

## Althing Minutes 2017 - 8/8/17

Tuesday

### Open space discussion of Musings

- Musing 1 - Use of veto in regards to accessibility rep
  - Potentially undemocratic as it gives one person to decide the result of an election
    - 'abuse of power'
    - People might misuse the veto, deliberately or accidentally
    - Different people have different opinions of what is worthy of a veto
  - If people are using the veto then it needs to be there
    - People should be able to express their concerns anonymously
  - We can encourage the use of RON and VNC
  - Proposal: we have an anonymous way to contact committee using a google doc. This could be general, not just in regards to elections.
- Musing 2 - distant democracy in DF business
  - How can we do this?
    - The technology for this is defo easily available
    - Use discussion forums for musings eg. Polls, loomio
    - Livestreaming
    - Df loomio
  - We might lose people if they didn't have to come to althing
  - Vlogs/summaries of the minutes
  - Central woodcraft are already working on this - we should work with them
  - This should be done incrementally so that we don't lose attendance
    - Action - Kier to do further work on this
    - Action - Esther Kinn to create big DF Loomio
- Motion 3 - Web fairy
  - Due to the problems we are having with the website at the moment the webfairy is struggling to get it back to normal
    - This isn't due to them as an individual, it's just bad circumstances. However, we can work to prevent issues like this in the future
    - Handover between webfairys isn't always the best
      - We could have 2 webfairys who run for 2 years and are elected on alternate years (like laymembers)
        - Alternately we could have more of an overlap (longer handover) between webfairys
    - A role description should be posted prior to althing to make sure candidates have the necessary technical knowledge
    - More communication between webfairy and ctte
    - We need to encourage webfairys to apply for expenses to physically meet up to hand over
    - Feedback from current webfairy
      - Didn't have a proper handover

- Only told they needed to be doing things when the website went down
  - The website was taken down by the host due to lack of payments
  - Had limited contact with previous webfairy, and doesn't feel confident handing over
  - Next webfairy will need to be incredibly competent
- We need to make a new website from scratch
  - The old website wasn't secure
  - Is it fair to expect us to do it or should we get external help?
  - Central woodcraft have offered us a lot of help
    - Action - Next webfairy should consider help from central as well as external help and feed back to committee
  - We can look at templates that will be kept up to date
  - Committee should have a much larger role in the website this year and will treat this as a priority
- Motion 4 - Respect and communication
  - Stress and communication as important as drug and consent workshop?
    - Might not need to be there as it is less of a safeguarding issue
    - They might not seem as dangerous, stress can create a dangerous atmosphere
    - Can be a very fun workshop
    - Doesn't matter that it's a different issue, it's still a very important issue to have
  - Mest-up workshop?
    - Maybe we should all plan it?
      - Mest-up could use the evaluation form
      - Action: Ash to put a section for this on the evaluation
    - We could look for examples and inspiration from different groups eg. People in poly relationships
    - We should look at the way ctte communicates with the rest of DFs
    - Communication is an accessibility issue eg. Neurodiversity and how different people communicate in different ways
    - We need to address the issues of glorifying stress on camp
    - We should be extra careful about making sure compulsory workshops happen as soon to the start of camp as possible
    - Have more program that is low stress eg. Sports and games, massages + crafts etc.
    - People should offer to help before they are asked
    - Helping out with things is part of the camp
    - Different interactions between individuals and groups can affect the ways people communicate

People here: Zeph, Ash, Aggie, Tal, Chris, Keir, Oliver, Esther, Cameron, Finn, Lara, Spike, Bethan, Sara, Raquel, Ellipt, Lily, Iolo, Nadia, Thalia, Brynn, Jonny,

## **Motion 2 - Email list**

(amendment added - the comms rep should be mandated to do this)

- Comms rep should be mandated to do this
- Previous comms reps have struggled to fill the newsletter
- Ammendment - This should be sent out after every social event

(amendment accepted by proposer)

- Ctte has a lot of things going on, this would add to their workload
  - We Could get onboard with the national DF newsletter
    - This could encourage non-active DFs
- We have been asked to do this before by kinsfolk
- We need to compile a database of emails as the national woodcraft one isn't up to date
  - How would we get people's emails without using facebook?
    - Contact venture leaders
    - Put it on the website

- **Action - Esther pass this info onto the new comms rep**

(22 for, 2 abstentions, motion passes)

