

# Woodcraft Folk DFs

## Summer Thing 2024

### Minutes



13 July 2024, Online

“I’ve been living out of an air fryer for the past two years” - Sadie Lamont

Present: Tyler, Sadie, Joe W, Maya L, Wilf, Eunice, Alex T, Isla, Esme, Nuala, Nyx, Seren, Lida, Aisling, Morgan

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## 0 Introductions

Tyler took the chair and welcomed everyone to Summer Thing. Where people have left and joined the meeting, this has not been recorded in the minutes.

## 1 Review of the Previous Thing's Minutes

Tyler presented the action summary of the Spring Thing minutes. Almost all of the actions had been completed and progress towards incomplete actions was noted.

*Action #1: Tyler to set up the DF Intranet before Althing so that it is ready for the new Committee.*

## 2 Quarterly Reports

*Note: Quarterly reports were not collected before the meeting, and were delivered verbally by Committee members present in the meeting*

Parker asked about Just Giving - its coming into the account, says Joe

### 2.1 Reports from Committee Members

**Chair of DF Committee** (Tyler Eckersall)

**Communications Representative** (Tyler Eckersall)

**Even Laymember** (Isla Douglas)

**Fundraising Representative** (Parker Murray)

Parker asked about the situation with the [DF Just Giving page](#). There was uncertainty as to whether we have access to the funds received through this channel. Joe clarified that we were receiving payments.

**Safeguarding Representative** (Sadie Lamont)

**Secretary of the Movement** (Wilf Lamont)

**Shadow Treasurer** (Sadie Lamont)

## 3 Financial Report

Joe delivered a presentation on the financial situation of the Movement. Overall it is looking positive as we are breaking even relative to our reserves this time last year following a successful cycle of social events and Things

The Treasurers have successfully made the current Shadow Treasurer (Maya L) a signatory of the DF bank account.

They have also had helpful meetings with central. A new possibility for the DF Movement would be a pre-paid debit card which could be used to pay for event costs such as food orders and equipment hire. Money could be paid onto this card by the DF bank account and by central.

*Action #2: Treasurers to ask central about setting up a DF Debit card. A full discussion on its use to be included on the Agenda for Althing 2024*

## 4 Musings

### 4.2 Musing: Maximising participation in Committee elections

Tyler opened a discussion and recapped the election processes in 2023, which involved a greater amount of online participation. Tyler has started making some updates to the planning document he made last year. Some of the updates are informed by discussions on election procedure for 2023.

Tyler presented the structure of his draft plan for 2024, the key aspect of which was a period of nominations open during DF Camp to encourage participation by the wider movement. The Thing agreed that it would be good to use DF Camp to gather input from a wider selection of DFs, especially those off committee.

Committee outreach is important, workshops and Q&A sessions about Committee and DF Business were suggested for the programme of DF camp

*Action #3: Tyler to organise Election- and Committee-related programme for DF Camp*

*Action #4: Tyler to design comms output to deliver the election timetable and Althing coord.*

## 4.3 Musing: Running a Good Althing

Wilf opened a discussion on running Althing, hoping to reflect on last year's Althing.

### 4.3.1 Agenda

The secretary will be responsible for compiling the agenda, from open submission of motions by form. Wilf clarified that the form will be open until the day of Althing. He will try and talk to as many people as possible on camp to allow people to bring ideas who are new to DF business or can't attend Althing.

In order to increase accessibility, Wilf asked the Thing whether we should allow people to submit just thoughts that didn't qualify as motions. Sadie reframed this idea as submission of musings.

*Action #4: Wilf to make Motion and Musing Submission form for Althing*

### 4.3.2 Practicalities about this year's event

Althing will take place between the 16th and 18th of August at a site near Chester. The venue has a capacity of 24, with 6 sleeping rooms and WiFi coverage.

### 4.3.3 Running Musings

Wilf noted that there had been provision for Open Space discussion with flipchart paper in small groups at the last Althing, but it hadn't come to fruition. The Thing looked for alternative ways to run musings and avoid shortcomings of last year. Small group discussion over large notepaper sometimes seems artificial and it is easy to get distracted by other things and wander from the intention of the agenda. The example of an Althing musing in 2023 which was later deemed inappropriate and counterproductive was cited.

