

Final Agenda for Annual Gathering 2013

THE WOODCRAFT FOLK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Saturday 27th April 2013

To be held during

Annual Gathering 2013

26th - 28th April 2013

Bradley Wood Campsite & Activity Centre

Final Agenda

1. Welcome and Opening Address
2. Minutes of Annual Conference 2012 and Matters Arising
3. Election of Scrutineers and Tellers
4. Consideration of the Annual Report
5. Consideration of Accounts and Financial Matters
6. Report of Standing Orders Committee
7. Introduction of Candidates for Election
8. Consideration of Motions and Amendments
9. Declaration of Election Results
10. Other Business
11. Close of Conference

Notes from Standing Orders Committee:

- **Motions which alter the Constitution** require two thirds of the votes held at the Conference in order to be carried
- **General Motions** (those which do not alter the Constitution) require a simple majority of votes cast in order to be carried
- **Supporting Statements** have been provided by movers of some motions for information, and to aid understanding and debate. For the sake of clarity they have been printed with the respective motions in this agenda, but do not form part of the motion to be amended or voted upon.

Note from Standing Orders Committee:

The following motion (Motion 1) seeks to alter the Standing Orders of the Woodcraft Folk. Two-thirds of the total number of votes at the Conference are required to pass it.

Motion 1. Timetable for Annual Gathering

This Annual General Meeting agrees to make the following changes to the standing orders:

1. Replace the existing SO.4 and SO.6 with the following text:

SO.4 In preparation for the Annual General Meeting the Standing Orders Committee and General Secretary shall agree and publish a timetable of pre-conference deadlines. In all cases, this timetable shall conform to any legal requirements and any additional requirements set down in the Articles of Association. Where possible, the timetable shall meet the following additional requirements:

- (i) The 'pre-conference timetable' shall be published at least 180 days before Annual Gathering.
- (ii) The Convening Notice shall be sent to all members at least 105 days before Annual Gathering.
- (iii) The deadline for the receipt of motions shall be at least 84 days before Annual Gathering.
- (iv) The preliminary agenda shall be published at least 63 days before Annual Gathering.
- (v) The deadline for the receipt of amendments to motions and nominations election to General Council shall be at least 35 days before Annual Gathering.
- (vi) The final agenda shall be published at least 14 days before Annual Gathering.

SO.6 In preparation for the Annual General Meeting, and in accordance with time-scales set down by the Articles of Association and in SO.4 (above) the Standing Orders Committee shall:

- (i) Publish a Preliminary Agenda. This shall comprise all motions which have been received. Any which are regarded as unconstitutional shall be so marked and a brief reason included.
- (ii) Make recommendations for compositing motions and amendments where appropriate.
- (iii) Ensure that every amendment is relevant to the motion it seeks to amend, and that no amendment is accepted which directly negates the motion it seeks to amend.
- (iv) Recommend the order of the Agenda.
- (v) Publish the procedure for the conduct of elections.
- (vi) Publish a Final Agenda. This shall comprise all the motions and amendments; together with nominations for election to the General Council and Standing Orders Committee. No business other than that set out in the Final Agenda shall be considered at the Annual General Meeting except as defined in SO.14 below.

2. Replace SO.8 with the following text:

SO.8 The Standing Orders Committee shall:

- (i) Ensure that there are sufficient delegates present to form a quorum:
 - (a) For the Annual General Meeting to begin, one hundred delegates, or representatives of one fifth of the total number of registered groups is required, whichever is lower.
 - (b) For further sessions of the Annual General Meeting, a majority of the delegates attending the General Meeting is required.
- (ii) Make a report to the Annual General Meeting formally presenting the Final Agenda and the procedure for the conduct of elections.

Proposed and Seconded by: General Council

Supporting information:

Part 1: The current standing orders refer to the deadlines relating to Annual Gathering being in the Articles of Association, the Articles refer to the deadlines being in the Standing Orders. This motion removes this circular reference and puts the timetable in the standing orders.

If we assume that we continue with Gathering as the last weekend in April, then this timetable means that we publish the date of Gathering and the associated deadline no later than the end of October, with the formal convening notice at the start of January to serve as a reminder. The motions deadline is the end of January and the preliminary agenda is published in the third week of Feb (giving SOC time to consider the motions and, where necessary contact the movers to clarify or composite). The amendments deadline (and nominations deadline) is the third week of March and the final Agenda is published in mid April (allowing for the inclusion of the audited accounts).

Part 2: This is just tidying up to remove a line which contradicts the Articles of Association and was missed at the earlier checking stages.

Note from Standing Orders Committee:

The current wording of SO.4, SO.6 and SO.8 is:

SO.4 Time-Scales set down in the Articles of Association shall be observed for submission of motions, amendments, and nominations for election to General Council or to the Standing Orders Committee.

