

Draft Minutes of the 71st Annual General Meeting of the Boundless by CSMA Farnborough Group held at 8.15pm on Thursday 18th November 2021 at St Mark's Church Hall, Farnborough, Hampshire

The AGM commenced at 8.45 immediately following the fish and chip supper.

1. Apologies for absence

26 Boundless by CSMA members were present and apologies had been received from a further 10 members.

2. Minutes of the 70th Annual General Meeting of the Boundless by CSMA Farnborough Group

These had been provided in advance to all attendees with hard copies available on the night if required. The Covid lockdown of March 2020 was introduced one month prior to our intended April 2020 AGM and so the previous meeting, the 70th, had actually taken place some two and a half years earlier in March 2019. In view of this it was suggested that, subject to the agreement of all members present, that the minutes be accepted. This was proposed by Adrian Hobbs, seconded by Christine Early and accepted unanimously.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the 2019 AGM.

4. Chairman's report (David Pegg - DP)

Welcome and thank you for coming to what is an important 71st AGM for Farnborough Group.

This is our first AGM since March 2019 and Tim in particular will be pleased this day has finally arrived as he had wished to stand down as Secretary at our 2020 AGM!

Since my last report, the Group enjoyed the usual mix of events in 2019 including a visit to the RAE Historic Wind Tunnels, a talk about life on the Royal Yacht Britannia, plus our usual visits to RHS Wisley and The Watercress Line and another enjoyable Christmas meal with the usual games thrown in. 2020 started with a very interesting talk on road safety by Hampshire Police but as we know, things soon petered out as the Covid virus took control.

Regrettably, members were not generally keen on Zoom meetings which Boundless had made available. It would have been a way of keeping in touch and providing regular talks. Other organisations, and groups, have found Zoom meetings popular and useful.

With Covid making meetings difficult, 2021 has so far yielded an evening on The Watercress Line in July and then in October, a club night, finally, featuring lots of chocolate which obviously proved popular!

It seems our members have survived the Covid outbreak to date but the Group now faces the prospect of finding a new Secretary in order that it can continue. (Guildford Group has recently folded as no new officers came forward).

This at a time when you will hear that Boundless have introduced some interesting new initiatives. These include free entry for members to Kew Gardens and Wakehurst Place in Sussex. Also free visits to the Wetlands Trust bases which include Barnes, Arundel and Slimbridge. There is Free membership to Dine which involves offers at a variety of local (and further afield) restaurants etc.

There is also a scheme being introduced next year where Groups can arrange a free visit to many Historic Homes (and also gardens) such as Highclere Castle and Westonbirt Arboretum. Boundless also plan a number of visits during 2022 including Kew Gardens and Longleat plus involvement in events such as Bournemouth Air Show and a number of virtual events on many subjects. On top of all this, 2023 will be CSMA's Centenary Year with events planned nationally (Silverstone for instance). Hopefully Farnborough Group will have the opportunity to arrange their own special events in that year.

I wish to thank the Committee for their patience and continued commitment to the Group and I must of course give heartfelt thanks to Tim Shenton-Taylor and his wife Claire and previously their daughter Olivia for keeping the Group running almost single handedly over the past 10 years. Tim has done an excellent job as Secretary (and meetings host) during that period.

There were no questions and Adrian Hobbs proposed, and Joe Robson seconded that the Chairman's report be accepted. This was carried unanimously.

5. Secretary's report (Tim Shenton-Taylor - TST)

As Dave has already mentioned the Farnborough Group has shown a couple of green shoots of growth following the shutdown caused by Covid.

The ongoing precautions required by St Mark's Church Hall did not seem to cause any real problems with last month's Club Night other than the need to use the Main Hall, wear masks and have an 8.15pm start. I expect that this will have to be the norm for some time to come if we continue to use this venue.

Many Boundless Groups have managed to continue through the pandemic by the use of Zoom meetings. Unfortunately, the response to my emails about the possibility of using Zoom for Farnborough Group indicated that this was not really going to be an option.

For much of the last ten years Ian has looked after Finance, Dave has organised events such as the topographical rally, the Steam run on the Mid-Hants Railway and the occasional treasure hunt, and I have done the rest with assistance from Barry and Joe and others occasionally helping with refreshments on Club Nights.

Prior to the Pandemic we generally had good attendances which presumably means that people enjoy coming together and like the activities being provided.

However, as you are aware I am stepping down as Secretary and if, unlike the Guildford Group which has sadly closed, the Group is to continue it may be necessary to consider some significant changes to the current operation and spread the effort a little more widely.

Moving to a new, probably hotel based, venue would have a number of advantages:

We might have the opportunity to start Club Nights earlier, we could incorporate some afternoon meetings, we could avoid having to set up and put away chairs etc and we could have tea/coffee provided by the venue - it is unlikely that cakes could be provided. Use of such a venue would significantly increase the cost of running the Group but this would not have any impact on Members. Boundless have always supported Groups well and, given the situation over the last eighteen months, are keen to provide further support to help Groups recover.

Identifying speakers and arranging our other events has largely landed in my lap and whilst I have enjoyed the challenges that this provides the Group needs to spread the load and return to a situation where activities are planned on a yearly basis with shared responsibility for communicating with speakers / venues to finalise arrangements. This is something that Olivia had almost managed to achieve but I must admit that I did not quite manage that. Please remember that this is your Club and it should not just be committee members that are responsible for making things happen and running all events.

Clearly Members have to be kept regularly informed of the Group's activities there have to be committee meetings, typically three or four per year, and there has to be a link with the Boundless Community centre at Brighton who after all provide us with the funds required. If those were essentially the only activities to be undertaken by the Secretary then hopefully there will be someone prepared to take that role on going forward.