(+sophie, Hannah, Joel)

time for pasto

mmm pasto

## **Motion 1 - Mest-Up Voting**

- What would happen if there weren't enough mest-up reps to vote?
  - Could be done online or at the next social or business event
    - Buisness events rarely have enough mest-up reps, and the next social after Althing is Winter Wonderland which is split into north and south.
      - Each site could vote separately the phone?
    - The mest-up rep ideally should be sorted out by Old-New - pip
    - Online voting isn't ideal - George
  - Anyone can ron or VNC, however its better to stop this having to happen in the first place - esther
  - Mest-up reps should have a higher say on who the mest-up rep is
  - If we continue to do althing at the end of camp we could potentially do a vote on camp - jonny
    - Not that feasible, voting in advance isn't ideal
  - Mest-up reps could be contacted by phone during althing if there aren't at the event
    - It's not just the voting that's important, it's the discussion - pip
  - Potentially could expense mest-up reps to althing?
    - This is the only part of the event they are specifically needed before, they could just be asked to be contactable and encouraged to come if they want

- Temperature check from mest-up reps present - positive feedback. George raised concerns about logistical issues
- If this motion passes, tomorrow we will not have enough mest-up people to elect the rep - Sophie
  - However, people can be contacted by phone
- Could this be tabled for the next mest-up election? - Zeph
  - That's in 2 years, too far in advance - sophie
- This motion could be tabled for after the election, causing it to come in to effect in 2 years time
  - Most of new ctte will be here
- Action - Bethan to have sent messages to all mest-up reps by 1 week after Althing

(25 in favour, 0 against, 2 abstentions, motion passes!!)

#### **Motion 10 - Mest-up register**

- Where is the info and who has access?
  - Yet to be decided where it would be kept, mest-up coordinator should have access
    - Could be kept on google drive

AMMENDMENT - at the end of the first paragraph, 'this register shall be accessible to the Mest-up coordinator, safeguarding rep and the chair of DF ctte' - proposed by Ash Taylor

- Motion not accepted by joel
- Who have access to this info?
- Motion withdrawl
- Amendment to amendment - '-as well as some members of the DF team, at the discretion of the mest-up rep' -Sophie Holden
- Comms and webfairy technically do also have access to this information
  - They technically also have information to all the safeguarding information
    - This is another issue that needs to be talked about
- AMMENDMENT - at the end of the first paragraph, 'This register will be accessible to the mest-up coordinator, chair of DF committee, the safeguarding officer, members of the mest-up team subject to the discretion of the mest up rep' - Proposed by Ash Taylor
  - Amendment accepted by Joel

(25 for, 0 against, 1 abstention, motion passes)

#### **PARTY TIME**

#### **Wednesday**

People here: Aggie, Nadia, Chris, Ash, Bethan, Brynn, Fynn, Jonny, Elliot, Raquel, Lily, Lara, Sara, Finn, Iolo, Pip, Esther, Spike, Zeph, Oliver, Lara, Keir, Joel, Cameron

#### **Motion 4 - B.1.4.5.1**

Motion passes due to no opposition

**Motion 4.5 - B.1.4.5.1 safeguarding**

- The current safeguarding rep has had a tough time, 2 people doing it could ease the workload
  - We already have a safeguarding team to ease the workload
  - Most of the work that has been done this year was setting up the procedures that are now in place
- People making disclosures might not want both people to know about
- The current safeguarding rep thinks that we should only have one safeguarding rep
- Job shares can mean that things that need to be done get forgotten

(14 in favour, 11 abstentions) - Motion passes

**Motion 6 - safeguarding only having one role**

Motion passes due to no opposition

**Motion 7 - number of roles - b.1.4.6 coopting**

Motion passes due to no opposition

**Motion 8 -vnc clarification**

Motion passes due to no opposition

**Motion 5 - number of roles in constitution**

Motion passes due to no opposition

**Motion 3 - expenses of gc reps**

- Not being able to go to Things impedes the ability for GC reps to do their jobs
- There are currently expenses places available for any one who wants, GC reps can choose to apply for these
  - Having specific places for GC reps would encourage them to go
  - These places should be used to encourage new DFs to come who aren't involved nationally who wouldn't be able to come otherwise
  -
- We can currently afford to do this

(23 in favour, 0 against, 2 abstentions) motion passes

**Motion 13 - non ctte roles added to constitution**

Motion passes due to no opposition

(break)

**International Camp 2020 - Tom Brooks**

- What's happened since last year?
  - Dates sorted - 1<sup>st</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> August 2020
  - Cost - £205
  - Theme - International solidarity/friendship
  - Venue - Kent Showground
  - It will be an IFM-SEI camp

The reason that it costs so much is because the site is very nice.

The coop are giving loads of money to the scouts - we could get in on this easily.  
Building links to local groups is super important.

