

Althing 2018 Minutes

List of Members Present:

- Sophie Holden
- Ash Taylor
- Alexi Brailey Staempfli
- Noah Locke
- Amber Sims
- Elliot Francis-Hewett
- Chris Bowler
- Joel Cockerill-Evans
- Robin Lyster
- Talia Ottino
- Katie Lister
- Alex Smithson Swain
- Alfie Burgh
- Tom Windred
- Izzy Stewart
- Kai Pragnell Toal
- Row Jones
- Alison Thompson
- Oliver Howard
- Lara Thornton-Berry
- Hazel Cawthran
- Lucy King
- Emma Draper
- Brynn Alfred
- Arron Mallinson-Pocock
- Lara Taylor

Friday

Names, Pronouns, Roles, Favourite Thing to put in Bread

Going through preliminary business stuff

Saturday

Go round of what we want to get out of the weekend

Open space 1

- Campaign Ideas
 - These ideas will be brought forward to discuss during the workshop later in the day:
 - International Marxism
 - Unions
 - Young Homelessness
 - Environment
 - Electoral Reform/Votes at 16
 - Brands and Workers Rights
 - Youth Democracy
 - Consent Education/Sex Ed
 - Arms Fair/Nuclear Disarmament
- Caucuses Musing
 - We can find ways to make caucuses more available, less shoved to one side
 - Specific times in programme when no other programme will happen, and people can run caucuses and other non-structure.
 - However, caucuses may sometimes work better when there is somewhat less structure and not 'given' an allocated time by programme team
 - How can caucuses feed back?
 - Caucuses being able to feed back at the next business event could be useful for long term change
 - Make sure to record feed back
 - Making sure caucuses are working should be a part of the accessibility rep's role
 - Language around caucuses needs to make sure that they aren't seen as 'lesser' programme
 - Making sure people can request certain caucuses before the event

- o Action Events Rep to include mention of caucuses as a thing people can request
- o Action next accessibility rep to review the feedback from this musing and record more feedback from people to improve them.
- Woodcraft Folk Name Change Musing
 - o History remembered in names
 - o Cost of changing name would be large
 - o Name doesn't say what we're about, but we redefine the word by our presence.
 - o Should DFs change our name first?
 - o Most of conversation seemed to be against proposing a name change
 - o Philosophical discussion of "What is a name?" and does the name define us or do we define the name??!
 - o A name change could be a minor one, such as "The Woodcraft Folk ____(Insert appropriate word here)"
 - o Current name is possibly misleading and requires more of an explanation of what we are?
 - o "Brownies, they're not food. They're children." {Oliver Howard, 2018}
 - o "Woodcraft" links with our heritage and doing things with nature is still something that our movement is involved with
 - o The strange name can be a good conversation starter which allows us to clarify what it actually is that we do.
 - o Big organisations aren't well known because of their name, they're known because of their donors and large memberships.
 - o People might be turned away from thinking that woodwork isn't for them
 - o To anyone who does know what the name is, 'Woodcraft' becomes that
 - o Rebranding and changing perception can be changed in ways other than name changes
 - o ACTION: Comms Rep - write a press pack which introduces to people good ways of introducing Woodcraft Folk in ways that aren't clunky and are engaging talk to Debs re. discussions had at development conference
 - o ACTION: GC Reps - try to make it more a priority on GC to advertise in new ways that focus on making a consistent branding,
- MEST-UP Policy Musing
 - o We're surprised that a MEST-UP policy doesn't exist already.
 - o A lot of MEST-UP practise gets passed down in oral/aural(hmm) tradition
 - o We need a better defined remit of what MEST-UP does!
 - o We need to properly nail down information sharing, and people being aware of what happens in debrief, what information of theirs can be shared, and what choices people have over their data ##GDPR
 - o Make a full edition and an abridged edition
 - o people gotta know their rights and shit
 - o If there is a list kept of MESTUP reps on event, when someone is saying what they want of theirs to be discussed at debrief, they can read through the list and choose who they want in the know
 - o We need to have a clear distinction of things which HAVE to go to debrief, can't always just be based on what the people involved want because of safeguarding both the person, and the MEST-UP reps.
 - o ACTION: MEST-UP, get as much training in the coming year as we possibly can, probably from external organisations as well. Talk to Debs.
 - o ACTION: Ash to put MESTUP at Common Ground and VCamp on the next Thing agenda
 - o ACTION: Row, Noah, Brynn, and Debs have a meeting at some point in the next few months
 - o ACTION: Ash, write and bring a draft of MEST-UP policy to stuff

