

# Woodcraft Folk DFs

## Spring Thing 2026

### Minutes



21st - 22nd February 2026, Online

Present: Alex, Angus, Lara, Hazel, Larry, Nyx, Sadie, Lizzie, Wilf, Jake, Finley, Gabriel, Jake, Tom

<b>0 Introductions</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1 Review of the Previous Thing's Minutes</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2 Quarterly Reports</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1 Reports from Committee Members	2
<b>3 Financial Report</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4 Policy Updates</b>	<b>4</b>
4.1 Policy Policy	4
4.2 Payment and Spending	4
4.3 External Visitors	4
<b>5 Musings</b>	<b>4</b>
5.1 Co-Options Discussion	4
<b>6 Discussion of Upcoming Events</b>	<b>4</b>
6.1 Summer Thing	4
6.2 Spring Awakening	4

## 0 Introductions

Alex took the chair and welcomed everyone to Spring Thing.

The meeting began by going around the circle allowing everyone to introduce themselves. Everyone was asked to say their name, pronouns and a fun thing that they did over the weekend.

Where people have left and joined the meeting, this has not been recorded in the minutes.

## 1 Review of the Previous Thing's Minutes

Alex presented the minutes from the previous Thing. Progress towards goals set at that meeting was noted.

## 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.*

### 2.1 Reports from Committee Members

#### 2.1.1 Events Representative (Nyx Cook-Hayward)

##### **What have you done in the last quarter? (ie. since the last Thing)**

- Helped plan, organise, and have winter wonderland. Have begun updating the event stats folder, which has not been updated since 2019. Have begun to think about/ look into the possibility of bringing back north/south Winter Wonderlands, and spoken to Robin Lyster about this and the events stats as he created the folder (this might be something I bring up at later Things, but I haven't looked at the data enough to talk about it now). Found and booked a site for Spring Awakening, got together a coord team, and begun planning. I am in the process of updating and clearing out the events drive as well

##### **Is there anything which you would like to have done which you didn't manage to do this quarter?**

- Started looking for a site for Summer camp. Mickey would like to invite an international delegation, but would need to know dates and place soon for this to happen. My plan was to have found a site by the end of Feb but I have not started looking yet

**How are you feeling about the role?**

- Very good, it's a lot of work at time, but I really love it

**Do you have any plans for the coming quarter?**

- Of course. I am chaining together the site visit with Spring Thing as they are nearby to each other, and then I will have to help the coord team with the rest of the planning, and event running and all post event stuff, like feedback. Hope to carry on clearing out/ updating the drive, looking for a site for summer camp, putting together a coord team. All the usual Events stuff

**Would you like to speak to anyone at this Thing to try and organise something coming up?**

- Anyone who is goated at spreadsheets

**Anything you've found difficult which you would like to review?**

- Spreadsheets 😞. Hopefully by the time Spring Thing rolls around, I will have gotten a handle on them, but if I haven't and anyone is good with spreadsheets, I would love to speak to them

**Anything else you would like to add?**

- nope <3

## 2.1.2 Shadow Mest-Up (Hazel Willis)

**What have you done in the last quarter? (ie. since the last Thing)**

- Honestly not much tbh, just trying to keep in the loop and be available to help when needed
- Did a little research for Nyx about potential sites and travel links for spring awakening. Waiting for a co-ord meeting tomorrow
- Me and Anna are planning on having a call or something soon to figure out what Mest up is doing for spring awakening

**Is there anything which you would like to have done which you didn't manage to do this quarter?**

- There's some Mest up projects I wish I'd done some work on but that's just a limit of my time and energy