SO.6 In preparation for the Annual General Meeting, and in accordance with time-scales set down by the Articles of Association the Standing Orders Committee shall:

- (i) Publish a Preliminary Agenda. This shall comprise all motions which have been received. Any which are regarded as unconstitutional shall be so marked and a brief reason included.*
- (ii) Make recommendations for compositing motions and amendments where appropriate.*
- (iii) Ensure that every amendment is relevant to the motion it seeks to amend, and that no amendment is accepted which directly negates the motion it seeks to amend.*
- (iv) Recommend the order of the Agenda.*
- (v) Publish the procedure for the conduct of elections.*
- (vi) Publish a Final Agenda. This shall comprise all the motions and amendments; together with nominations for election to the General Council and Standing Orders Committee. No business other than that set out in the Final Agenda shall be considered at the Annual General Meeting except as defined in SO.14 below.*

SO.8 The Standing Orders Committee shall:

- (i) Ensure that no delegate holds more than one voting card.*
- (ii) Ensure that there are sufficient delegates present to form a quorum:*
 - (a) For the Annual General Meeting to begin, one hundred delegates, or representatives of one fifth of the total number of registered groups is required, whichever is lower.*
 - (b) For further sessions of the Annual General Meeting, a majority of the delegates attending the General Meeting is required*
- (iii) Make a report to the Annual General Meeting formally presenting the Final Agenda and the procedure for the conduct of elections.*

Amendment to Motion 1: “Timetable for Annual Gathering”

In the proposed SO.4 replace 105 with 119 and 35 with 28 so that it shall read:

- (i) The 'pre-conference timetable' shall be published at least 180 days before Annual Gathering.
- (ii) The Convening Notice shall be sent to all members at least 119 days before Annual Gathering.
- (iii) The deadline for the receipt of motions shall be at least 84 days before Annual Gathering.
- (iv) The preliminary agenda shall be published at least 63 days before Annual Gathering.
- (v) The deadline for the receipt of amendments to motions and nominations election to General Council shall be at least 28 days before Annual Gathering.
- (vi) The final agenda shall be published at least 14 days before Annual Gathering.

Proposed and seconded by: Ealing and Hammersmith District

Supporting information:

Most districts meet monthly and should be given at least a month's time (35 days in suggested timing) to decide on motions and amendments so they can be discussed at regular meetings.

Note from Standing Orders Committee:

The timetable of the original motion (left) and amendment motion (right) is shown below.

<i>'pre-conference timetable' published</i>	<i>by mid Nov</i>	<i>by mid Nov</i>
<i>Convening Notice sent</i>	<i>by 12 Jan</i>	<i>by 29 Dec</i>
<i>Deadline for the receipt of motions</i>	<i>by 2 Feb</i>	<i>by 2 Feb</i>
<i>Preliminary agenda published</i>	<i>by 23 Feb</i>	<i>by 23 Feb</i>
<i>Deadline for the receipt of amends & noms</i>	<i>by 23 March</i>	<i>by 30 March</i>
<i>Final agenda published</i>	<i>by 13 April</i>	<i>by 13 April</i>
<i>Annual Gathering</i>	<i>27 April</i>	<i>27 April</i>

Note from Standing Orders Committee:

The following motion (Motion 2) seeks to alter the Aims, Principles and Programme and the Standing Orders of the Woodcraft Folk. Two-thirds of the total number of votes at the Conference are required to pass it.

Motion 2. Reform of General Council and Creation of a Folk Assembly

This Annual General Meeting Notes:

1. General Council is the Trustee Board of Woodcraft Folk but it takes on work beyond that of a board of Directors (such as Education work and Campaigns).
2. General Council is larger than recommended best practice and is often too big to operate well.
3. Finance and General Purpose Committee takes on much of the Trustee Board responsibility.

This Annual General Meeting agrees to:

1. Create a Folk Assembly which will bring together all committees, Development Conferences and representation from around the movement to meet at least two times a year.
2. Remove from office all General Council members in 2014 and seek re-elections according to a new structure.
3. Amend the Aims, Principles and Programmes "GC: General Council" and "Standing Orders SO.25" to read:

GC. GENERAL COUNCIL AND FOLK ASSEMBLY

GC.1 Folk Assembly

There shall be a Folk Assembly which shall be made up of:

- i General Council (Directors and Trustees), to oversee Financial, Legal and General Purposes
- ii Joint Centres and Campsites Committee, to run the work of its centres and campsites;
- iii Campaigns and Communications Committee, to run campaigns and support the communications of the organisation;
- iv Education and Groups Committees, to support the establishment and support of groups and new educational methods in the organisation; and
- v Other groups or committees that either General Council or the Annual Conference see fit.

The Trustees/Directors shall delegate (in accordance with their powers under Articles 4) their work to the above committees (ii to v) as they see fit.