Campaign

Narrow down to four ideas:

- Electoral Reform/Youth Democracy/Votes at 16
 - o more likely for everyone to have opinions on, we do a lot with it so can tie directly in and we have experience with it as a subject
 - o we have some 'ins' with influential political figures- DFQT
 - o AtoZ of good discussion
 - o we can run sessions on this very easily
 - o campaigns rep to work with affiliations so that we can work with other campaigns with a similar vein
 - o Working with other young groups that can incorporate expanding youth democracy
 - o We have to look carefully at which organisations we invite, one has already been not invited to Common Ground
 - o how do we go about getting votes at 16?
 - o What reforms do we actually want?
 - o what's the main outcome of the idea?
 - o Empowering youth in democracy is a main theme
- Young Homelessness
 - o very local issue and it's easy to get involved at a district level
 - o Doing a sleep out - something we'd be well suited to doing
 - o Something within our capabilities - doesn't have to require a large governmental change
 - o Easy to get other age groups involved
 - o has a tangible outcome
 - o How many of us know someone that is affected by youth homeless?
 - o we need to have a concrete outcome, not just a generic theme for an aimless campaign
 - o other campaigns can also be done at a local level - this issue is not alone in that
 - o we can improve the quality of life for these homeless people

- affiliations would be able to work on this with other organisations as well
- Consent Education/Sex Ed
 - easy to do on a local level and a wider level at the same time
 - greater prominence of trans people in the public eye and we would be able to have discussions about trans people and sex with have yet to be looked at very much
 - we have a lot of resources and a lot we could do but there could be a lot of barriers as well in terms of schools letting us teach their students
 - maybe talking to other youth groups would be better
 - we can do this very politically, more so that other groups can or would
 - important to youth people and therefore accessible to our age group
 - start at home or rather at your place of employment or education
 - good to take to generic and mainstream populations rather than similar organisations or niche interest groups
 - getting involved in the national conversations
 - producing some guides or advice about how to teach sex Ed
 - first year could be training and planning and then next year going into uni freshers fairs
 - come from a good point rather than a scare tactic or a praise tactic we can be more balanced
- Big Corporations (Brands), Workers Rights, and Unions
 - everyone will probably be in a position to join a union at some point in life
 - unions are dead key for having more youth engagement and resources
 - central w/c is already affiliated we can do lots with them
 - dfs tried to run a join a union week we could do that again
 - we can do helping with strikes for lots of unions
 - unions like to give young people money
 - look outwards so help other people to join union
 - we can teach ourselves a lot about unions
 - very tangential outcome for DFs

Open Space 2

- Standing against Someone in the middle of their term
 - Similar to a VNC
 - allows Althing to decide rather than DF Committee - More democratic
 - increases accountability as they know they could be replaced at Althing
 - If someone is not good enough in their first year then that outweighs the negatives of replacing them
 - if no one stands then the incumbent remains
 - if R.O.N win is that effectively a Vote of No Confidence and would the person be removed from office?
 - ACTION: Secretary to add this to AOB
- Food Policy
 - It's a very delicate balance between the KP wellbeing and pressure, the environmental issues, and people getting food that they like
 - How much should we care about people not liking certain food?
 - Food can be detrimental to people even if it's not an allergy or an intolerance
 - Several people said that they couldn't always eat the food at events
 - people should be told at the start of the day what that day's meals are
 - People need to be asked in more detail what their relationship with that food is - dislike, can't eat, allergy, etc
 - making two sets of a meal can sometimes provide a work around
 - People should be told more that they can make their own food in the kitchen tent if they don't like the food that is provided
 - bland food also makes events inaccessible
 - if we know more how people feel about food we're more able to decide who is responsible for alleviating that tension
 - Keep foods separate as much as possible!
 - Trying to reduce food miles is an important issue - should there be more consultation with the sustainability rep - though this is in the policy atm
 - Check list of necessary things like tea towels but also things like don't buy Israeli goods and try to reduce food miles
 - ACTION: Robin to update the Events Pack including with info about food at events
- Fundraising
 - Apply for grants
 - merch, push to sell, Badges, stickers and smaller items more successful. Sell externally, wider woodcraft and outside Woodcraft
 - workersbeer
 - consultation work from woodcraft/DF
 - Personal donations, friends of the folk
 - local fundraising, make sure events that are run are inclusive for all ages and family fun. School fairs
 - Run DF care centre at local primary schools
- Safe guarding

