BFA AGM 2023 - Minutes

Date: 16/04/2023 via Zoom

AGM minutes 2023

Present

Celia Dawson, AlisonThorpe, Greg Ceri Thomas, Amona Buechler, Kay Hoffmann, Julian Crotti, Fiona Parr, Ildiko Davis, Helen Dillon, Suzi Mackenzie, Amanda Raine, Susan Jordan, Robert Copperwhite.

Apologies

Peter Gill, Julia Brammer, Lucy Hyde, Elizabeth Smith, Valerie Peden, Rob Foxcroft, Locana (Elizabeth English), Sarah Hadfield, Marion Stumpe, Isla MacDonald, Patricia Foster, Helen Bower, Marta Fabregat, Paula Newman, Sarah Paul, David Garlovsky, Carol Ervine, Vicki Thomas, Carolann Samuels, Peter Afford, Clare Myatt.

Opening

- Julian offered to do attunement (3 / 4 mins).
- Welcome to new members.
- General welcome to all new members, to anyone who's joined since the last AGM.
  - Sarah Paul, Vera R Fryd Lyngmo, Paula Charnley, Amy McCormack, Lucy Hyde, Collete Cameron, Lisa Blaine, Vicky Thomas, Natalia Stevens, Rachel Caddick.

And we welcome back Fiona Owen and Halina Rozensztrauch.

Reports

Sofa persons report

- Summary of what was done this year
- BFA guidelines for practitioner training regarding the role of training and supporting mentors
  - Thanks to Amona, Robert, Paula, Amanda
  - Thanks to Ildiko for implementing changes in the website
- Focusing camp July, a lot of interest
- Issues floating:

    - Ongoing focusing guide
        - 2 meetings with a lot of different views
    - Advertising on the Gaggle list
        - Some objections to that
    - Should we allow trainees join BFA - on-going
    - Draft on conflict resolution
        - Susan, Helen, Jane, Stephen..and more
    - AGMs, what format should they take
        - Concerns that there is never enough time to come to proper conclusions in an AGM, so is there another way to come at that issue
    - Thanks to Greg for being treasurer
    - Thanks to Ildiko for website
    - Thanks to Clare for website enquiries
    - Thanks to Gordon for newsletter
    - Elisabeth Smith for keeping watchful eye on Gaggle group
    - Thanks to Alison for being wonderful sofa person this year
    - Thanks to Celia also for being wonderful on the sofa!
- Greg on gaggle advertising issue:
    - Greg would like to hear about people's courses (as long as it wasn't too frequent) and can understand why a lot of repetition would be not wanted, but now and again, how wonderful and welcome to hear about a new course
      This was noted for discussion later, but unfortunately there was not sufficient time.

Treasurer's Report

- Greg thanked Camilla on a great handover
- Overall, there seems to be nothing to worry about, summer camp coming and some expenditure on that (yurt etc.)
- Accounts done on Greg's side and now sent to the official accountant
- Some delays due to delay in getting statement from TSB (for exact figures)
- Happy to continue as treasurer
- Fiona question: It looks like we have money in account, 2 things
    - We may be liable for tax
    - Can we spend the money in ways that we would like?
- Greg, yes we may be liable for a little bit of tax, and the accountant will help there. We don't need to have a large amount of money,and BFA can spend it as they choose.
- Fiona: thinking to propose that we offer a bursary for people who struggle to afford events
- Proposal: £1000 for the summer camp with provision for extra to be discussed if required, and £1000 for the AGM.
    - Accepted by all present

Membership Secretary's Report

- Suzi:
    - Process of reporting on how many members there are is complicated
        - Issue needs more examination
    - Suzi want to step down this time next year and at some point she'll put out an email in the next year regarding this
- Formally noted thanks to Suzi for work to date

Website Report

- Main update:
    - Mentoring profiles added to website with whole directory
    - Tweaks about how we can put up events for professional training
    - Ildiko to step down, Robert to step up with some handover tomorrow
    - Report detailed so that there is a good comprehensive overview
- Celia: sorry that Ildiko can't carry on
- Question: can we keep to the allocations in the budget for the coming yea? Yes from Greg. Our web designer is happy to work at the same rate as last year.
- Formally noted thanks to Ildiko

Admin Report

- Clare is not with us today
- Short report, she checks the email each day and answers questions. More complicated issues are forwarded. She's happy to carry on next year.
- Thanks to Clare for the report.

Election of Officers

- Alison's post: Kay proposed Fiona for sofa post and Robert for webmaster, and Clare Myatt seconded
    - All in favour: Yes
    - Kay request huge thanks minuted for Fiona and Robert
- Formally noted huge thanks to Alison

2023 AGM

- Discussion around format and timing of next year's BFA gathering/AGM
- Proposed:
    - Next group gathering Thursday to Sunday.
    - There is a suggestion for Focusing partnerships and any workshops that participants enjoy offering; and also a more formal programme including peer consulta-

tive support and work-related workshops, so that it can be used for CPD. Also fun and games.
    - Not going to be an AGM – this to take place shortly afterwards.
    - Could include on-going discussion topics feeding in to AGM
    - When? Spring
        - Leave it to Celia and Fiona to find out the Where and When
        - Fiona welcomes any thoughts on this
        - Avoiding or choosing school holidays, easter, mothers day etc..?
    - Where?
        - Asked Lower Shaw Farm but there is some doubt about whether they will have us having just cancelled one event.
        - Is it a great location but very far south, not many single rooms, would it be better to move north sometimes?
        - Maybe somewhere with lots of single rooms and more support for people to attend?
        - Midlands?
    - AGM to be soon after the gathering.
        - Perhaps 3 weeks after (Kay) to provide a bit of time for discussions to be aired online in between the gathering and the AGM

Other Business

Newsletter

- Newsletter: Ildiko suggests a sub-group to temporarily support it's generation.
- Heart-felt well wishes to Gordon who is taking a break.

Advertising on Gaggle

- Not addressed in detail
- Needs further discussion

Conflict Resolution

- Context: Difficulty between members can be incredibly difficult to deal with from the sofa perspective, as there was no guidance to help with dealing with it.
- We have a mediation policy / procedure for when things get difficult between trainers/ trainees.
- Susan has been involved in the group looking at this. It is difficult to include all eventualities without seeming too draconian.
    - Celia, Fiona, Amanda and Ildiko to look at this.

Honorariums

- Proposal: Formal agreement that they will be paid in the coming year at same amount
- Celia proposed and Susan Jordan seconded

Operational philosophy for BFA

- Operational philosophy for BFA.
- Amona suggest that she could send it out by gaggle email (it is already on the website backend), and ask if anyone is against putting it on the website frontend
    - Send first from the morning group, and if that sounds good to all, to distribute further

The meeting closed at 4.15pm