GC.2 General Council

- i General Council shall appoint at its first meeting after the Annual Conference the following roles, which is not an exhaustive list:
 - a Chair of General Council;
 - b Vice-Chair(s) of General Council;
 - c Conveners of each of the Committees of the Folk Assembly;
 - d Safeguarding lead member;
 - e Regions and nations lead member;
 - f Staffing and Human Resources lead member; and
 - g Any other roles which either the Annual Conference or General Council determines.
- ii The General Secretary shall be in attendance at all meetings, but without voting rights.

GC.3 Observers

General Council shall have the power outlined in the Articles, including reserving the right to invite members to observe meetings and shall offer a standing invitation to:

- i The Co-operative Group's Values and Principles Committee, who may send an observer without voting rights, and
- ii Other fraternal organisations that the Annual Gathering may determine.

SO.25 Elections to General Council and Folk Assembly

- i Elections shall be conducted by Single Transferable Vote (STV) as defined by the Electoral Reform Society. SOC shall publish the breakdown of all results after any election that is conducted.
- ii If any candidate to General Council is under 16 years old they shall not be eligible to sit as a General Council member and thus will not be elected. If a candidate under the age of 16 years old wins the ballot they shall be eligible to be appointed as an observer to General Council by the Annual Gathering. The General Council seat they vacate shall remain empty for 2 years or, if the observer resigns, until the subsequent Annual Gathering. No more than 5 under 16 year old observers may occupy these places at any one time.
- iii Where the number of nominations received in advance of the nominations deadline is less than or equal to the number of vacancies, nominations may be taken from the floor of General Meeting. In this situation, there shall be no limit to the number of nominations taken from the floor.
- iv Nominations shall close before the ballot is opened.
- v General Council members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting (unless otherwise stated) in the following groups:
 - a 8 members, 4 elected each year for a period of 2 years;
 - b 1 member who is a District Fellow elected by the District Fellow Committee.
- vi A Treasurer shall be appointed by the General Council, from within the movement, for a period of 5 years.
- vii Folk Assembly shall be made up of all members of General Council plus the elected members of Campaigns and Communications Committee, Education and Groups Committee and the Joint Centres and Campsites Committee.
- viii Each of the Campaigns & Communications Committee and the Education & Groups Committee shall be made up of:
 - a 1 member selected from within the General Council who shall be the convener.
 - b 2 members, 1 elected each year for a period of 2 years
 - c 1 member who is a District Fellow elected by the District Fellow movement.
 - d Other members may attend as they wish.
- ix Joint Centres and Campsites Committee shall be made up of:
 - a 1 member selected from within the General Council who shall be the convener
 - b 1 member selected by the General Council from the movement to represent each Centre or Campsite management committee
- x In the first year of this new structure (2014) elections to all places on General Council shall take place at the Annual Gathering 2014 with the four candidates with the highest first preference votes of the eight elected being elected for a two-year term and the four candidates with the lowest first preference votes of the eight elected serving a one-year term to create the bi-annual cycle of elections.

Proposed and seconded by: General Council

Supporting Information:

The present General Council is too large, making decision-making and governance difficult to manage and time-consuming. General Council are proposing a restructure, by reducing the Trustees/Directors to a board of ten, consisting of: four elected Trustees/Directors shall be elected at each Annual Conference, for a duration of two years each; a District Fellow elected by the DF Committee, and; an appointed Treasurer on a five-year term.

General Council will be supported by three committees of lay members, namely Education & Groups Committee, Campaigns & Communications Committee and Joint Centres and Campsites Committee. These three committees and General Council will together make up the Folk Assembly. Each of the three committees will have a convenor elected from the General Council. The Education & Groups Committee and Campaigns & Communications Committee will each have two elected members, one elected each Annual Conference for a period of two years. The working group will invite other members to join as they wish.

Note from Standing Orders Committee:

The current wording of GC. and SO.25 is shown below. We note that motion 2 does not seek to alter SO.25 (i) and therefore there is no conflict between motion 2 and motion 3, which does seek to alter SO.25 (i).

GC. GENERAL COUNCIL

GC.1 *General Council shall have the power outlined in the Articles including to invite members to observe meetings and shall offer a standing invitation to:*

- (i) the Cooperatives Group's Values and Principles Committee who may from time to time, send an observer without voting rights, and*
- (ii) other fraternal organisations that the Annual Gathering may determine from time to time.*

GC.2 Committees

The General Council shall establish the following committees (which is a non-exhaustive list) in accordance with their powers under Articles 4:

- i Finance and General Purpose Committee to which the General Council will delegate financial matters and the power to act on its behalf between meetings; and*
- ii Staffing Committee, which will be chaired by a Vice Chair of the General Council, to which the General Council may choose to delegate human resource matters, except in relation to the employment of the General Secretary.*
- iii The General Council may establish any other committee as it sees fit. Subject to provisions in Article 4 of the Articles of Association the Annual General Meeting may instruct General Council to establish committees as it sees fit.*

GC.3 Finance and General Purpose Committee

(i) The Finance and General Purpose Committee shall be made up of between 3 and 8 members from General Council and include:

- (a) the Treasurer;*
- (b) the Chair of General Council;*
- (c) any Vice-Chairs that the General Council may have appointed;*
- (d) any other members from within General Council that they may appoint.*

(ii) The General Secretary shall be in attendance at all meetings, but without voting rights.

