

## Minutes of the Soul-Voyagers AGM on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at Charney Manor

**Present** Jen , Kris, Pam, Carol, Chetan, Gilly, Non, Nick, Ann, Esme, Geoff, Peter, Janice, Julian, Richard, Suzanne, Pauline, Norman, Ingeborg, Julia, Tricia, Mary.

**Matters Arising** The minutes had been distributed and were approved. Geoff asked whether the liaison issue with Woolger Council had moved forward in any way. Jen replied that the situation has remained as described in the AGM Agenda.

**Chairmans Report** Kris reported that little activity had occurred this year apart from preparing the retreat. (see full report attached) There was a need to elect a new Web Editor in order to make the website a more lively read.

Jen saw no need for herself to resign and told the meeting she had sought therapy and also mediation with the Woolger Council.

The membership stood at 117 so no real expansion from last year.

**Treasurers Report** Jen apologized but did not have the figures to produce a Treasurers Report. (she has since then circulated a balance of £476.37 after making a deposit of £480.50 for next year's retreat) This compares with last year's balance of £1152.35. Jen also confirmed that she is the sole signatory on the Soul-Voyagers chequebook.

**Action** Jen will produce a set of accounts per calendar year. Nick accepted to audit the accounts. As there were 23 participants at the Retreat and seven paid guests there was a discussion concerning the balance of members versus non-members. . We all agreed more of the programme needed to come from within the Network.

There then followed discussion as to whether members should accept a fee for presentations. Julian suggested a member could opt to speak as an outsider (with fee) or not accept a fee. Norman suggested a research group to discuss work in progress.

There was also discussion of a membership fee to raise funds. Access to parts of the website could be restricted to non-members. This was left to be discussed by the Core Group.

**Core Group** Gilly, Pauline, Suzanne, Richard, and (later) Pam were elected to join Jen on the Core Group. A group of Elders was also appointed, to act as a supportive, advisory group to the Core Group. These consisted of Mary , Geoff, Nick, Kris, Carol, and Julia.

It was also agreed to post minutes of Core Group meetings in advance on the web to allow members to add items . Gilly subsequently announced that there would be initial monthly Core Group meeting (in November, December and face to face in January) to iron out any initial difficulties.

**Next Year's Retreat** This will take place from 7-9<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at Charney Manor. Various offers were made to provide inputs for the retreat.

Kris thanked all assembled for creating the gathering. He was glad that the energy was now good.

Gilly thanked Kris and Jen for organising the retreat.

### **Chairmans Report (attachment)**

The Soul Voyagers Network has not produced much activity this year apart from the planning of the Retreat and ongoing problems internal to the membership of the steering group.

This quiet is partly due to my own increasing commitments in other organisations, but also to lack of much input from other members, except Jen with her dedicated work on the Retreat Programme – for which much thanks.

The Web Site has received various contributions in links, articles, reviews, but not nearly enough to make it the lively regular read that it could be, considering the rich resources of its members. We need to elect a new Web Editor at this meeting.

Initiatives proposed last year for local groups and a second conference or event in the year were not followed up by members or by the Steering Group.

I had, as Chair, a disagreement with Jen last year over her reactions that I felt had been detrimental to the well being of Soul Voyagers.

To my regret, I did not follow proper procedure, and the matter was glossed over at the AGM, and unresolved, leading directly to the new members appointed to the Steering Group being then unwilling to serve, and subsequently the resignation of all other members of the Group for various reasons. Carol has stayed with the group until today which has been most helpful.

I miss very much the input and vision of those that have resigned, and that of other members who have left in similar ways before this last incident.

I also now resign as Chair, with apologies for not being able to better steer this disagreement into a more positive resolution.

Jen remains the only serving member of the Steering Group, and you need now to create a new body to guide Soul Voyagers, without this dispute standing in the way of your future planning and potential.

The Membership stands now at 117 – so only two up from last year – our expansion seems to have stopped.

This does seem to be an important moment to take stock of what we want to do, and how we can go forward.

Kris Misselbrook

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