

## Dunedin Folk Club (NEFC Inc)

Minutes of AGM held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020 6.30pm, 50 Dundas

Present: Bernadette Moroney (President), Sam Patrick, Carole Stewart (Secretary), Mike Moroney (Treasurer - outgoing), Keri Smith, Alison Wallace, Anna Bowen, Mike Dillon, Kathryn Olcott, Kirk Hamilton, Chris Ingle, Bill Morris, Richard Dingwall, Stephanie du Fresne, Anne Tacon, Iain Mitchell, Gordon McKay, Robbie Stevens, Graham Wheatley, Vic McDonald, Jane Campbell, Denis Gordon, Margaret Garland, Miguel Nitis, Jenny Madill, Paul Nelson, Siobhan Dillon, Mike Dillon, Sam Patrick, Christine Keller, Imogen Coxhead, Jonathan Robinson, Dorothy Browne, Neil Copeland, Phil Corfield, Laurie Young

Apologies: Lindsey Shields, John Egenes, Ronel Hunter, Kirk Hamilton

**Minutes** from 2019 AGM were circulated and accepted as true and correct

Moved by Margaret Garland / Seconded by Richard Dingwall / carried

**Minutes** from SGM 1 Dec 2019 were circulated and accepted as true and correct

Moved by Anne Tacon / Seconded by Mike Moroney / carried

**Matters Arising** - none

### **President's Report – as read by Bernadette Moroney**

The main focus of my report last year was the decision that the committee had made to continue to hire these rooms for the next two years with the expectation that this would probably roll over to another term. Sadly, we are back in the position of having to look at whether we can do that or whether we once again have to find a new home. Before I go into that, I will review other aspects of the year. It has been 16 months since the last AGM and that was one of the significant decisions we made last year. At the beginning of this meeting we ratified the minutes of the SGM that we held in December of last year to bring the constitution of the club up to date. Bill Morris took over the role of Director of Whare Flat and, along with the very large group of volunteers who make our festival work, made a huge profit setting us up well to move into this year. We didn't manage to have a Waimate Festival this year for obvious reasons. Most of the business at committee meetings has dealt with the upkeep of this venue and how we could improve it and you will have seen that over this year we have changed the sound system, had a sign made and put up outside the building, and improved the lighting. Sam is in charge of maintenance of the club and along with others who help, he has been managing ongoing issues of basement flooding, borer and various electrical problems. Unfortunately, Covid 19 came along which meant that we had to go into recess for some time whilst the bills still had to be paid. Although that has been difficult for the club, what this has shown us is the terrific support we have amongst our members. People have been amazing at giving us donations and I would like to publicly extend my thanks to Swing Riot (who decided to pay rent for the whole time they could not operate) the musicians who have donated their services to the club so that we receive the total income for club nights and the other donations that we receive spontaneously from our members. This brings me back to my opening paragraph. Before Covid hit we spoke with the landlord about continuing at this venue. He advised us that he planned on increasing our rent by \$500/month (we currently pay around \$2000/month) with a 10% increase upon each lease renewal. He believed this was a good deal and was not prepared to negotiate. As a committee, we do not think this is manageable for us as we are already eating into our capital each year

and it is only the success of the festival that keeps us buoyant. Right now we cannot rely on the festival, as at any point a change in alert level could mean the cancellation of this event. So, our expectation is that at the beginning of next year we will have to start hunting for a new venue so keep your eyes and ears open and let us know of any possibilities. It had been my intention to step down from President this year but with our current position I have agreed to re-stand so that someone new does not have to deal with this uncertainty. Finally, I would once again, like to extend a thank-you to all the people who keep the club running on a daily and weekly basis. The many volunteers who step in to keep club nights running along with the committee who do a sterling job doing anything that looks like it needs doing. After many, many years of service to the club Mike is standing down. He has done almost every job on the committee but in recent years has produced the weekly newsletter for us and stepped in as treasurer when Kathryn took over the role of club administrator. He now wants a rest so we thought it was time we let him do that. So please join me in thanking everyone, especially Mike.

Laurie Young – has previously brought up the option of buying premises for the Club. Sited the Otago Yacht Club as an example. Grants could be available. Would be great to see the Club with their own place.

Margaret Garland – do we want a similar set up or are we happy to go back to a Sunday night only hire?

Bernadette – the committee will be looking at all options

Vic McDonald – we could look at an option of sharing facilities with another Club.

Carole Stewart – would be keen to see our first option being trying to retain 50 Dundas as it is such a good place and we have invested a lot in setting it up.

Mike Moroney – agreed but noted that the landlord is trying to sell the whole building. I (Mike) have been negotiating because my name is on the lease. It would be better for the landlord if we stayed here and kept communications open.

Richard Dingwall – when does the lease run out?

Bernadette – July 2021

Sam Patrick – renting for only one night per week is a big job with storage & setting up of equipment each week. This is the reason we wanted a place like 50 Dundas.

Alison Wallace – asking Vic who he would suggest sharing rooms with? Could even be a sports club.

Siobhan Dillon – possibility to work with Swing Riot as this is their space too. If the Club loses 50 Dundas we lose too and also contra dance, open mic etc.

Jenny Madill – should we be raising subs / charges to help?

Moved to accept President's Report: Kathryn Olcott / Seconded by Vic McDonald  
carried

### **Financial Report – presented by Mike Moroney**

Total bank balances reported at 31 March 2020 - \$88,040. This was before the COVID shutdown and related consequences. Accounts looking good partly due to grants being received for Whare Flat. Recent 3 years have shown an operating surplus but this has been because the festivals have made a profit.

If the festival is cancelled this year our year end finances will be in the red. We have enough of a buffer to allow us to continue into next year.

Mike thanked Kathryn for compiling the finance reports.

Moved to accept Finance Report: Bernadette Moroney / seconded by Sam Patrick  
carried

### **Festival Updates**

Whare Flat (Bill Morris) – 2019/20 did well. Entry prices were increased which helped with profits. The festival has built a good reputation, people are wanting to book in. There is a solid line up booked for this year. The feeling is that people will be keen to attend. Minimal risk at this point if threatened by Covid-19.

Waimate (Miguel Nitis) – 2020 festival was cancelled due to Covid-19. No money was lost. Need a Covid plan for next year. This year was supposed to be Miguel's last festival but he has agreed to do next year (2021) but would like to work with someone keen to take over.

### **Election of Office Bearers and Committee**

There were no contested positions, so the following applies:

President - Bernadette Moroney (standing)  
Treasurer - Chris Ingle (new election)  
Secretary - Carole Stewart (standing)

Committee - Anna Bowen  
(standing) - Lindsey Shields  
- Alison Wallace  
- Sam Patrick  
- Keri Smith  
- Bill Morris  
- Mike Dillon  
(new election) - Kirk Hamilton  
- Jonathan Robinson

### **General Business**

It was put to the meeting that we need a new Club cleaner if anyone was interested or knew someone.

Life Memberships – are awarded to long term supporters of the Club and/or for dedicated service. This year Bernadette, as President, awarded 2 of these.

1<sup>st</sup> is to Phil Corfield

2<sup>nd</sup> is to Kathryn Olcott

Meeting Closed 7.20pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_