**How are you feeling about the role?**

- Chill

**Do you have any plans for the coming quarter?**

- Nothing in particular no

## 2.1.3 Safeguarding (Caitlyn McArthur)

**What have you done in the last quarter? (ie. since the last Thing)**

- Safeguarding meeting following winter wonderland

**Is there anything which you would like to have done which you didn't manage to do this quarter?**

- No

**How are you feeling about the role?**

- Good, understanding my role well

**Do you have any plans for the coming quarter?**

- Hopefully review policy to see if any changes are needed

**Would you like to speak to anyone at this Thing to try and organise something coming up?**

- No

**Anything you've found difficult which you would like to review?**

- No

**Anything else you would like to add?**

- No

## 2.1.4 Communications (Angus Crocker)

**What have you done in the last quarter? (ie. since the last Thing)**

- We have continued to keep the membership up to date and involved with the ongoings committee and the movement with the instagram and website posts. This has included advertising events, publishing the statement committee wrote on the Filton 24, and collaborating with wider woodcraft and dope magazine to expand our reach.
- We've successfully set up a mailing list for df members, and have already used it to find volunteers for Youth Council UK. It seems that the mailing list is a valuable strategy for pushing people to volunteer as we can guarantee it reaches all members and it seems more personalised than an instagram post. I would like to send an updated mailing list email once a month, and extra when needed.
- We've collaborated with the podcast coordinators and a new volunteer- Gabriel from Newcastle- to get DFM up and running again, this is very exciting stuff!

**Is there anything which you would like to have done which you didn't manage to do this quarter?**

- Need to contact membership to make sure we keep the mailing list updated with new members and removing old/aged out DFs.

**How are you feeling about the role?**

- Feeling great, comms is such good fun and I enjoy working with everyone!

**Do you have any plans for the coming quarter?**

- The website can definitely still be streamlined, so we will continue to work out the best layout.
- I'd also like to start advertising DFs to outside of the organisation, maybe using trial reels on instagram to explain what the movement is and try to grow our movement.
- Finally, no matter how hard we try we can always be more open with membership so I will do my best to keep the movement and committee as close together as possible.

## 2.1.5 Secretary (Lara Sayers)

### **What have you done in the last quarter? (ie. since the last Thing)**

- Cleared up the Secretary Drive, and updated all the policies so they were up to date and accessible for everyone. Helped plan Spring Thing despite it being held online, not in person (despite our best efforts).

### **Is there anything which you would like to have done which you didn't manage to do this quarter?**

- Work towards starting updating the Co-options section of the constitution to be presented at Althing.

### **How are you feeling about the role?**

- Very good

### **Do you have any plans for the coming quarter?**

- Write up a report for GC. Start looking at updating the Co-options section in the constitution to be presented at Althing. Make sure Summer Thing happens in person. Try to open more communication between DFs and General Council

## 3 Financial Report

*Note: In the absence of the treasurer, the shadow treasurer delivered a finance report.*

Currently sat at £9534.31

Spring Awakening site is already paid for which accounts for £1,128 so far

We are owed approximately £2,000 from Winter Wonderland and Autumn Nocturne

## 4 Policy Updates

### 4.1 Policy

#### [DFs Policy Policy](#)

Find attached the updated DFs Policy Policy, with the changes made during the meeting.

*Action #1: Sadie to write a template for writing a Policy, and add this to the Policy Policy*

## 4.2 Payment and Spending

### [DFs Payment and Spending Policy](#)

Find attached the updated DFs Payment and Spending Policy, with the changes made during the meeting.

*Action #1: Nyx to add that the Treasurer needs the names and details of all those coming to events in the Events Admin Handbook*

## 4.3 External Visitors

### [DFs External Visitors Policy](#)

Find attached the updated DFs External Visitors Policy, with the changes made during the meeting.

# 5 Musings

## 5.1 Co-options Discussion

Lara opened a discussion on the current wording on how co-options work. The current wording can be interpreted in many different ways, and it's hard to work out the true intention behind the words

Currently it seems that  $\frac{2}{3}$  of committee is required to agree for a co-option to be valid. This is currently unrealistic. This could be interpreted as  $\frac{2}{3}$  need to be present, and from this we take a majority?

Would asking for 50% agreement at a quorum meeting work instead?

Could quorum be redefined as well? As this is also unclear. How many people need to be present to make a meeting quorum? Currently we are having a very small proportion of committee members turning up to meetings, especially when they are online.

Those in the meeting decided that we are going to retroactively accept the co-option of Lizzie Cadoux as Accessibility Representative, as the co-option at Winter Wonderland failed due to the confusion regarding the wording of the document.

*Action #1: Lara to write a new wording for Co-options to be presented as a motion at Althing*

End of business for February 21st.

