

Woodcraft Folk DFs Spring Thing 2024 Minutes



17th/18th February 2024, Ruiton

Present: Parker; Amelia; Nuala, Callie, Joe H, Tyler, Mickey, Paul, Seren, Alex T, Lida, Aisling, Sadie, Wilf, Maya L

0	Introductions	2
1	Review of the Previous Thing's Minutes	2
2	Quarterly Reports	2
	2.1 Reports from Committee Members	2
	2.2 Reports from Non-Committee Role-Holders	3
4	Policy Proposals	3
	4.1 Early Bird Pricing for Events	3
5	Musings	4
6	Discussion of Upcoming Events	5
	6.1 Spring Awakening 2024	5
	6.2 DF Camp 2024	5
	6.3 DF Working Weekend 2024	7
7	Policy Reviews	7

0 Introductions

Tyler took the chair, welcomed everyone to Spring Thing, and complained about the temperature on site. The meeting began by going around the circle allowing everyone to introduce themselves. Everyone was asked to say their name and pronouns.

Tyler ran through the hand signals which would be used to aid discussion.

1 Review of the Previous Thing's Minutes

Tyler presented the minutes from the previous Thing. Progress towards goals set at that meeting was noted, and each outstanding task was discussed in detail in the presentation of the quarterly reports of the relevant member of Committee

2 Quarterly Reports

Note: In advance of the meeting, anyone holding a Committee or Non-Committee role was contacted and asked to prepare a report which answered 7 questions. The full text of the reports can be found in the [papers](#)

2.1 Reports from Committee Members

Reports were heard from the following members of Committee. The Thing provided suggestions and advice to members where they asked for it. Relevant actions were recorded

- Shadow MEST-UP Coordinator (Joe Hammond)
- Safeguarding Representative (Sadie Lamont)
- Shadow Events Representative (Callie Smithson Swain)
- Secretary of the Movement (Wilfred Lamont)

Action #1: Tyler to upload the minutes of Althing 2023 to the DF Website

- Communications Representative (Tyler Eckersall)
- Chair of DF Committee (Tyler Eckersall)
- MEST-UP Coordinator (Amelia Wallbank)
- Events Representative (Nuala Doak)
- Activism Representative (Paul Nolan-Paley)
- Sustainability Representative (Paul Nolan-Paley)

- Paul mentioned that he wanted to start a discussion on making our food sustainability guidelines more concrete. It was suggested this could be discussed at the next Thing to write into policy.

Action #2: Paul to draft a policy proposal for an update to the Food Policy for Summer Thing 2024.

2.2 Reports from Non-Committee Role-Holders

A report was heard from the holder of a role not on Committee:

- Aisling Stuart
 - Some of the ideas introduced in this report were to be discussed in more depth at musings later in the day.

4 Policy Proposals

4.1 Early Bird Pricing for Events

Wilf opened a discussion on the Early Bird Pricing. He presented his proposal as laid out in the [papers](#). The initial proposal was:

- To ask for payment immediately after booking (current practice is to release payment details in the info pack approx. 4 weeks before the event).
- To make DFs aware that they will not be eligible to pay the Early Bird Price after a date 3 weeks before the event.
- To make the price of the event £5 more expensive after the Early Bird deadline.
-

A temperature check was conducted to ascertain whether a £5 penalty fee was enough.

*Amendment: To scale the penalty price increase. The penalty will be 10% of the initial price rounded **up** to the nearest £5.*

Seren pointed out that Early Bird terminology might be confusing because of the separation of booking and payment. People might think they are eligible to pay the early bird price by virtue of booking early. Instead it was suggested that we reverse the terminology to focus on payment. Parker suggested 'Price Tier 1' and 'Price Tier 2' or similar.

Amendment: Avoid the terminology 'Early Bird'. Instead refer to the two pricing levels as 'tiers'.

The important change that the Thing wanted to implement was synchronising booking and payment. A more complicated payment system, perhaps after the model of a festival, should be avoided and we should make sure that unpaid bookings still make cancellations.

There are people whose personal circumstances mean that they do not have the money to pay during the first tier period, but this is something completely out of our control, and it is not practical to try and implement a system to combat this.

Action #3: Maya to discuss the amended proposal decided upon in this meeting with the other treasurers and look to implement it in time for DF Camp 2024.