- Can DFs do this to help people who don't have districts?
  - As long as we do this in regional groups we can do this
  - **Action - Jazmine and Arwel to look into coop grants**
- When can people apply to run things?
  - Probably in about 2 years
- How can we make sure ex-DFs come back to run things?
  - Posting on the woodcraft FB group
  - Email list
  - Make a group for DFs and young kinsfolk who want to be involved
  - Send regular updates on the situation of the camp
    - Tom say she will make a video after every meeting
      - This should be emailed out as well
  - If people don't have a district at the end of DFs
    - Someone needs to help people who are booking without a district - eg putting people with people they know, helping people with financial support, getting DBS
  - Pairing districts with international delegations so they can help fundraise
- We need to think about DF camp in 2020 to make sure as many people as possible can go to both
- Pre camp could be very useful - around 2 months before the camp

#### **Motion 12 - IC2020 rep**

- Motion passes due to no opposition

#### **Motion 14 - Two year events role**

- How would the new events rep be trained?
  - As like before, with a good handover. There doesn't need to be as much training per se
- Events is a very big role that has to be done well, making it 2 years is too much work - Aggie
- We could try having 2 events reps - lolo
- New events reps would be thrown in at the deep end - Esther
- We have only had the shadow events role for 2 years, we persevere as it's not actively doing harm years - Lily
- Shadow events didn't prepare them as much as they expected it would - Ash
- The 2 year system allows for better prioritisation, as venues can be booked over a year in advance. Teaching someone can make more work for the events rep - Sophie
- The role isn't being done in the best way, rather than the role not being good. We should talk to previous event reps - Brynn
- The problems with shadow events are quite solvable - Esther
- Shadow events is there to support as well as to learn - neither of those can happen if it is one person who does it for two years. We can develop support systems rather than removing a role - Elliot

- **Amendment - Add a second events rep to committee, who would be elected on alternate years on an odd/even system similar to laymember - Proposed by Nadia**
  - Proposer doesn't accept amendment - discussion of amendment
    - Clearly more support is needed for events reps, how can we improve support structures - Sara
    - With this system the events reps could take on Things in their first year, and social events - lolo
    - We could change the nature of the role so that events rep doesn't train their shadow - Joel
    - Adding more people won't solve the problem - communication issues could interfere when 2 people are doing the exact same job - Zeph
    - This wouldn't fix the existing problems, would cause information to be lost and would be harder to organise between two people - Ash
    - We might need to remove a role to keep committee the same size - Brynn
  - Vote on amendment - 7 in favour, 12 against, 4 abstentions
  - Amendment falls
- The positives of having two events reps that have been brought up can be applied to the shadow events system - Elliot
- People have run and have run for event reps who could go straight into the role without having any shadow training - Oliver
- Communication needs to be improved between shadow and events, we could expense meetings between the two or expense shadow events to Things - Bethan
- No one gets enough support on committee and no one delegates enough, due to our culture of glorifying stress. However we do it people are going to be too stressed, Laymembers are there to help but are rarely asked to help out enough. The role hasn't had enough time to be tested, the role was created because people thought the events role was too long. This can be monitored this year and revisited in the future - Lily
- Shadow events is currently expected to both learn how to be events and being support for the events rep. It is not reasonable or fair to expect the shadow to do both these things as the shadow is there to learn - Sophie
- **Action - Ash make resources for future events and shadow events**
- Which is more stressful, being thrown in at the deep end or having to train someone for a year? - Lara
- **Ammendent - Events rep doesn't organise winter wonderland - they would change over at new year rather than at Old/New - Chris**
  - Amendment accepted by proposer
- The events rep should make sure they book venues a year in advance
- (9 in favour, 11 against, 5 abstentions, motion falls)

#### **Motion 15 - Renaming Mest-up fairy**

Ammendment - change fairy to coordinator (lolo)  
(20 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention)

#### **Motion 16 - Accessibility to supervisory role**

- The accessibility rep would have access to committee meetings unless they are discussing confidential matters. They would also not be able to vote and participate in committee discussions (unless relevant to their role), only observe.

(discussion in pairs, then feedback)

- Transparency in ctte should be encouraged
- We might not be able to afford to expense them
- Ctte or non ctte is irrelevant as long as they are communicating effectively with different members
- We should let the role have a bit more time to get settled as it only started last year
- It's a good way of keeping committee in check and makes them more accessible
- It doesn't need a whole new category of role for just one position
- The role should focus on the whole movement not just committee
- They might not have as much support if they are not on committee

(move back to whole group discussion)

- How is this different to a non committee role?
  - They have access to close committee meetings
- Its irrelevant where/how it is the constitution -Elliot
- It adds an extra step in the decision making process having them not on committee - Jonny
- We need to work on making committee less cliquey and having the role not on committee means they could work towards this
- Accessibility is a very broad spectrum and not being on committee might mean they wouldn't have a broad enough understanding of how Dfs work - Hannah
- Having it not as a secondary role means people can focus more on the role
- Should they go to old/new?
  - Yes - proposer (sophie)
- How long would the role be?
  - Currently one year, would stay that way
- The role feels more like a 'clique supervisor' rather than someone who focuses on accessibility - Brynn
- One of the reasons committee feels so cliquey is because they spend a lot of time in safeguarding meetings on events, which the accessibility rep wouldn't have access to