- o Split role format: motion passed last year saying safeguarding role cannot be split because of confidentiality issues, conflict of interest, 2 yr turnover hard for a handover of responsibility
- o Shadow format: one person would have less responsibility
- o laymember format: less stress for chair and vice chair. Doesn't always ensure that there will be an overlap. Gives equal responsibility

Motions

Motion 1

- Df can capitalise from the boom that is love island by nominating and electing 2 DF members to the next season of love island. Motion is spoken against so discussion continues.
- *Amendment* proposed that we should change the show "love island" to "the great british bake off"
 - o much wider reach than love island
 - o the best judges have gone
 - o Bake off may reach wider audience but love island is our target audience (young people)
 - o 6 for, 10 against, 5 abstentions, amendment falls
- Contestants in love island are put under stress and emotional trauma, do we really want to send DFs to have this kind of stress?
- LGBT representation on love island, we'd be perfect to do this
- *Amendment*, a significant contribution of the winnings are donated to DFs, Amendment is passed
- Only 18+ DFs can be sent but still includes younger demographic in the audience
- Make sure that those who apply are people who want to apply.
- 10 for, 5 against, 6 abstentions, motion passes

Motion 3

- Two members of DF committee elected at old/new to be part of GC. However old/new often happens after the first GC meeting.
- When roles are advertised make sure it is clear that members can also stand to be on GC
- 20 for, 0 against, 2 abstentions, motion passes

Motion 4

- Members are expensed for the price of business events, but the democratic procedures don't reflect this. We should update our documents to reflect what we already practice.
- No one spoke against, the motion passes

Motion 5

- Current practice is that you can second your own motion and that it 'should' be seconded. Motions don't need to be seconded, this motion will ensure that future motions don't have to be seconded but you cannot second your own motion.
- No one spoke against it motion passed

Motion 6

- There is no reason for the role of sustainability to be on committee, it should be a non committee role.
- No one spoke against the motion is passed

Motion 7

- There was an issue with contactability of the events rep on DF camp this year and caused an issue between younger DFs and parents. It should be a requirement that for the entirety of the whole event there is a number that can be contacted that is checked twice a day
- At the event we would figure out who can take responsibility for this as the event depending on who has signal
- *Amendment* proposed to add "where possible" to the checks. Amendment passes
- *Amendment* To remove "where possible" from place previously added
 - o Problems because it is important that parents can have contact with younger members.
 - o Saying that a member is contactable 2 times a day and the not being contactable is more of a scare than suggesting that a member may not be contactable
 - o Info pack says to parents that we will try our best to be contactable but it's not always possible
 - o Having a guarantee that a member will always be contactable is difficult
 - o *Action* robin and oliver to research ways that we are always contactable on events
 - o It has happened that there is no signal on camp so it shouldn't be a guarantee
 - o For 16, against 2, Abstentions 2
- *Amendment* that events should check signal at events and notify members via the info pack. This amendment is to ensure that parents are less worried about their children. 19 for, 1 against, 3 abstentions, motion is amended.
- *Amendment* to change "these is a contactable phone number and email address" to "point of contact". Passed
- *Amendment* To say "definitely checked daily, twice daily where possible". Accepted
- *Proposal* we agree with the basis of the motion and we should move to vote.
- Make sure that parents of 16/17 year olds are aware that this is a check not an all the time contactable number.
- *Action* events rep to write the outcome of this motion into the events pack.
- The motion as amended has passed, no one spoke against motion

Motion 2

- Removed workers beer with their duties absorbed by fundraising. This role only has significance in the summer so is a dud role for the rest of the year. Would also give the fundraising rep more of a 'main role' that they have for the year. No one spoke against, Motion passes

Motion 8

- Make sure that members who are standing for vetoable roles do not stand for a role they have already been vetoed for.
- Annononymity is important to the veto and should be respected.
- Just because you have been vetoed once doesn't mean you can't run again and won't be re-elected for another year.
- If you've been vetoed then there is a reason that you have been vetoed. Just because that person that vetoed you is not present, doesn't mean tht the veto no longer valid.
- Members could guess who vetoed them and why, adds prssure to mebers who have reasons to veto but wish to remain anonymus
- As a movment we should take responsibility for these issues.
- *Action* Next Thing bringup the point of collective repoinisbility and vetos as a whole.
- 0 for, 15 against, 7 abstentions