(iii) The Finance and General Purpose Committee shall have full power to act on behalf of General Council between meetings of the full General Council.

(iv) The Finance and General Purpose Committee may not co-opt members.

SO.25 Elections to General Council

- i Elections shall be conducted by Single Transferable Vote (STV) as defined by the Electoral Reform Society. SOC shall publish the breakdown of all results after any election which is conducted.*
- ii If any candidate to General Council is under 16 they shall not be eligible to sit as a General Council member and thus not elected. If they win the ballot they shall be eligible to be appointed as an observer to General Council by the Annual Gathering. The General Council they vacate shall remain empty for 2 years or if the observer resigns until the next Annual Gathering. Not more than 5 under 16 observers may fulfil these places at any one time.*
- iii Where the number of nominations received in advance of the nominations deadline is less than or equal to the number of vacancies, nominations may be taken from the floor of General Meeting. In this situation, there shall be no limit to the number of nominations taken from the floor.*
- iv Nominations shall close before the ballot is opened.*
- v General Council members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting (unless otherwise stated) in the following groups:*
 - a 10 Members, 5 elected each year for a period of 2 years,*
 - b 1 Member who is also a member of a Woodcraft Folk District Association or Lone Group in Wales,*
 - c 1 Member who is also a member of a Woodcraft Folk District Association or Lone Group in Scotland,*
 - d 4 Members aged 18 to 24 inclusive, 2 elected each year for a period of 2 years,*
 - e 2 District Fellows elected from the floor of District Fellow Movement Althing.*
 - f 2 members from and appointed by the District Fellow Movement Committee.*

Note from Standing Orders Committee:

The following amendment (Amendment 1 to Motion 2) seeks to amend motion 2 so that it no longer seeks to alter the Aims, Principles and Programme and the Standing Orders of the Woodcraft Folk.

This has two effects:

- 1 If this amendment 1 is passed (by simple majority) then motion 2 will no longer require two-thirds of the total number of votes at the Conference to pass, instead a simple majority would be used.*
- 2 Amendments 2, 3, 4 and 5 to motion 2 will not be put to conference if this amendment 1 is passed. Each of these amendments seek to alter the text included in the Aims, Principles and Programme or the Standing Orders of the Woodcraft Folk and thus their effect is irrelevant if no changes are to be made.*

Amendment 1 to Motion 2: “Reform of General Council and Creation of a Folk Assembly”

Delete all after the first numbered list and replace with:

This Annual General Meeting instructs General Council to:

- 1 Bring to AG2014 a fully developed new governance structure based upon the co-operative and mutualist principles of the labour and co-operative movement, rather than corporate or charity structures. This should be in the form of a report that lays out the problem and options for change.
- 2 The report shall include the option to create a Folk Assembly which will bring together all committees, Development Conferences and representation from around the movement, and meet at least two times a year. The purpose of the Folk Assembly and its relationship with the General Council must be clearly stated, especially for any option for change that reduces the size of the General Council.
- 3 The report shall further include an option for the Folk Assembly to include representation from districts, nations and regions
- 4 The report shall include a costing for the option it recommends to the movement and details of how this cost can be met.

Proposed and Seconded by: Azania Pioneers

Supporting information:

The supporting information accompanying the motion is inadequate for such a fundamental change as it does not provide a business case for the change to a 9 person General Council, introduces a directive of top down for relationships between the GC and Folk Assembly and does not define the purpose of the Folk Assembly at all.

Whilst a movement dedicated to “education for social change” should not avoid change, the supporting statement for motion 2 is inadequate to allow us to rush head long into a change that has fundamental implications for democracy and how it’s practiced in WF. A smaller GC might make quicker decisions, but they will not necessarily be “better” decisions. The new structure could allow one district to hold too much influence in the movement. Three members from one district would equate to 33% of decision making power at GC level. The structure adds confusion to what is essentially a bottom up democracy by allowing GC to direct the working committees. At the moment the chairs of these committees are normally drawn from GC. In addition the idea of a Folk Assembly is clearly in need of definition and further work. What is its role? How does it relate to GC and AG? Is it a consultative forum? Can it instruct GC? Can GC instruct it? No one knows. It is important to get this right and not try to define it at some future point.

Amendment 2 to Motion 2: “Reform of General Council and Creation of a Folk Assembly”

Append “plus one representative elected by each Region or Nations annual conference.” to proposed SO.25 (vii) so that it shall read:

- vii. Folk Assembly shall be made up of all members of General Council, plus the elected members of Campaigns and Communications Committee, Education and Groups Committee and the Joint Centres and Campsites Committee, plus one representative elected by each Region or Nations annual conference.