It was suggested that an item should be discussed as a musing if it feels like something everyone needs to weigh in on. This kind of discussion is better as a motion later on.

The Thing recognised that good chairing was very important to musing discussions. Discussion loops and contributions extending conversation without providing constructive additions are to be avoided but often happen.

It was suggested that the main issue in the discussion was how to maintain a balance between a space that is open for everyone, and one that does not invite slow and unproductive discussion with too many competing voices lacking a clear direction.

The Thing agreed that we ought to make provisions to occupy those who were not participating in a particular musing, either because they were not interested,

or because they had decided to step back having made all the contributions that they think are constructive.

Eunice said it was important to do something tangible, which could stand as a physical product of the business conducted, for example corner with creative resources for drop in. This could go towards the production of a zine or newsletter covering the outcomes of Althing.

Tyler attempted to sum up the sense of what had been said so far in the musing.

- Althing should make it clear who the key people are in the discussion and allow people to leave and enter musings freely. DFs should have the awareness to know when their contributions are necessary and a responsibility to keep discussion moving in the right direction.
- DFs should use the time outside a musing to start new conversations, work on other DF projects/events with other DFs
- Althing should consider the possibility of secondary musing running in parallel. Similarly, two smaller groups could discuss the *same* musing separately and hopefully both work through it more efficiently, then feed back to each other, noting points of agreement and then focusing on points of disagreement in their conclusions to streamline the building of consensus.
- Althing should consider the possibility of establishing fixed working groups during the event to work on a musing on their own and present their findings to the whole meeting towards the end of business.

## 5 Policy Updates

*Action #5: Annual budgets for Committee members to be considered by Althing*

*Action #6: Wilf to expand the section on committee expenses in the Payment and Expenditures Policy.*

*Action #7: DF Camp Coord team to take on responsibility for creating a shift rota from Sadie.*

*Action #8: Tyler to publish the Safe Tree on the DF website.*

*Action #9: Wilf to include cross-referencing links to the newly published Safe Tree at the relevant points in Policy.*

*Action #10: A full discussion of our shift policy to be included in the agenda of Althing 2024*

## 6 Discussion of Upcoming Events

### 6.1 DF Camp

**Dates:** 4th to 11th of August

**Location:** Skreens Park Activity Centre, Chelmsford

Nuala led the discussion on the upcoming camp. She has recently conducted a site. She Noise curfew 10:30, officially no alcohol site. Cabin use: 30 chairs and tables, not feasible to use indoor space for the whole camp.

Q: What will it be like for smoking and alcohol

Skreens will be stricter than other sites we have used - 'no smoking area' signage is widespread onsite, so Coordinators will need to make expectations clear.

Q: Will there be on-site supervision by a Warden?

Wardens work at the site reception 9 to 5, with off site contact out of hours.

Q: What is the terrain like on site?

Flat site, grassy pitch behind the cabin, campfire place for our use free of charge. Accessibility of cabin: shower and toilet inside cabin, Nuala will phone to double check about ramp access, but almost definitely yes.

Q: what are the public transport connections to the site?

The bus from Chelmsford takes passengers to a stop half an hours walk from the site. Taxis are also available from Epping at the end of the Central Line.

*Action #11: DF Camp Coord team to station stewards at Epping and Chelmsford to greet DFs and help to organise them into groups for taxis to site where necessary.*

*Action #12: DF Camp Coord team to improve coordination of arrivals by gathering data about expected arrival times and managing a check-in system.*

Q: Is pre-camp open to all, or just to members of the coord team?

Yes

*Action #13: Wilf to make Pre-Camp sign up form*

Q: Kit?

Situation being managed by Nuala and KEs - let Seren know about kit needs, going. Esme offers to drive kit from Epping

*Action #14: Nuala to liaise with Seren wrt kit from Lewisham and Greenwich District and with Esme wrt to transport of kit to the site from Epping.*

## 6.2 Autumn Nocturne & Winter Wonderland

**Dates:** TBC

**Location:** TBC

### 6.2.1 Autumn Nocturne

Autumn Nocturne will return in 2024. It will be coordinated by a small team as before and the site will be booked before Althing. The coordination and advertisement of the event will form part of the handover process for Events and Comms, respectively.

### 6.2.2 Winter Wonderland

Planning for Winter Wonderland will not start until after Althing and will be led by the next Committee.