However, we do need **all** members to be prepared to provide a little assistance, perhaps only once a year, to assist the running of a Club Night or an Club Event - is that really too much to ask?

Please bear these points in mind as we move on to the election of the committee.

Thank you for your enthusiastic participation in the many pre-pandemic events, sometimes a little wacky, that have been put on for your entertainment and hopefully there will be more to come.

I hope that I will get the chance to take part in future events and will have more opportunity to compete for any prizes going!!

Thank You

TST pointed out that the October meeting had provided the Group with a variety of chocolates which would be used for the traditional grand raffle and as prizes for some additional activities planned for the evening. The Grand raffle would of course be held at the end of the evening as an incentive for people to stay!

Again there were no questions and Christopher Wright proposed ,and Albert Jones seconded, that the Secretary's report be accepted. There were no objections and DP again expressed his, and the Group's appreciation for all the effort put in by TST, Claire and Olivia

6. Treasurer's report (Ian Moir - IM)

The Treasurer's statement of Income and Expenditure for 2020/2021 (copy attached) was provided in advance to all attendees and was also provided in hard copy at the meeting.

IM reported that due to the Covid situation the Group had spent very little and it seemed sensible to combine the accounts for 2020 and 2021 to date.

Most of the expenditure came from hiring of the meeting venue (undertaken to ensure that it was still available to us when activities could resume), committee meeting costs and losses from the Topography rally.

DP reported that the ongoing Covid situation had reduced the number of expected entries and there had also been a few late withdrawals.

IM reported that he would of course provide full 2021 accounts at the next AGM.

Unusually there were no questions and Nick Woodward proposed, and Albert Jones seconded, that the Treasurer's report be accepted. There were no objections.

7. Election of Officers

DP reminded the Group that it needed to identify a new Secretary and the lack of people being prepared to undertake key roles, and serve as committee members, had been the downfall of the Guildford Group.

DP asked if anyone was willing to undertake the role of Secretary. After a short pause it was noticed that Nick Woodward (NW) had raised his hand. There were of course no objections to Nick becoming Secretary and DP breathed a sigh of relief. Before he could change his mind his appointment was proposed by Paul Cutting, seconded by Dave Pegg and approved unanimously.

TST suggested that it should be accepted that NW was offering to take on the main tasks that had been identified in TST's report and that the support of all Members would be required in respect of the organisation and running of Club Nights and Club Events.

DP and IM confirmed that they were willing to continue in their current posts but DP enquired if anybody else was interested in taking on the roles of Chairman or Treasurer. No other interest was expressed and so Brian Palmer proposed, Ian Moir seconded and the meeting unanimously re-appointed DP as Chairman.

This was quickly followed by a proposal from Albert Jones, seconded by Joe Robson, carried unanimously that IM be reappointed as Treasurer.

8. Election of Committee

Don Bray and TST had both indicated that they would not be standing for re-election to the committee and DP enquired if Joe Robson and Barry Early were willing to remain on the committee and both agreed to continue.

The committee is currently required to consist of at least six members and so an additional committee member was required. TST said that it would actually be good to have more than six.

Christopher Wright was prepared to be put forward and his appointment was proposed by TST and seconded by Adrian Hobbs. This essentially enabled the Farnborough Group to continue which was a relief to everybody.

Subsequently Robert Goddard informed DP that he would be prepared to join the committee if committee meetings did not take place on Saturdays. He, like the departing Secretary, is a very keen Wolverhampton Wanderers supporter!

9. Consideration of Motions

No motions had been received and none were requested at the meeting.

10. Any Other Business

Adrian Hobbs suggested that the Group pro-actively contact the members of the previous Guildford Group and inform them of the sort of events what Farnborough Group put on and invite them to join us. DP said that the Group only had about twenty five people on their distribution list and that some of their members are already aware of the Farnborough Group. DP, who has attended Guildford events in the past, will contact the previous secretary and see if she would be prepared to pass more details to people on her contact list.

Action AGM 71 - 01: DP to provide the previous Guildford Group secretary with appropriate information and ask her to distribute it to ex-Guildford Group members.

TST explained that the committee had proposed to use our RHS associate membership to offer entrance to the Wisley Glow event. However, this proved impractical given that the price for the event this year was £8.45 per member rather than the previous additional £1 charge. Our associate membership runs out in April 2022 so the Group can still look forward to a visit to Wisley before then.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked everybody for their attendance and declared the meeting closed **at 9.10pm.**

Accounts for years 2020-21, to date 18/11/21

Balance b/f £125.54

	Income			Expenditure	
	2019	2020-21		2019	2020-21
Imprests	£ 1,265.00	£ 485.00	Committee travel	£ 124.20	£ 40.80
AGM food	£ 192.00		Clubnight room hire	£ 249.30	£ 171.90
Topo income	£ 180.00	£ 156.00	Clubnight speakers	£ 389.00	
Xmas lunch	£ 552.00		AGM expenses	£ 261.39	
RHS Wisley	£ 36.00		Topographia expenses	£ 284.60	£ 238.64
Wind tunnel tour	£ 305.00		Xmas lunch	£ 526.80	
			Xmas lunch expenses	£ 49.82	
			Skittles		
			RHS subscriptions	£ 35.00	£ 70.00
			Clubnight general expenses	£ 189.49	£ 131.12
			Secretary's admin expenses	£ 50.83	
			Wind tunnel tour	£ 305.00	
			Postage & stationery		£ 14.20
Total	£ 2,530.00	£ 641.00	Total	£ 2,465.43	£ 666.66

Balance b/f from previous year	£	125.54
2020&21 budget	£	2,920.00
2020&21 expenditure	£	666.66
Miscellaneous income	£	156.00
Budget remaining	£	2,534.88
Balance c/f	£	99.88

Ian Moir

Ian Moir, Treasurer