Proposed and Seconded by: Gwerin y Coed (Woodcraft Folk in Wales)

Supporting information:

Because of cuts being made to General Council Wales and Scotland have lost their seats. This makes sense as at the moment there are too many people on General Council. So instead we propose that at least once a year a representative from each of the regional council get together to discuss what their regions are doing and whether General Council are doing a good job.

Although not explicit in our amendment, we also think that all regions should get copies of the agenda for every General Council meetings so that, if they raise an issue that affects their region and General Council might need to be reminded how things work in their region, they can send someone to sit in the meeting and remind them.

Amendment 3 to Motion 2: “Reform of General Council and Creation of a Folk Assembly”

Replace proposed GC.1 (ii):

Joint Centres and Campsites Committee, to run the work of its centres and campsites;

With:

Joint Centres and Campsites Committee, to work with and support the management committees of the individual centres;

Replace SO.25 (ix).b:

1 member selected by the General Council from the movement to represent each Centre or Campsite management committee.

With

1 member from the movement selected by each centre or campsite management committee to represent them.

Proposed and Seconded by: Sheffield Porter and Don district

Note from Standing Orders Committee:

If the following amendment (Amendment 4 to Motion 2) is passed than Amendment 5 to Motion 2 will not be put to conference since Amendment 5 will become moot.

Amendment 4 to Motion 2: “Reform of General Council and Creation of a Folk Assembly”

Insert a new item (b) to proposed SO.25 (v) and renumber accordingly::

2 members aged 18 to 24 inclusive, 1 elected every year for a period of 2 years;

The proposed SO.25 (v)v now reads:

(v) General Council members shall be elected at the Annual Gathering

Meeting (unless otherwise stated) in the following groups:

(a) 8 members, 4 elected each year for a period of 2 years;

(b) 2 members aged 18 to 24 inclusive, 1 elected every year for a period of 2 years;

(c) 1 member who is a District Fellow elected by the District Fellow Committee.

Proposed and Seconded by: DF Committee

Amendment 5 to Motion 2: “Reform of General Council and Creation of a Folk Assembly”

Insert a new item (b) to proposed SO.25 (v) and renumber accordingly:

(b) 1 members aged 18 to 24 inclusive, elected every other year for a period of 2 years

The proposed SO.25 (v) now reads:

(v) General Council members shall be elected at the Annual Gathering

Meeting (unless otherwise stated) in the following groups:

(a) 8 members, 4 elected each year for a period of 2 years;

(b) 1 member aged 18 to 24 inclusive, elected every other year for a period of 2 years;

(c) 1 member who is a District Fellow elected by the District Fellow Committee.

Proposed and Seconded by: DF Committee

Note from Standing Orders Committee:

The following motion (Motion 3) seeks to alter the Standing Orders of the Woodcraft Folk. Two-thirds of the total number of votes at the Conference are required to pass it.

Motion 3. System for Elections to General Council

This Annual General Meeting believes the present Single Transferable Vote (STV) election system is not fit for purpose and should be replaced by a block vote system from 2014 onwards.

This Annual General Meeting resolves to change the Standing Order for General Meetings and Elections of Woodcraft Folk document by replacing clause SO.25(i) with the following:

- i. Elections shall be conducted by a block vote system, as defined by the Electoral Reform Society. SOC shall publish the break-down of all results after any election which is conducted.

Proposed and seconded by: Ealing and Hammersmith District

Supporting Information:

At the moment Woodcraft Folk uses an STV (Single Transferable Vote) system for General Council elections. Our understanding of the current voting system is that only the votes putting a candidate first really count, along with some second votes either once candidates are over the threshold or of the first person eliminated. A candidate with few first votes but a large number of second and third votes is not going to be elected.

The voting system we use is still not properly understood by the wider membership, or even some General Council members themselves. Even Standing Orders Committee appear to be having problems with it; it proving more difficult than expected to publish the results as agreed at the last Annual Gathering.

The block vote system will allow members to show their support for a number of candidates with the different skills and personalities needed for General Council. That is, if there are five places, you get five votes of which you can use as many as you want, but only one per candidate. The people with the most votes will be elected. The membership cannot successfully vote for a group of people under the present system.

Note from Standing Orders Committee:

The following motion (Motion 4) seeks to alter the Aims, Principles and Programme of the Woodcraft Folk. Two-thirds of the total number of votes at the Conference are required to pass it.

Motion 4. Redefining 'Kinsfolk'

This Annual General Meeting redefines the term "Kinsfolk" as defined in DEF.2 in the Aims, Principles and Programme to include everyone of age 16 and above and a member of Woodcraft Folk.