5 Musings

5.1 How can we go beyond Fairer Fare to remove financial barriers to DF Camp 2024

Aisling opened a discussion on removing financial barriers, focusing on the large contingent of Scottish and Welsh DFs expected to attend DF Camp this year, who will be travelling together from Celtic Camp in Cumbria

[Discussion minutes lost]

Action #4: Aisling to research collective travel options for Scottish DFs (eg. coach).

6 Discussion of Upcoming Events

6.1 Spring Awakening 2024

Dates 4th to 8th of April
(provisional): 2024

Location n/a
(provisional):

Nuala opened the discussion and announced the theme for the event: Carnival. There have been difficulties finding a site within the price range that is not already booked for the provisional dates, we may need to compromise on the target region (Northeast) and perhaps find a camping rather indoor site.

Mickey asked whether there were accessibility implications for changing the type of venue, this should be a priority in finding a site. Wilf mentioned that we have located the spreadsheet of previous event sites on the drive.

Later on in the day, a potential site (Raven Gill, Whitby) responded to the Events Team's enquiry. The figures in their pricing sheet were approved by the Treasurer and the Thing agreed to move forward with this site.

Action #5: Nuala to write a booking form feedback form to be circulated within Committee

6.2 DF Camp 2024

Dates 4th to 11th of August
(provisional): 2024
Location: n/a

Nuala opened discussion on DF Camp. The Coord team has not been put together, but we would like to soon. We need to find a site for the event, preferably before Spring Awakening. The discounted Mersea Island site is looking less likely, so we need to start looking elsewhere.

Different options were discussed, without any good proposals found. The priority identified in searching for sites was public transport accessibility. The ease with which the final leg of the journey can be completed is almost more important than the region of the country that the event takes place in. Mickey aims to bring a small group of internationals to the event, which will open the door to more substantial international connections between IFM sister organisations and the DF Movement specifically within Woodcraft. This discussion will be continued in more detail on the second day of business. Silent Disco Headphones are not plausible at high numbers. Priority should be booking a site away from residential areas/without a noise curfew. Sadie: book Elmss!

Because we will hopefully be welcoming a large cohort of younger DFs, we need to be mindful of the fact that there will be more pressure on MEST-UP and other on-shift roles.

Nuala chose to move the discussion to the potential scale of the event and the associated logistical challenges. Before we started discussing numbers, she noted that approximately 80% of the total people who book for the event eventually cancel.

The experience at Winter Wonderland 2023 (~80 participants) was discussed. It was difficult to manage this large of an event, we had issues with co-ordinating morning circles and cooking clans. The proposal for a larger DF Camp was to split the camp into a number of villages. Amelia noted that the programme and social side of the event can and should be run centrally, but the logistics and structure of the camp would need to be co. Each village could have a KP, KE, and Admin who would represent the central team in the village, eg. during circles. Nuala, brought up the issue of the difference in skills needed for pre-camp admin and onsite coordination and the importance of dividing these skills across different members of the team. It's important to be aware of this issue, but not

Coord Team Creation

Nuala explained the roles taken on by different members of the coord team. This year we are hoping to have larger team of coordinators, particularly a larger KE team given the increased logistical challenges of multiple villages.

DFs present at the Thing were surveyed about their interest in different co-ord roles.

Action #6: Tyler to communicate with the movement to find volunteers for DF Camp.

Action #7: By Spring Awakening, assemble the team based on Tyler's responses.

6.3 DF Working Weekend 2024

Dates 10th to 12th of May
(provisional): 2024

Location: Biblins

Alex spoke about the proposed Biblins working weekend, the idea of which was introduced at Winter Thing. The Biblins team will plan all of the event apart from

the catering and we would be expected to do a working day from 10am to 4pm, probably decorating in Camp Koodoo. There were concerns that attendance would be negatively affected by exam periods running around that time of year. Woodcraft centres are keen to have DFs to visit, and we would like to make use of these sites, but all of the offers we have received are based on the idea of making use of DF volunteer labour.

7 Policy Reviews

The participants spent time annotating the policies up for review at the Thing, pointing out places that needed to be discussed. The policies updated were:

- Safeguarding Procedures
- External Visitors Policy
- Intoxicating Substances Policy

Afterwards, in a more structured discussion, the annotations were turned into actionable amendments to the policies. The newly written policies will be finally approved at Spring Awakening

Action #8: Secretary to update the policies according to the amendments agreed during the Thing.