Business resumes February 22nd at 10am

## 6 Discussion of Upcoming Events

### 6.1 Summer Thing

**Dates** 10th July to 12th July  
**(provisional):**

Alex opened the discussion. Thus far no planning has begun, but this event was originally supposed to happen online.

Alex brought up the point that online events are boring. Quarterly Reports don't really work without an in-person event and the capacity to actually discuss them with other members of committee.

We came to the conclusion that due to Spring Thing not taking place Online, Summer Thing should happen in-person..

The point was also brought up to be better at marketing Business Events. We could utilise the Podcast, perhaps letting someone present at Spring Thing to do an interview and promote the event?

**Action #1:** Find someone to do an interview about Spring Thing on the podcast

There is also the problem that Committee members are required to attend Things. Online meetings mean that people are less likely to attend. To combat this lack of attendance, Summer Thing must therefore happen in-person. Alex brought up the point that business events can sometimes be more fun than normal events.

Dates were confirmed to be 10th - 12th July so that the charring team can make sure the site is booked well in advance, and avoid another situation where no sites will be available.

The point was brought up that Committee can feel like a clique to those who are not involved. DFs is always open and welcome, and while it might seem like a 'clique' this clique is never closed to anyone who wants to get involved in DFs. When it comes to Business events, word of mouth is a useful way to spread information, especially at the Social events before them.

We do need to have more transparency in the workings of DF Committee. We are aiming to move towards a model where it is possible to show our workings to the rest of the movement.

DFs also needs to implement more upfront advertising.

Alex brought up the point that there will be a dry spell of DFs over the next few years due to covid and low retention rates.

Suzy (Venturer Liaison) will be running a Democracy Centre at Venturer Camp. Would it be possible to run a DF session here promoting Business events?

*Action #2: Alex and Lara to plan to run a workshop on DF Democracy at Venturer Camp*

The overall agreement of this discussion is that we need to **promote Business events more!!!** At the moment we aren't effectively advertising for business events. We should be more upfront about the cheap prices for these events (£10 for a weekend, or free when its your first time or if you're a member of committee).

*Action #3: Lizzie to think about running a workshop on business events at Spring Awakening*

Ideas for being more transparent: could publish the new and revamped fairer fair model? DFs should also be making it more clear that business events are not just for Committee members. We need 3 non-committee members at in-person events, and these three people will have their travel expensed.

*Action #4: Chairing team to start looking for sites for Summer Thing*

There is also a concerningly low number of committee members turning up to online business meetings. DFs will now be implementing a General Council style system where we are asking for apologies if a member of committee is unable to attend an event. If you don't turn up to 3 meetings with no apology then we call a vote of no confidence. This will be implemented informally until Althing where it will be proposed as a motion.

*Action #5: DFs to start utilising the vote-of-no-confidence more when Committee members are not turning up to meetings*

*Action #6: Get more Quarterly Reports published*

## 6.2 Spring Awakening

**Dates** 7th - 11th April  
**(provisional):**

**Location** Warren Oak Scout Camp, Ledbury  
**(provisional):**

Bookings are to open in the near future!! A full Co-ord team has been put together. The camp this year will be on the theme of Rebirth.

Alex brought up the point that in the future it isn't a good idea to publish the campsite that is being used on social media for everyone to see. This information should only be accessed by those attending in emails after they have filled out the booking form. In the case of future events, just a general area and the nearest station should be published before bookings open.

**2027** - Current plan is for DFs and Kinsfolk to walk the west highland way. We will attempt to walk 50km, 50 miles or 50 DF Miles (an indiscernible measurement meaning we will definitely complete it) There will be hostels and a base-camp. It shall be a "happy, jolly experience" for all.

Would it be possible to run a future of DFs workshop at Spring Awakening, in line with the planning for 2027?

Gabriel asked if it would be possible to record some material for the podcast while at Spring Awakening, and the general consensus was that this would be a brilliant idea. They will be going around recording interviews and the general vibes of the camp in an attempt to promote DF events on the podcast.

**Everything** - works best this year once again, as having two separate events will be too time consuming for those working on Venturer Camp and DF committee. Combining the two could also help encourage the idea that business events are just as fun as social ones.