



Folk Association of South Hants

Minutes of the delayed Annual General Meeting

4pm Sunday 4th October 2020

Held in people's own homes via Zoom due to coronavirus Covid-19

Present: Ian Kirby, Lin Rayner, David & Lyn Sutton, Jacqui & Steve Longhurst, Daphne Goddard Coates, Dave Atkins, Glenwys & Nigel Beaton, Celia & Nigel Close, Jo Harmer, Karen Ilott, Elizabeth Habens, Sue & Pete Hall, Martin Linda, Liz Neal, Alan Thurbon, John & Hilary Turner, Dennis Wheeler.

1. Apologies for absence: Elizabeth Haigh, Sheila Andrews, Sue & Eric Bradshaw, Geraldine Buchanan, John Coates, Kenneth Coates, Trevor Dando, Martin Davis, Tom Linley Jones, Margaret Linton, Elsa Millard, Joanna Morrell, Joy Simmons.

2. Minutes of AGM held on Sunday 12th May 2019: approved and signed

3. Matters arising

para 3: callers' workshop: John Turner had been willing to run one in some form in 2020 but Covid-19 intervened! He offered to pursue this in 2021/22 if people were still interested. Several people indicated that they would be – Nigel Beaton, Nigel Close, Daphne Goddard Coates, Karen Ilott, Martin Linda, Jacqui & Steve Longhurst & Lyn Sutton – so John will distribute some material and ask for feedback.

para 8: lunch arrangements at workshops: we had BYO successfully at all workshops except The Madding Crowd's where B&Sh had always worked well. We put out the tables as previously and none of the social atmosphere was lost. Elizabeth kindly agreed to continue providing soup, which was much appreciated!

4. Chairman's report – Ian Kirby

Ian gave a brief outline of the 2019/20 season, cancellations to date and hopes for the future. He thanked the committee for their various contributions, Lyn Sutton for her work organising the distribution of Solent Waves and everyone present for supporting us. The full report is [here](#). There were no questions.

5. Treasurer's report – Lin Rayner

Accounts to be agreed subject to inspection (postponed because of social distancing)

The report refers to the year ending 31st March and can be found [here](#). A copy of the accounts is [here](#).

There has been very little change since March – payment to FolkActive for work done on the Schools Ceilidhs, a few donations and payments for adverts (which will appear when publishing resumes) and 1p in interest! Jacqui kindly banked the cash that was no longer needed at workshops. The accounts will be inspected when government restrictions allow.

Nigel Close proposed their acceptance, Dennis Wheeler seconded and it was agreed unanimously.

6. Membership secretary's report – Jacqui Longhurst

We had 52 members in the 2019/20 season, which was fewer than in the previous year. One of our members, Sophie Kosinska, sadly died in April.

The full report is [here](#). It includes a proposal not to collect any fees for membership or season tickets while events are on hold, a second to call everyone a FASH 'supporter' in communications until memberships can start again and a third to make adjustments to reflect the cancellation of 2 out of 8 workshops.

Elizabeth Habens proposed their acceptance, Martin Linda seconded and they were passed unanimously.

Jacqui has been stewarding at FolkActive's successful online dances aimed at age 55+ (to be found at <https://www.folkactive.org.uk/wellbeing/folkactive-dances/>) and recommended them to the meeting. Jo Harmer, who runs FolkActive with Cath Watkins and Tom Gregory, gave a few more details. They have been running on Zoom every 2nd and 4th Wednesday since June with live music from either Cath Watkins and Nic Bradford or Lewis Wood and Chris Lucas. Catherine Humphrey, who has adapted the dances, does a walk through and calls them with Jo demonstrating. Each dance costs from £2 and all are welcome.

Daphne told the meeting that Victoria Yeomans will be running an online dance for FASH at 2pm on Sunday 18th October with live music from her husband Dave. It will be free and details of how to join will be sent to supporters soon.

7. Editor's report: website & Solent Waves – David Sutton

The full report (available [here](#)) was written about a month ago, since when a few live events have tentatively begun at larger venues and are listed on the website (www.fash.org.uk) together with all the Zoom events we know about.

When we can eventually print Issue 429 of Solent Waves the print run will be smaller than previously, which will keep the cost down. We will no longer send it to most libraries as they were not displaying their copies.

We now have links on the website to our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/fash.org.uk) which Jacqui Longhurst our membership secretary set up last season. It publicises our events and has a healthy following.

We are also grateful to Steve Longhurst for providing general technical expertise if needed.

8. 2020/21 workshop season – effects of corona virus

In view of the latest restrictions, we have regrettably decided to cancel the January and February 2021 workshops in addition to all the 2020 ones. We will review the workshops planned for March and April nearer the time.

If the dance on the 18th October goes well, Victoria might run an online workshop on 10th January 2021 in place of her scheduled one that we have had to cancel.

9. Primary School Ceilidhs – Lin Rayner

In the last financial year we only lost £162 on the School Ceilidhs thanks to the award of several grants. Previously Dennis Wheeler has done all the administration, contacted the schools and organised the teaching support they received from FASH volunteers, not least from him! Dennis has now stepped down and although FASH is still providing the finance, this year FolkActive have taken over the organisational tasks. They have contacted the schools, provided CDs of the music with dance instructions and run a teacher twilight session. FASH has paid £80 for the Teachers' Workshop and the CD's etc but there were no other costs as the ceilidhs had to be cancelled.

Jo Harmer explained that they had been very pleased with the response from schools this year – 9 had signed up with 200+ children due to attend the ceilidhs in June. They had adapted the dances to avoid any hand holding and hung on as long as they could, but eventually the Covid-19 restrictions had meant that they had to cancel. Jo was asked whether the teachers were likely to carry on teaching the dances. She thought it was possible as they had the CDs and the instructions and most had been to the workshop. FolkActive will follow it up and remind them they could do it - ready for next year!

She ended with a 'massive thank you' to FASH for their support.

10. Committee nominations

The following committee members were willing to stand again: Elizabeth Haigh, Lin Rayner, David Sutton, Jacqui Longhurst, Ian Kirby and Daphne Goddard Coates. Nigel Close nominated them all, Lyn Sutton seconded and it was carried unanimously. We would welcome anyone who felt they could volunteer to join the committee.

11. Any Other Business

Jacqui mentioned the Cecil Sharp House website (www.fcsh.org.uk) which has various virtual events, the latest of which was a webinar on the future of Social Dance led by Colin Hume.

John Turner asked if anyone had been attending the various virtual ceilidhs. Jacqui & Steve Longhurst and Nigel & Celia Close said they had. Steve enjoys the ceilidhs and also likes to just watch sometimes. You can turn your own camera off, which a lot of people do. The London Barn Dance Company typically has more people off camera than on. It is free to join them and they publish the music – highly recommended.

Pete & Sue Hall thanked Dave for the archive issues of Solent Waves he has been sending out monthly as a pdf.

The meeting closed at 4.50pm after which Pete & Sue played a tune live from their church's Children's Harvest Festival and John Turner followed that with a traditional tune on his melodeon – live from his home.