

**DRAFT UNTIL SIGNED**

**English Folk Dance and Song Society Annual General Meeting 2017**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Cecil Sharp House, London NW1 7AY,  
Saturday 11 November 2017 at 11.15 am**

Present: Alistair Anderson, Chair of the Board of Trustees/Directors, Ed Fishwick, Honorary Treasurer, Tony Garton, Company Secretary, Katy Spicer, Chief Executive, and 14 others, including seven current Board members and three who will join the Board at the end of the meeting. Proxies had been appointed by 481 members.

**1. Welcome**

Alistair Anderson (Chair), welcomed Members and Fee Lock representing the Morris Federation. He introduced the platform party, Katy Spicer (Chief Executive), Ed Fishwick (Honorary Treasurer) and Tony Garton (Company Secretary).

**2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Board Members Doug Oates and Mick Gallagher. Apologies were also received from Elizabeth Rose.

**3. Adoption of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 12 November 2016**

The minutes were accepted by the meeting and signed, as proposed by Mike Heaney and seconded by Mike Wilson Jones.

**4. Matters Arising from the minutes**

There were no Matters arising from the Minutes

**5. Presentation of the Annual Report and Accounts for the year 2016-2017, including the report of the Auditors and an update on activities for the current year.**

The annual report had been previously distributed.

**5.1 Chair's report**

Alistair Anderson introduced the Chair's section of the annual report. He said that he had spent two years as Chair and thanked all those who had helped and supported him during his chairmanship.

Alistair noted that the refurbishment of Kennedy Hall had been completed.

He noted that the National Youth Folk Ensemble had passed its first year and welcomed that and other educational initiatives.

Alistair noted that EFDSS had been successful in obtaining Catalyst Funding from Arts Council England by which individual donations made by the end of 2019 will be matched pound for pound by ACE to a maximum total claim of £105,000.

**5.2 Chief Executive's Report**

The Chief Executive introduced her section of the report and provided an up-date on more recent events in the current financial year (2017-18).

The CE highlighted the children and young people's projects with Essex Education Music Hub and the London Borough of Greenwich as part of the Tall Ships programme. A new Youth Forum was also introduced in autumn 2016 created to gain greater input from young people in to EFDSS's programme and developments.

EFDSS has increased its activities with and for people with disabilities, working with ActionSpace to deliver workshops in J F Kennedy School, Newham, and developing specialist training opportunities and resources for teachers.

In partnership with Dance North West and One Dance UK, EFDSS commissioned Folk Dance Remixed to create a dance work for 30 young dancers from the North West which incorporated folk, in particular clog, contemporary, and hip-hop dance forms, and was performed as part of the U.Dance finals at The Lowry, Salford.

The VMWL introduced a new programme of lectures in December and presented a number of conferences - The Appalachian Conference held in July and presented with Shepherdstown University, West Virginia marked the centenary of Cecil Sharp and Maud Karpeles first collected song from the Appalachians; our annual Broadsides Conference, this year in partnership with the Bodleian Library; and the Histories of Morris Dance, presented with the Historical Dance Society with two days of papers and practical dance demonstrations.

In partnership with The Met Bury and Colston Hall Bristol, EFDSS Artists' Development Programme commissioned a new work, Theatre Ballads, by Horse and Bamboo Theatre Company working with folk musicians, and was involved in the commission of musician Jane Harbour by BBC Radio 3 to write a new folk music piece for orchestra. The final piece which was inspired by the traditional song Barbara Allen was performed at Cecil Sharp House and broadcast live on Radio 3.

Looking forward to 2017/18, EFDSS has received funding from PRS for Music Foundation for the second year to support artists' development; from the National Folk Music Fund to support the refurbishment of the library and on-going library development projects; and from Help Musicians for a new programme of folk musicians in residence in museums. EFDSS has also been offered a further four years of funding (2018-2022) from Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation.

### 5.3 Annual Accounts and Auditors' Report

Ed Fishwick, Honorary Treasurer, said that the information that he had to present was all contained in the previously circulated written report. He commented that over the past five years the Society's finances had improved. The year 2016/7 was in line with budget and there had, in fact, been a small surplus over the forecast. The income was £1.6 million which was very similar to last year. There had been an increase in commercial lets and there was a 2% increase in expenditure. His overall conclusion was that the Society had had a sound year.

Ed Fishwick said that there was no increase in subscription levels being proposed. It was hoped that members would accept this but donate any increase that they might have expected in order that the Society could receive matched funding.

He thanked Judith Crichton and her colleagues for the work that had been undertaken and Katy Spicer and the remainder of the staff for their work in operating the Society so well during the past year.

### 5.4 Receipt of the Annual Report and Accounts

That the Annual Report and Accounts be received by the meeting was proposed by Lorna Aizlewood, seconded by Sherry Neyhus and agreed by the Meeting.

## **6 Elections and Appointments to the Board**

Tony Garton advised the meeting that four Board members had to retire having served for six years as a Trustee/Director. These are Jon Brenner, Lucy Neal, Sherry Neyhus and Peter Slavid. In addition Yvette Staelens is standing down.

Alistair Anderson thanked them all for their considerable contributions to the Board and wished them well.

Tony Garton advised the meeting that there were three candidates who had been proposed for election to the Board and since there are more vacancies than candidates no formal vote is required and all are elected. Those elected are Lorna Aizlewood, Fi Fraser and Andy Wooles. Mick Gallagher, formerly an Appointed Board Member, has now been elected to the Board.

Tony Garton informed the meeting that Alan Davey had been appointed by the Board during the course of the year. The meeting would be asked later to confirm that appointment.

### **7. Confirmation of the appointment of Alan Davey as a member of the Board (Ordinary Resolution 1)**

The Board asked the meeting to confirm the appointment of Alan Davey. The resolution was passed on a show of hands.

### **8. Appointment of Auditors (Ordinary resolution no 2)**

The Treasurer explained that in accordance with normal practice the Board had considered whether to change auditors, and that the existing auditors had also said that as they had been auditors for so long it was advisable to change. The Board proposed the appointment of H W Fisher & Co as auditors. The resolution was passed on a show of hands.

### **9. Any Other Business**

#### **9.1 Annual General Meetings**

Mary Wilson-Jones asked why the AGM continued to be held in view of the falling numbers attending and bearing in mind that it is no longer a legal requirement to hold an AGM and that since proxy voting has been introduced the majority of votes cast have been by proxy.

Various suggestions were made to deal with the problem. These included re-introducing the National Gathering or something similar on the same day; holding the AGM at a different time of the year and live streaming the AGM over the internet. The Board will discuss the matter during the coming year.

The Chair thanked the staff and particularly Jane Gregory, Membership Administrator for their work for the AGM and thanked all present in the hall for attending.

Ed Fishwick proposed a vote of thanks to Alistair Anderson for his work during the two years as Cjhair. This was carried by acclaim.

The meeting closed at 12 noon.

Tony Garton  
Company Secretary  
27 December 2017

### Disclosure of proxy appointments

484 proxy appointments were received from members 481 of which were found to be valid.

For the resolutions decided on a show of hands the following are the numbers of proxy appointments and associated instructions which were received prior to the meeting:

Resolution	Votes for	Votes against	Votes withheld	Proxy's discretion	Total proxy votes cast
1. Ordinary	380	3	4	94	481
2. Ordinary	379	5	5	92	481

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