

Easton Cowfolk general meeting 4th November 2019

Present: Jody (chair), Sally Fucking Wood (secretary – minutes), Ivan (MF), Bex (WF), Soooooz (WF), Kev (CACKK), Steve (CACKK), Peace (MF), Adam (MF), Vernie (N), Vic (WF), Ian (MF), Sensi (WF), Peta (WF), Zoe (N), Jack D (MF), Julian (MF)

Apologies: Linner, Ange, Harry, Tom

Firstly: SFW did not send the minutes of the last meeting out. She is a crap secretary and should be ousted (see item 8). So Jody read through them to remind us what actions we were supposed to do that we mostly didn't do. **ACTION: The minutes of the last meeting will be sent with these minutes. SFW to become a better secretary.**

1. Big up to the Cowgirls for doing community stuff. They did a litter pick and have a tree maintenance day planned. They also organised a boycott Puma protest but only Peace turned up to that cos it was raining. Thinking of making the litter pick quarterly and open to everyone - in true Cowgirls style they have already recruited a number of randoms off the street. Addendum: The Cowgirls video in solidarity with Rojava has been viewed 43.7k times and shared 917 times on facebook!

2. Netham: This has been discussed in previous meetings and nothing has changed since then (see previous meeting minutes for more info on this proposal). We are still potentially planning on bidding to take over the facility from the council as part of a consortium with Bristol Pakistani Cricket and Wellspring but are waiting on the tender to come out. Jody: nothing much to add until we see the tender that's when we need to start thinking about it seriously and making decisions about how it would work and whether we go ahead. reckons it'll be next summer before anything comes out. In the meantime though suggests we get our own governance paperwork in order e.g. volunteer policy, H&S etc so there's no rush to do it when the tender comes out. Should be quite easy to do, just need to look up templates online and make sure it aligns with our ethos. He's happy to do it as does that kind of thing at work but needs help. Soooooz has written policies like that and offered to help. Bex offered to proof read stuff. **ACTION: Jody, Soooooz and Bex to start working on boring governance paperwork.**

There was a bit more discussion on how this might work. Jody: Have to run the site no it costs the council no money, but reminds us that BPC and Wellspring are big organisations with a lot of resources and experience and well placed to bring money in. BPC even have all the groundkeeping equipment already. Steve: we'll be able to get funding as a CIC so it won't cost the club money. As in previous meetings - there is significant scope both for savings in running costs (e.g. groundkeeping) and increase in usage due to current mismanagement. Ian: how would the consortium

work e.g. if it went wrong? Jody: we would remove ourselves from the CIC which is the body that would have the contract with the council, not us. Or we could bid for it ourselves, but it is a huge commitment and probably way above us as a single organisation. Jack questions how much we'll be able to use it. Jody: The 2nd phase would be a floodlit 3G pitch so we can move the whole club there. This is just making sure we're involved and we have the right documents in place so we're not rushing.

3. Xmas party. Fri 13th Dec. Music already sorted (Cowgirls fave Booty Bass). Cowboys complained they have games on Sat. Jody: normally the Cowgirls have had to play on Sundays after the party, so this is evening it up. How are we going to turn it into our party not just a night in the plough? Proposed theme of 'politicians' as it'll be the results of general election that day. Games: Shot for a shot. Human fruit machine (make it political – red, blue and yellow). Cock ring with politicians. Politicians coconut shy. **VOTE: for 8, against: 0, abstentions 8 = carried.** Kev proposes Kiptik* do door collection and we keep money from games. (*Kiptik grew out of 1999 cowboys trip to Chiapas to fundraise for clean water supplies – lots of the club still involved, Zapatistas are still going). **Vote: for 17, abstain 1** (Steve very nobly declaring a conflict of interest as treasurer of Kiptik) = **carried.**

4. Merchandise update, Jack: Trickle along. Had orders from Canada, USA etc. