

Friends Southern Summer Events Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 12 November 2022

Held at Westminster Quaker Meeting and online

Minutes

Present

David Holtam (clerk), Oliver Waterhouse, James Barnard, Kit King, Rob Johnson, Graham Torr, Michael Wood, Rob Johnson, Bryher Bowness, Sally Kikaya, Keith Walton, Gwen da Sousa Correa, Joe Bowness, Kai Sim, Georgina Bailey, Kathy Gibbs, Peyton Lee, Alex Hepburn, Jemma Sawyer-Todd, Wilfred White, Rachel King, Vicky King

Apologies

Emily Collins, Eduin Boater-Latimer, Olivia Sewell-Risley, Becky Kennard, Lou Whalley

FSSEAGM22-01 Opening worship

We have opened our meeting with a period of silent worship

FSSEAGM22-02 Agenda check

We have agreed our agenda. We note the apologies that have been given in advance and the names of those people present.

FSSEAGM22-03 Minutes of AGM 2021

We have received the minutes of the 2021 FSSE Annual General Meeting. Our clerk has read through the headings to remind us of the meeting that took place. There were no matters arising.

We accept the minutes of last year's AGM.

FSSEAGM22-04 Junior Gathering 2022

We have welcomed Jemma, Alex and Wilfred who attended JG 2022 and thank them for reading the epistle from Junior Gathering. We have had the opportunity to ask questions about Junior Gathering and have heard about an event that was a huge success.

The theme for the event was "respecting all life and identities and understanding different opinions" and speaker sessions during the week explored this topic in different ways.

Base Groups helped to add shape to the event and were places that young people were able to discuss things in more depth with a closer group of peers. Well-loved activities such as the disco, barn dance and daily activities

and free time helped to build community. The trip to Oxford was also reinstated for the first time since the Covid pandemic.

The days began and ended with Quaker worship and an epilogue, and a period of silence was held at meal times.

We are hugely grateful to the staff team of volunteers who helped make this event happen in really challenging circumstances, and thank them for all of their efforts and care to enable such a successful event.

FSSEAGM22-05 Senior Conference 2022

Kai has read us the epistle from Senior Conference 2022. We have had a discussion about Senior Conference and we have heard about a successful event which was held on the theme of “intersectionality: Exploring Different Perspectives”. The arrangements committee worked well and it was a noticeable improvement having young people to act as elders, which had not happened last time.

Speakers included this year’s Swarthmore lecturer, Helen Minnis, and the director of QSA Judith Moran. Two of the adult volunteers in the staff team also explored representation and accessibility in politics, as well as the use of non-violent communication.

Being a Quaker event, each day opened and closed with worship. The epistle referred to the love and laughter of the event, anarchic organised social activities, and moving ministry.

The 22+ team and arrangements committee have worked hard to make this event happen and we recognise the work that has gone into it. Emily and Joe as event co-ordinators have held the responsibility for the event. We are hugely grateful to all of the volunteers who enabled SC to happen in 2022 and we thank the staff volunteers and the outgoing arrangements committee. We look forward to working with the incoming AC to see what the 2023 event has in store.

FSSEAGM22-06 Report from Management Committee

FSSE’s management committee (being named role holders appointed by the AGM) met this morning to reflect on the 2022 events, and identify actions to strengthen our events in 2023 and beyond.

Key areas of focus include identifying new adult volunteers, particularly for Junior Gathering, and continuing to grow our participant numbers in 2023. We plan to reconvene the “events support team” which has been dormant for a few years in order to progress these activities. This team can also identify training which would be useful for staff teams.

One other matter we discussed was the idea of having a more flexible fee structure to ensure affordability for all of the families of participants who attend FSSE events. We will work on this but it means we can’t yet be definite about fees for 2023.

We plan to hold the events from 19-26 August 2023, subject to confirmation with the venues.

We have talked about the possibility that the events might need to be shortened in order to enable the commitment to be manageable for those who volunteer, particularly the event coordinators. We ask the events support team to take this concern forward with the event coordinators. Kathy has also volunteered to be involved in this. This should be considered alongside the need to recruit additional volunteers, and take into account the accessibility needs of staff volunteers.

FSSEAGM22-07 Treasurers report

We have received a report and FSSE's draft annual accounts presented by Graham Torr our treasurer. We have had the opportunity to ask Graham questions.

We note that there was a small overall deficit of £412 for the year, which given we aim for nil is a fantastic outcome. Our financial reserves remain in a healthy position, which may have a bearing on our fees for 2023 events.

We will consider having a more flexible fee structure in future, as noted above. We noted that we could perhaps improve our encouragement of LMs to cover the cost of fees. We might also ask AMs to sponsor the costs to the organisation of a staff member attending the event, in order to reduce the burden on participant fees, or for AMs who do not have any participants attending the events, to cover the cost of a participant from another AM. Another idea is that people can pay a higher amount to support the cost of a bursary for someone who is less able to cover the costs. It is important that our communications on fees acknowledge that it is hard for people to say they are struggling financially, and to make it easier for people to explore support be that from FSSE, or LMs/AMs.

We thank Graham Torr for his work as treasurer and note that he has one year left of his second 3 year term.

FSSEAGM22-08 Trustees report

Our clerk of trustees has prepared a draft report which will form the basis of our annual submission to the Charity Commission, along with the accounts.

We thank trustees for the work they have done during the year. Additional meetings between trustees and event coordinators were held in the lead up to the events, compared with previous years, which the coordinators reported as being helpful.

We are grateful to the whole trustee body for the work that they do on FSSE's behalf.

FSSEAGM22-09 Nominations

Nominations brought forward from Management Committee

We receive the following names from FSSE Management Committee

Role	First name	Surname	Term (years)	Appointment	End of service
FSSE Trustee	Candia	Crosfield	3	AGM 2022	AGM 2025
FSSE Trustee	Michael	Wood	3	AGM 2022	AGM 2025
FSSE Trustee	Oliver	Waterhouse	3	AGM 2022	AGM 2025
FSSE Trustee (Convener)	James	Barnard	1	AGM 2022	AGM 2023
FSSE Trustee (young)	Kai	Sim	2	AGM 2022	AGM 2024
FSSE Trustee (young)	Becky	Kennard	2	AGM 2022	AGM 2024
JG Coordinator #2	Matt	Winkless	3	AGM 2022	AGM 2025
JG Planning Coordinator #1	Lou	Whalley	1	AGM 2022	AGM 2023
JG Planning Coordinator #2	TBC				
JG Planning Coordinator #3					
Publicity officer	Kit	King	1	AGM 2022	AGM 2023
SC Reserve Coordinator	Joe	Bowness	1	AGM 2022	AGM 2023
SC Coordinator #2	Bryher	Bowness	2	AGM 2022	AGM 2024
Volunteer recruitment coordinator	Candia	Crosfield	1	AGM 2022	AGM 2023

Regarding the vacant JG planning coordinator role(s), we would like to appoint one or two people to these roles by the end of January. We ask Trustees to ensure that this happens through further discernment regarding nominations.

We thank all those who have come to the end of their service for the hard work they have given to FSSE to help make the events happen over the time they have been in service.

We are thankful to all those Friends who are coming into roles for the first time and welcome them to FSSE and its work.

FSSEAGM22-10 Date and venue for FSSE AGM 2023

We hope to meet for the 2023 FSSE AGM on Saturday 11 November 2023. The venue will likely be Friends House and on Zoom tbc.

We ask our clerk to make the arrangements on our behalf.

Closing worship