We therefore agree to change DEF.2 from:

DEF.2 Individual members shall be any person who has signified their acceptance of the Constitution; and Aims, Principles and Programme of Woodcraft Folk, namely having been recorded at the national office and:

- i is aged 15 years or under and regularly attends a paid up Woodcraft Folk group and called a young member, or
- ii is 16 years or over and has paid an annual membership fee and is:
 - a 16-20 years inclusive, thus called a District Fellow (DF), or
 - b 21 years or over, thus called a Kinsfolk

To:

DEF.2 Individual members shall be any person who has signified their acceptance of the Constitution; and Aims, Principles and Programme of Woodcraft Folk, namely having been recorded at the national office and:

- i is aged 15 years or under and regularly attends a paid up Woodcraft Folk group and called a young member, or
- ii is 16 years or over and has paid an annual membership fee and is thus called a Kinsfolk, and if 16-20 years inclusive, thus also called a District Fellow (DF)

Proposed and seconded by: DF Committee

Supporting information:

1 *The term "kinsfolk" has previously been undefined in Woodcraft Folk's policies. So it was met with some confusion by many DFs and other nationally active Kinsfolk that General Council have taken it upon themselves to decide how kinsfolk are defined. Many of us had always, and continue to, understand Kinsfolk to be an inclusive term, including all over 16s.*

2 *Many DFs prefer to identify as kinsfolk when working with younger groups as they fulfil the same role as other kinsfolk.*

3 *This inclusivity is a mark of Woodcraft Folk's support and respect for 16-21 year olds as capable adults worthy of responsibility.*

4 *The inclusive definition also gives greater clarity to the welcoming of DF age members to the increasing number of Kinsfolk events.*

Motion 5. Campaign Against Military Recruitment in Schools

This Annual General Meeting supports the DF movement's campaign against military recruitment in schools. Woodcraft Folk calls for an end to the recruitment of children into the armed forces as it goes against our Aims and Principles as well as contravening the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

We call on the relevant Minister in the Ministry of Defence (currently Mark Francois MP) to change their recruitment practices in light of the UK's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which opposes the recruitment of children into the armed forces.

This Annual Gathering also recognises that the new Woodcraft Folk campaign "Our Times" on war and politics is a good opportunity for this issue to be discussed and campaigned on. We see this issue as a priority for young people and recommend that the campaign reflects this.

Proposed and seconded by: DF Committee

Supporting Information:

We are a progressive youth organisation that should advocate for young people, particularly the most vulnerable. The UK is the only country in Europe to recruit 16 year olds into its armed forces, and recent research found that the army visited 40% of London schools, disproportionately targeting schools in the most disadvantaged areas most often. The UN has condemned recruiting under 18s through its Committee on the Rights of the Child."

Motion 6. Individual & Group Membership Fees

This Annual General Meeting agrees that the individual membership fee shall be a minimum of £12 per member and that the group registration fee shall be a minimum of £35 per group (Woodchip, Elfin, Pioneer and Venturer) plus £12 per young member. This results in all members, regardless of age, paying the same amount.

This meeting calls upon members to try and pay individual memberships via direct debit and where possible gift aid the donation to the movement.

Proposed and seconded by: Northwood Elfins

Supporting Information:

At the time of writing we have 322 paying groups, 1,348 waged adult members, 1,106 unwaged or low waged adult members and 4,186 young members. We changed the membership fee in 2012 but this has led to a shortfall in fees to the core budget.

<i>Model</i>	<i>Groups (322)</i>	<i>Group members (4,186)</i>	<i>Waged members (1,348)</i>	<i>Unwaged or low waged members (1,106)</i>	<i>Total income for core budget</i>
<i>Pre 2012</i>	<i>£40,250</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>£33,700</i>	<i>£11,060</i>	<i>£85,010</i>
<i>2012</i>	<i>£16,100</i>	<i>£20,930</i>	<i>£33,700</i>	<i>£11,060</i>	<i>£81,790</i>
<i>Proposed model</i>	<i>£11,270</i>	<i>£79,680</i>			<i>£90,950</i>

It may be that groups take ownership of all individual membership fees and that adult members pay subs. But having a system where the fee is the same is a much fairer system and we encourage those who can afford more donate more.

Motion 7. Individual Membership Fees

This Annual General Meeting notes that the fees charges to individual members have not changed for many years and are currently £25 per waged person, and £10 per unwaged or low waged member.

This Meeting sets the fees to apply from 1st June 2013 as £30 per waged person and £12 per unwaged or low waged member. All members are also encouraged to sign up for direct debit and a monthly donation according to what they feel they can afford. The minimum would be £2.50 per month for waged, and £3 every 3 months for unwaged/low paid members (monthly payments of £1 per month would be expensive in bank charges and admin time).

