



Folk Association of South Hants

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

4pm on Sunday 20th May 2018

Soberton Village Hall

Present: Lin Rayner, Dennis Wheeler, Elizabeth Haigh, Karen Ilott, David & Lyn Sutton, Jacqui & Steve Longhurst, Daphne & Kenneth Coates, Sheila Andrews, Bob Askew, Glenwys & Nigel Beaton, Sue & Eric Bradshaw, John Coates, Lizz Cross, Trevor Dando, Martin Davis, Elizabeth Habens, Sue & Pete Hall, Tom Linley Jones, Ian Kirby, Margaret Linton, Liz Neal, Liz Norris, Terry Russell, Martin Slater, Joy Simmons, Hilary & John Turner.

1. Apologies: Joy & Roly Clarke, Celia & Nigel Close, Elsa Millard, Yvonne Wheeler.

2. Minutes of AGM held on Sunday 14th May 2017: approved and signed

3. Matters arising

para 4: Our display at Soberton Hall's 50th Anniversary event on 16th September 2017 was very successful. Joy Simmons called four dances with Pete and Sue Hall providing the music. Nineteen of our regular dancers took part and we also had some enthusiastic audience participation!

4. Chairman's report - Lin Rayner

A paper copy was handed out and is available on request. Lin gave an overview of the 2017/18 workshops, which had good attendance and were generally much enjoyed. We unfortunately had to cancel Alan Stevens' workshop in March due to snow, but he has agreed to come back and give it next year. Feedback from the surveys has been interesting and mostly positive, especially about the musicians who are greatly appreciated.

Next season's workshops include a 'Do Something Different Day' as well as our regular workshop from The Madding Crowd. A 'Dates for your Diary' list was available.

We were again very happy to support the Primary Schools Ceilidhs, which go from strength to strength thanks to Dennis Wheeler's organisation and commitment. As well as the children who enjoy the dancing, young musicians from local schools benefit from the experience of playing with the band.

As mentioned last year, we supported a SHOCC Ceilidh to coincide with the MayFest. It was a great success so another is planned for next year's MayFest, 18th May 2019, for which FASH will provide support if required. This year the Guildhall was unavailable.

We have embraced the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) which apply from 25th May and people will be asked to give us specific permission to hold their contact details. We have produced a privacy policy which is on the website.

As usual, Lin thanked the committee for working hard in their various roles, with a special mention for Karen Ilott who stands down as Bookings Secretary this year. She also thanked Lyn Sutton and Terry Russell for their invaluable work on the distribution of Solent Waves as well as all the other Solent Waves distributors and those who help in the kitchen. We sang Happy Birthday to Lyn Sutton.

5. Treasurer's report – Dennis Wheeler

We have £2790 in the bank, about £400 less than last year once the £300 grant from Bishop's Waltham for the schools ceilidhs is taken into account. This should not cause concern at the moment, but we will need to consider our options before next year's AGM. Income from membership fees and attendance at workshops is down, but this is because season ticket take up has increased. We feel this has contributed to a rise in average attendance, which is what we had hoped for. The annual Madding Crowd workshop continues to make a good profit as does John Turner's workshop, because of his popularity and the fact that he generously waives his fee.

The cost of subsidising the School Ceilidhs was down to £436 thanks to the grant mentioned above.

The price for printing Solent Waves has risen dramatically this year (from £60 to £82 each run) mainly due to the fall in value of the pound. The committee will consider the best way to deal with these ongoing cost increases.

Dennis thanked John Martyn for inspecting the accounts. Nigel Beaton proposed their acceptance, Karen Ilott seconded and it was agreed unanimously.

6. Membership secretary's report – Jacqui Longhurst

We had 22 season ticket holders last year and saw all of them fairly regularly at workshops.

Out of 74 members during the past year, 67 could be contacted by email, which is excellent.

So far this season we have 29 members including 3 season ticket holders, but we are expecting many people to join today.

In accordance with the GDPR, the new membership forms require your consent for us to hold your details. We can only send you information if you have given this consent.

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

Website – in order to keep it up to date we need people to point out any inaccuracies or out of date information, so please be vigilant. It is very helpful if people send me information about their clubs and events, rather than my having to find it out by trawling through websites etc. We know that people use the website, as we had 2,300 accesses in the last year.

GDPR – most people who receive Solent Waves either by post or via email as a pdf have replied giving consent to our holding the relevant details. Those who haven't yet replied will be sent reminders, but will then be removed from the list if they do not get in touch.

Solent Waves – we have had some larger (10 page) editions this year for three main reasons: the events diaries are growing which is good, we have sadly had more obituaries and we have carried more advertisements (which help with cash flow).

8. Primary School Ceilidhs – Dennis Wheeler

The two Ceilidh Days in Bishop's Waltham this year, for approximately 300 children, will be on 13th and 20th June and volunteer helpers would be most welcome. Graham Taylor is again calling, supported by Jo Harmer and Tom Gregory of FolkActive, with music from Jigfoot - once more augmented by members of the Hampshire Youth Folk Ensemble.

Volunteers are currently helping in 2 schools with teaching the dances and we would welcome more.

FolkActive continue to work with the Portsmouth Music Hub and will be holding Schools Ceilidhs on 4 consecutive days in October. These are supported by members of the FASH committee, but more volunteers would be appreciated.

9. Committee nominations

Karen Ilott is standing down this year after having done an excellent job as Bookings Secretary for several years, for which we are very grateful. The following committee members were willing to stand: Lin Rayner, Dennis Wheeler, Elizabeth Haigh, David Sutton, Jacqui Longhurst, Ian Kirby and Daphne Coates. Sue Hall nominated them all, Joy Simmons seconded and it was carried unanimously.

We would welcome anyone who felt they could volunteer to join us.

10. Any Other Business

A suggestion was made that we run a callers' workshop, particularly to give people experience of calling with live music. It is currently possible to do this at Eastleigh FDC. If the committee decided to go ahead, Pete and Sue Hall would be prepared to help as would John Turner, who said that we would have to emphasise the need for careful preparation.

There was a round of applause to show our appreciation of Elizabeth Haigh, who masterminds the catering, keeps us supplied with home-made soup at workshops and made today's cream tea. Elizabeth thanked Karen Ilott and Lyn Sutton for all their help in the kitchen, which was seconded by everyone.

The meeting closed at 5pm, after which we enjoyed Elizabeth's now traditional cream tea, followed by a most enjoyable dance led by Ian Kirby with music from Pete & Sue Hall.