Eedie Baker-Thompson (General Council/DF), Joe Bailey (General Council), Roland Susman (General Council), Tyler Eckersall (General Council/DF)

Standing Orders Committee: Ralph Sleigh (Standing Orders Committee), Wilf Lamont (Standing Orders Committee/DF), David Neibig (Standing Orders Committee)

In attendance: Debs McCahon (CEO)

Meeting documents:

- [Final agenda](#)
- [AGM minutes 10th August 2023](#)
- [Annual Report & Accounts 2023](#)

Welcome & introductions

Aggie welcomed people to the meeting and introduced the chairing team - herself, Nadia & Tom and Standing Orders Committee - Wilf, David and Ralph.

Aggie explained that members of General Council are Woodcraft Folk's Trustees and Directors.

Aggie also introduced other Trustees present in the meeting, including Joe, Tyler, Eedie and Eddie and Debs, Woodcraft Folk's CEO.

Highlights from the movement

Participants were invited to share their highlights in small groups and on a [jamboard](#).

Nadia asked people to share if their highlights were national or regional camps, other suggestions included camp fires, singing folk songs, meeting people from another District, camp food...

Joe shared that his highlight was his local group growing.

Beth shared that her highlight was her District camp.

Ros shared that her highlight was the Elfin sleepover at Cudham.

Standing Orders Report

Wilf, Chair of Standing Orders Committee gave a quick update to the meeting. Wilf shared that we have received 2 policy motions, of which an amendment has been received in advance for one of them. Business motions (AGM minutes, Annual Report & appoint the the auditors) have been voted on in advance by the membership.

The quoracy for this meeting is 42 votes, 54 votes were received in advance for the elections and business motions. Attendance levels at today's meeting suggest that we will not be quorate for the policy motion discussions.

Standing Orders will support the discussion of the policy motions and instruct General Council to enact the will of those members in attendance.

Minutes from the AGM 10th August 2023

[Minutes from the AGM in 2023](#) were circulated and voted on in advance.

No questions were raised during the meeting.

Proposed by Aggie Taylor

Votes in advance & in the room - 52 for, 2 abstentions

Annual Report & Accounts 2023

[Annual Report & Accounts 2023](#) were circulated and voted on in advance, together with a [presentation](#) from the chair and CEO.

No questions were raised during the meeting

Proposed by Tom Brooks

Votes in advance & in the room - 53 for, 1 abstention

Appointment of auditors

No questions were raised during the meeting.

Proposed by Nadia Asri

Votes in advance & in the room - 53 for, 1 abstention

Election results

Nadia thanked the outgoing Trustees - Nadia, Aggie & Tom.

Tom confirmed that the following individuals had been elected to the Trustee Board:

- Eedie Baker-Thompson
- Isabel Cleveland
- Morgan Britton-Voss
- Paul Nolan-Paley
- Ro Marsh

Tom confirmed that David Neibig has also been elected to Standing Orders Committee

Motion discussion

Standing Orders confirmed that the meeting is not quorate, but the chairing team agreed that the Trustee Board would respond to the views of the meeting. Tom explained how the discussion of the motions would work, inviting individuals to talk for and/or against motions.

Motion 1: Response to conflict in Gaza

This Annual General Meeting agrees:

1. PEACE

We support Woodcraft Folk's [Palestine statement of 28 February 2024](#). Since the Woodcraft Folk stands for peace, and we are based in the UK, we call on the UK government to back an immediate sustained ceasefire and to stop weapons transfers to any/all parties to the conflict, and we should continue to make this call in a public and coordinated way.

Bearing in mind that we are educating children towards responsibility for equality, inclusion and peace in our communities and around the world, through [friendship and cooperation](#) we believe that we have an important social role in guiding children on how to respond to international conflicts and the harm that they inflict.

Children members of the Woodcraft Folk who wish to express their responsibility through action, should be supported by Woodcraft Folk leaders to make calls for a ceasefire and for halting weapons transfers, and other appropriate calls they want to make about the situation in Gaza and southern Israel or about any other conflict around the world, to their MPs and MSPs.

2. FRIENDSHIP

Since we have partner organisations in the region, and we act on principles of international solidarity, we should enquire after the wellbeing of the members of IFM-SEI in Israel and Palestine (Ajyal, Independence Youth Union, Edward Said National Conservatory of Music, Independent Youth Forum, HaShomer HaTzair, Noar Lomed veOved, as listed on <https://ifm-sei.org/middle-east/>), and this inquiry should be conducted by the Woodcraft Folk leadership and communicated to the members.

- The same inquiry should find out how Woodcraft Folk could be of assistance, remembering the role Woodcraft Folk played in saving children from central Europe in 1939.