Motion 9

- Someone in an elected position is given a vote of no confidence, there is currently no requirement that there is reasoning behind the proposal. Makes it hard for members who have been voted out to change and slows committee discussion. This motion says that there must be a formal written reason as to why a member is being voted on.
- *Amendment* The rationale for veto is first read and reworded by the member dealing with the vote of no confidence before being given to the member being voted on. Accepted.
- No one spoke against, Motion passed

###Late Motions

####Late Motion 1

- There are currently no DF fire safety policies, this would be a requirement for all other movements. Like the consent policy and intoxication substances policy, DF feel it is important to have a similar document in reference to fire safety.
- *Amendment* Add as a starting suggestion to second bullet point, Accepted
- *Amendment* Add another bullet point to make sure that policy is taken into consideration by the KE, evening programme and risk assessor
- *Action* Events rep to include information on risk assessments

* this is a motion to create a policy so we should not be having the discussion here

- *Action* Fire safety policy planning to AOB
- No one spoke against, Motion passes.

Late Motion 2

- If glitter is brought to an event, tell the member that glitter is not to be used on the event
- *Amendment* "banning the use of non-biodegradable glitter on events. Accepted
- People on the event are made aware of this policy at the beginning of the event.
- *Amendment* "DF funds will not be used to purchase non-biodegradable glitter" Accepted
- *Action* events rep to add "non-biodegradable glitter" to the do not bring section of the kit list.
- *Amendment* clarify that craft glitter is allowed. Rejected.
- Glitter is great but non-biodegradable glitter also uses many resources so we should not allow any glitter on events at all.
- *Action* Lara to run workshop on making organic biodegradable glitter.
- *Amendment* amending previous amendment "DF funds should not be used to purchase any glitter." Accepted
- No one spoke against, Motion passes

Late Motion 3

- Accessibility should be funded in the same way that other roles are. None spoke against, Motion passes

Elections

- Accessibility
 - Joel Cockerill-Evans
 - Tessa Ramsey Brookes & Joe Irving - **Elected**
- Web Fairy
 - Tom Windred - **Elected**
- First Aid Fairy

- Lucy King - **Elected**
- Affiliations
 - Chris Bowler - **Elected**
- Events
 - Robin Lyster - **Elected**

N.B. There has been no Events rep to train Robin so there was no one able to report on how he has performed as Shadow Events.

- Podcast
 - Finlay McTaggart - **Elected**
- Common Ground
 - Alison Thompson - **Elected**
- Shadow Events
 - Alexi Brailey
 - Alex Smithson Swain - **Elected**
 - Katya Sloboda-Bolton
- Chair
 - Oliver Howard - **Approved**

- Communications
 - Alfie Burgh - **Elected**
 - Kai Pragnell Toal
 - Joel Cockerill-Evans
 - Izzy Stewart

- Treasurer
 - Lara Thornton-Berry - **Elected**

N.B Aggie was not reachable for a report on Lara as a shadow treasurer.

- Venturer Committee and Venturer Camp Liaison
 - Alex Smithson Swain - **Elected**

- Fundraising
 - Sarah Bennett and Miranda Mallinson Pocock - **Elected**
 - Amber Sims

- International Opportunities
 - **No Candidate ACTION discussion of roles that had no candidates to be considered for dissolution by new cte when thinking about coopting**

- Shadow Treasurer
 - Izzy Stewart
 - Alexi Brailey - **Elected**

- Campaigns
 - **Tabled so that other members of the movement can stand now the campaign has been chosen**

- Training
 - Hazel Cawthorn - **Elected**
 - Joel Cockerill-Evans

- Zine

- Alfie Burgh - **Elected**
- General Council
 - Izzy Stewart - **Elected**
 - Alexi Brailey
- Sustainability
 - Amber Sims - **Elected**
- London Liaison
 - Mina Brailey - **Elected**
- Lay Member
 - Joel Cockerill-Evans
 - Beth Aveyard - **Elected**
 - Alfie Burgh