Proposed and seconded by: General Council

Supporting Information:

We have now assessed that the average cost of administering and servicing each member is around £25. However around 45% of our members pay the lower rate for unwaged and low paid people. It is requested that those who can afford it pay at a higher rate to help cover the shortfall in income from the unwaged and low paid, and also towards the shortfall in income from less well-off groups.

Motion 8. Group Registration Fees 2014 (applicable to all groups other than DFs)

This Annual General Meeting Notes:

- 1 The 2013 registration fees are £52 per group plus £5 per child or young person.
- 2 For the average group of 13 children or young people this means group registration fees of £117.
- 3 The cost of administering and supporting a group is around £300 per year.
- 4 According to our governing documents a child or young person attending more than four sessions, or an overnight stay, is considered a young member of Woodcraft Folk.

This Annual General Meeting Agrees:

- 1 From 2014, the minimum registration fee will be £52 plus £6 per child or young person.
- 2 To request that from 2014 groups who can afford it make a donation in addition to their registration fee.

This meeting hopes that these donations will bring groups' contributions to the national movement as close to £300 as they can afford. This meeting welcomes donations of any size.

Proposed and seconded by: General Council

Supporting Information:

Across the country the average number of children in each group is 13 so, on average, they currently pay £117 per group - which is less than the previous fee level in 2011 of £125. However the cost of administering and servicing Woodcraft Folk groups is in the region of £300 per group per year. It is recognised that not all groups can afford this and that it would be easier for small groups to pay a lower fixed fee together with a higher fee per child. The proposed request for an additional donation on top of the minimum fee level seeks to address both these points. If 13 continues to be the average group size in 2013, the minimum of £52 plus £6 per child will produce an average fee of £130 per group.

Motion 9. Friends of the Folk

This Annual General Meeting welcomes the initiative to create a 'Friends of the Folk' network to encourage individual and collective donations to the movement.

We consider that this should have a local as well as a movement-wide aspect.

This meeting resolves:

- 1 That donors should be given the option of allocating a named percentage of their donation to a named District or Lone Group.
- 2 That Districts and Lone Groups should be encouraged to set up local branches of 'Friends of the Folk' from which a named percentage of their donation would be allocated to the District or Lone Group and the remainder to national Woodcraft Folk.

Proposed by: Hackney District

Seconded by: Hackney Pandas DFs

Supporting Information

We think that this would greatly increase the overall number of donors. For instance we know that many 'ex-Woodies' see Woodcraft Folk mainly in terms of the group or district that they or their children enjoyed, plus it would enable local groups to approach those who know Woodcraft Folk through local campaigns, and individual members can approach colleagues in their workplace, TU branch etc.

Motion 10. DF Five Year Membership

This Annual General Meeting agrees that the existing five year membership fee for DFs is set at five times the annual unwaged/low paid fee. With immediate effect shall be only available to those aged 16.

Proposed and seconded by: General Council

Supporting Information:

The five year fee was always intended to only cover DFs from age 16 to 21.

Motion 11. Badges for Group Members

This Annual General Meeting notes that a new initiative, badges for child membership, has been approved and that new badges were issued in 2012, according to the average number of children in a group. We find this initiative un-workable, as the average number of children is not the same as the full number, especially as children leave the group and new ones join during the year. Therefore, with less than the required number of badges, we find they cannot be distributed to all children, and so cannot be distributed at all. We instruct General Council to approve the sale of these badges through Folk Supply at cost plus postage – not the £5 currently charged.

Proposed and seconded by: London Region Woodcraft Folk

Amendment to motion 11: “Badges for Group Members”

Amend as follows:

- 1 Change 2012 to 2013;
- 2 Delete 'average' in front of 'number of children'
- 3 Delete 'as the average number of children is not the same as the full number, especially'.

The amended motion will read as follows:

This Annual Conference notes that a new initiative, badges for child membership, has been approved and that new badges were issued in 2013, according to the number of children in a group. We find this initiative un-workable, as children leave the group and new ones join during the year. Therefore, with less than the required number of badges, we find they cannot be distributed to all children, and so cannot be distributed at all. We ask Conference to approve the sale of these badges through Folk Supply at cost plus postage – not the £5 currently charged.

Proposed and seconded by: London Region Woodcraft Folk

APPENDIX:

An *at-a-glance* guide to Annual Conference procedures for Woodcraft Folk

Reproduced from the end of the constitutional Standing Orders document.

References made to SO. numbers refer to sections in that Standing Orders document.

The Chair:

Keeps order and runs the debate in accordance with the Standing Orders.

Standing Orders Committee:

Organises the agenda for the Conference, and makes sure all the Standing Orders are properly applied. Members of Standing Orders Committee are always available to be consulted – and will help and advise you. Use e-mail before the Conference (soc@woodcraft.org.uk) – or look for their table close to the stage in the conference hall.

Motions (see also SO.11-13 & SO15):

Motions are proposed and seconded by the people who brought them to Conference. They're then open for other people to make comment (which is called '*debate*'). When the debate is over the proposer has the right to have a final word, (which is called the '*right of reply*') and then a vote is taken.