(18 for, 0 against, 7 abstentions, motion passes)

### **Motion 17 - Add veto to safeguarding**

Motion passes

### **Motion 18 - boycott Israeli goods - proposed by Thalia**

As DFs we aim to buy ethically, there are so many human rights by the Israeli state it is not ethical to spend df money on things that would benefit the state

- When we organise DF events and spend DFs we should be sure to not buy Israeli goods
- This could come under the role of sustainability



- Action: affiliations reps to work with local Palestinian solidarity groups and run more workshops in future events
- Products should say where they are from - often it is not hard to find out where things are from
- We should not let the difficulties of doing this put us off. Eg spending more money, taking extra time to determine origin country
- **Ammendment - add the preface 'wherever possible...'**
- Amendment not accepted by Thalia
  - Action: next sustainability rep to update food policy in regards to this
  - We already have policies with rules we don't explicitly follow - when writing new policies we should make sure people can follow them. This preface makes people aware of the issue but gives coordinators an amount of leeway
  - This could leave us open to laziness
  - People won't be punished for not sticking to this exactly
  - 5 for, 15 against, 5 abstentions - ammendment falls
- 19 for, 0 against, 6 abstentions - motion passes

## **Elections**

Webfairy - **Joel, Keir**

Comms - **Esther, Joel**

Secretary - **Ash**

Treasurer - **Aggie**

Vctte Rep - **Katie Lister**

First Aid - **Lucy**

International Opps - **Ruby**

Chair - **Nadia, Otis, Chris**

Shadow Treasurer - **Lara TB**

Events - **Dani, Molly**

Mest-UP - **Dani, Row + Noah**

Zine - **Brynn, Miranda,**

Training - **Sophie**

Districts - **Elliot**

Shadow Events - **Robin**

Campaigns - **Tal, AJ**

Safeguarding - **Brynn**

GC REP - **Zeph (1yr), Thalia, Lara Taylor (2yr)**

Workers beer - **Otis**

Podcast - **Oliver**

London Liason **Thalia**

Laymember - **Thalia, Sarah Bennet, Chris, Bridget (1yr), Nick Craven, Oliver (2yr)**

Accessability - **Amber**, Joel  
Ifm rep - Zeph

### **Bike Rack**

- Althing always on a weekend (?)
- Feedback from Cameron and joel on webfairy musing
- policies
  - Shift
  - Food
  - expenses

### **Annual reports**

Esther (comms)

- started a DF insta
- Added security questions to the facebook group
- Plans for the website
- Going to start work on the newsletter

Cameron (webfairy)

- Retained domain name
- We have the ability to host

Nadia + Iolo (affiliations)

- Planned for international day of action
  - Created resources + created IFM migration network
- Sent people to training events
- Worked with LGSM and CAAT
- Currently working on 'one solution resolution' - seminar for venturers in October on peace and conflict resolution
  - Had a planning meeting for this and money in grants, applications opening tomorrow!!

Lily (chair)

- Everything has ticked over nicely
- Overseeing pastoral support
- All events and Things have happened well
- Is going to work on evaluating Althing and DF camp at Old/new
- Continued to work on safeguarding - going to meetings and talking to Holly
- Wrote food policy

Elliot

- Two trips to yarls wood have happened
- Ensured that workshops about the campaign have happened at Events
- Working with people at CAAT about our involvement at the arms fair in September
- Created a resource pool for the campaign

Aggie (Shadow treasurer + sustainability)

- Been learning from Pip
- Has control of the accounts
- Been chasing up people who have deffered payments
- Made a shadow treasurer insta

- Been working with lilly on the food policy

Lara TB (Venturer ctte liason)

- Now there are 2 facilitators on vctte

Bethan (Mest-up)

- Organised a mest-up re-training
- We have had drug testing kits on this camp
- Raised lots of money for mest-up

Brynn (GC)

- Video updates for GC
- Working on 202 camp
- Lots of safeguarding stuff
- Been involved in organising folk assembly and AG

Hannah (laymember + international ops)

- Lots of pastoral support
- Been passing on info about international events
- Helped organise a seminar with a group from Austria
- Coordinated video making for the I Act campaign
- Coordinated WW South

Joel (podcast)

- Has been gathering resources for the next podcast rep to use

Ash (events)

- Has been evaluating event numbers for the year
- Has often struggled with asking for help, but all events have run smoothly
- Wants to say a big thanks to everyone who's coordinated an event <3

Zeph (secretary)

- Has kept things ticking over in regards to minutes, motions, elections etc.
- Been working on updating the constitution

(holly + hufi)