- Woodcraft Folk children may be encouraged to send messages of friendship to members of partner organisations, and in particular to those friends from the

Edward Said Conservatory whom we hosted in Kelmarsh in 2022, if this is what our partners in Palestine and Israel find appropriate.

3. SOLIDARITY

- Woodcraft Folk members may be encouraged to raise funds for charities such as [UNICEF](#) that are delivering humanitarian assistance to children in Gaza
- Woodcraft Folk and/or IFM-SEI should explore ways of establishing a mechanism to raise and send funds directly to the Edward Said Conservatory for distribution to their members in Gaza.

The Motion was passed unanimously at the London Region Woodcraft Folk AGM on 3 March 2024.

Submitted by Highgate & Holloway District

Nancy was invited to present the motion, she explained that their District includes individuals from Palestinian heritage who met other Palestinian young people at Common Ground, creating a feeling of community. Nancy shared that when the conflict broke out there was a challenge of communicating with the groups in Palestine and their young members wanted to do something - this motion is asking for action.

Eddie confirmed that General Council supports this motion.

Beth shared concerns about some of the organisations named, some of whom are being investigated by IFM following concerns raised during the International Committee meeting. Two of the organisations have been accused of violent and aggressive behaviour not in keeping with IFM's values.

In response Nancy confirmed that we should still show international friendship and enquire about the welfare of individuals. Nancy asked us all to stick to our principle of international friendship and seeking to achieve a fair and equal world. Nancy confirmed that the motion has already been approved by the local District and London region, working through the grassroots of the organisation.

Votes in favour = 13

Votes against = 0

Abstentions = 1

Motion 2: Financial support for Venturer Committee

This Annual General Meeting directs all Woodcraft national and international camps to plan to generate a financial surplus for the specific purpose of supporting Venturer Committee.

Submitted by Venturer Committee & Magpie Venturers - Newham

Amendment: This Annual General Meeting agrees to delete “This Annual General Meeting directs all Woodcraft national and international camps to plan to generate a financial surplus for the specific purpose of supporting Venturer Committee.”

Replacing with “This Annual General Meeting agrees to instruct, as part of its annual budget setting processes, General Council to provide a travel and subsistence allowance to Venturer Committee enabling them to meet and progress their agenda.

Submitted by General Council

Nadia explained that motion two has an amendment. Suzannah confirmed that the original proposers accepted the amendment proposed by General Council. Suzannah explained that historically Venturer Committee had been funded in a piecemeal manner, and recognised that it needed financial support to function.

Eddie confirmed that General Council supports the motion.

Voted to accept the amendment = 14

Veronica informed the meeting that London Region has committed £1,200 to support the Venturer Committee.

Wilf, as a young member, shared that he had been on Venturer Committee which led him to be involved in Standing Orders Committee and DF Committee. It was a springboard to support him to engage in Woodcraft Folk democracy.

Suzannah thanked London Region for their support. Suzannah also thanked people for sharing their experiences of Venturer Committee and the benefits it brings to individuals and the organisation.

Votes in favour = 11

Votes against = 0

Abstentions = 1

Topics of discussion

Aggie invited individuals to join small discussion groups:

- Big camps
- Youth campaigns
- Widening participation

Headlines from the small group discussions included:

- The small group was keen to support more children and young people to have their voices heard
- Nancy shared the ‘more trees and less cars’ campaign by Highgate Elfins

- Encouraging groups to engage in the [Restore Nature Now](#) campaign,
- Concerns were shared about the level of youth homelessness and what Woodcraft Folk could do to support young people in that situation
- Volunteer campaigns had raised the number of enquiries from individuals who haven't traditionally been part of the campaign
- Desire to have greater targeted campaigns
- A group shared that our group spaces were important and influential to who engages in Woodcraft Folk
- The LGBTQ+ young people's targeted group = Be yourself group
- Recognition that we could do better on racial diversity and that our groups need to reflect on how they can better reflect their local community
- Some groups shared that at times the targeted recruitment can be harder to retain
- Practical reflections on types of activities, especially at Ramadan
- Pioneer Camp is taking place at Biblins in 2024
- Camp100 is taking place in July/August 2025
- Venturer Camp ambitions to take place in the summer 2026 - Tom called upon the meeting to ask individuals to come forward to organise the next Venturer Camp. Personal requests work better than mass communications
- People are excited about attending Pioneer Camp, the group wanted to make it an 'institution' and the need to reflect and learn from feedback

Aggie thanked everyone for their contributions.

Aggie thanked:

- Ros for hosting the chairing team
- Debs for her work and supporting the meeting
- Standing Orders for their work in ensuring we followed the rules of our governance.
- The chairing team