Sunday

still to be done

- Ratify minutes
 - 14 for
 - 0 against
 - 5 abstain
- annual reports
- Elliot (Districts)
 - Second person ever to have the role
 - term is have over
 - aim is to have something concrete for each year to do
 - would like that to be that DFs in a district running a camp for one of the younger age groups
 - tested this out in New ham
- Oliver (Lay Member)
 - Have done bits and pieces over the year
 - Maintained contact with his pastoral support group
 - thinks he could have done more by asking people outside PG if they needed support
 - Kept up with the Loomio most of the time
 - Wasn't always sure what to add to discussions of Loomio
- Oliver (Chair Carer)
 - Had a fair amount of success
 - Brought the chair to all the events for the year
 - Instagram is looking really good and updated regularly
 - Since London Thing it's been made more apparent the coection between the Chair and DFs
 - (Showed the Chair to uni friends and they started a cult of worship around it)
- Oliver (Podcasts)
 - Haven't done much at all
 - There hasn't been an episode this year
 - Isn't well versed in the editing side of things
 - Between other DF obligations and Uni it fell by the wayside
 - Prepare a hand over pack for Finlay
- Katie (Vctte & Vcamp Liaison)
 - Most meetings have been about Vcamp
 - looking at Themes and the wide game
 - Talking to Venturers about DFs
 - Designed a Logo for Vctte

- Lara (GC)
 - Has another year
 - it's been good
 - been a valuable member of GC but maybe not been amazing at being a liaison between the two
 - next year will also be good
- Ash (Secretary)
 - Planned three Things and one Allthing
 - Some Mini things
 - Just now getting into the swing of taking good minutes
 - Excited to make next years Allthing even better and support democratic structure of DFs
- Brynn (safeguarding)
 - Been dealing with cases as they arrive
 - been working on making DFs safe so we don't have as many cases
 - Spending the next year implementing policies that will help with making DFs safer
- Brynn (zine)
 - Hasn't had a single submission
 - gonna ask for this years budget to be transferred across so we can put it to good use
- Brynn (Ctte rep to GC)
 - Made it to nearly all the meetings
 - made sure they're in line with how DFs work
 - been making sure DFs benefit where appropriate
- Sophie (Training)
 - It's an ok year
 - Tried to have training that people wanted but lack of responses made that hard
 - Sent 8 people to Legal Observer Training
- Amber (Accessibility)
 - Did a power point to show us all
 - Introduced accessibility forms to events
 - more consultation on sites
 - worked quite closely with ctte and MEST-UP to make sure things were running okay
 - making sure when decisions were made they were done so accessably
 - analysing data is hard with tick sheets
 - role is fairly new and it affects lots of different roles
 - forms have highlighted a lot of issues
 - 100% said they felt welcome and accepted at DF camp
 - lots of feedback about food
 - suggestion of announcing food for the day at morning circle
 - feedback MEST-UP wasn't explained well enough at DF camp - Small workshop explaining what MEST-UP is should resolve this
 - better promotion of events
 - Gonna make a calendar with details for events as we have them - work with comms and shadow events
- Noah & Row (MEST-UP)
 - Entering their second year
 - this year has been pretty swell
 - held training at the start of theyear to set up this years team
 - trying to learn from what has been done before
 - how to keep communication keeps up when new people get trained
 - the MEST-UP Policy is gonna be a good way of making a solid sustainable MEST-UP system
 - Running up to Vcamp - is useful to have a target
 - have lists of ways they want to improve based on things people have been saying over the past year
 - Gonna come up with a great handover pack
- Lara (Shadow Treasurer)
 - For the first part of the year wasn't involved in the money but rather learning about how ctte works
 - Towards spring started doing things
 - Central WcF took a long time to sort out moving banks which has solved down Lara's learning about how to do expenses as she hasn't had access to the accounts

- done the application to the bank account
 - sent last year's invoice to workers' beer
 - not gonna launder our money!
- Robin (Events/Shadow Events)
 - Not able to do as much in the first half of the year
 - most of the training has been in the last 6 months
 - next year will hopefully be better handled than this year
 - most things have been done, with some help from others
 - needs to do more of the after event feedback stuff hopes to do more of this next year
 - Feels confident to start being events fully for this year
 - Oliver "Robin messaging round to ask if people needed help for WW, which was key"

NOTE: OLIVER HAS STOOD DOWN FROM DF COMMITTEE AS LAY MEMBER - COMMITTEE NOW HAVE THE OPTION TO COOPT ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE MOVEMENT AS LAY MEMBER

- Financial report
- AOB:
 - Fire safety policy
 - standing against someone in a two year role