Anyone who is a member of Woodcraft Folk can make a comment in the debate on a motion. It's good to get up and go to the front of the hall near the microphone and wait in line so the Chair knows you want to speak.

There's a time limit on speeches about motions. The proposer of a motion is allowed to speak for 5 minutes, but everyone else is limited to 3 minutes. At the microphone there are three lights: when you start to speak the green light will be on, the yellow light comes on when there's a minute left, and when the red light comes on your time is up!

Apart from the proposers '*right to reply*', nobody is allowed to speak more than once about any one motion. However, if somebody makes a '*request for information*' about your speech you are allowed to answer them, and if you made a speech about an amendment, you can speak again about the main motion.

Amendments (see also SO.11-13):

If there is an amendment to a motion, the amendment is proposed and seconded after the main motion has been proposed and seconded, but before any debate starts. After that, the amendment is debated so that Conference can vote on whether or not to accept the amendment *before* debate starts on the main motion.

The proposer of a motion may say before (s)he begins the proposing speech that (s)he is willing to accept an amendment (or amendments) which have been submitted. If this happens the Chair will ask immediately for a vote to see if the Conference agrees – and if it does, then the motion is amended immediately.

When people talk about an '*original*' motion, they mean the motion as it was first written. If Conference votes for an amendment, the amended motion which results is called the '*substantive*' motion.

Interruptions to Debate (see also SO.16):

If you think the rules of debate are not being followed properly then you can use:

'Point of Order' – at a convenient moment (eg: between speeches) go to the microphone, or stand up, and say 'Point of Order' clearly. If your point is so pressing that you need to make it in the middle of a speech – simply stand up and say 'Point of Order' loud and clear. Then wait. The Chair will normally give you permission to speak straight away, and you can tell the Conference what you think is wrong. Refer to the section of the Constitution or the Standing Orders which are appropriate. If you're not sure about this, go to the Standing Orders Committee immediately and ask them – once a vote has been taken it may be too late to do anything. If you think more information is needed then you can make a:

'Request for Information' – at a convenient moment (eg: between speeches) go to the microphone, or stand up, and say 'Point of Information' clearly. When the Chair indicates to you, ask for the information you think is needed – it may be appropriate for the proposer to give this in the right to reply, or it may be that a Woodcraft Folk officer or member of General Council can provide the information which is needed to help Conference.

Getting a Motion Withdrawn (see also SO.13):

If you want a motion to be removed from the agenda before the debate on it starts, you can propose that it be:

- a *'not put'* – if this is carried – the motion is simply removed from the agenda.

The Chair will ask for a seconder, and then you will have the opportunity to speak and say why you think this should happen. There may be one speech against your proposal, and then there will be a vote.

Closing the Debate (see also SO.21):

If you want the debate to end, and you haven't already spoken in the debate, you can propose:

- b *'the closure'* – if this is carried - Conference moves immediately to the right of reply and a vote.
- c *'next business'* – if this is carried - Conference abandons the debate and moves immediately to the next item on the agenda. No vote is taken, and the motion is never debated again.

The Chair will ask for a seconder, and then you will have the opportunity to speak and say why you think this should happen. There may be one speech against your proposal, and then there will be a vote.

Adjourning the Debate (see also SO.20):

If you want the debate to be carried on somewhere else without this Conference voting on it, and you haven't already spoken in the debate, you can propose that the matter:

- *'lie on the table'* – if this is carried - the motion goes to the next Annual Conference
- *'be remitted to General Council'* – if this is carried - the motion goes to the next General Council meeting

The Chair will ask for a seconder, and then you will have the opportunity to speak and say why you think this should happen. There may be one speech against your proposal, and then there will be a vote.

Emergency Motions (see also SO.14):

Emergency motions must relate to urgent issues which have arisen since the closing date for motions, which cannot be dealt with in any other way, and which are important enough to justify rearranging the Conference business. If you think you want to propose one, ask for advice from the Standing Orders Committee.

Suspension of Standing Orders (see also SO23):

This means setting aside one or more of the rules which govern Conference procedure. It has the potential to disregard normal democratic processes, and should only be considered if there is a matter of urgency which cannot be resolved in any other way. If you think you need to do this, ask for advice from the Standing Orders Committee.

Status and Authority of this Appendix:

The Standing Orders (SO.1 – SO.26) set out in the constitutional Standing Orders document are the rules which govern how the Woodcraft Folk conducts its Annual Conference and some other meetings. This Appendix is part of the Standing Orders document and goes with the rules. It's designed to explain and interpret the rules, and make them easier to understand, but it's not part of the rules themselves.

This means that if ever the Standing Orders themselves (SO.1 – SO.26), and this appendix, seem to contradict each other – then the Standing Orders must be seen as correct, and anything different suggested by this appendix is wrong.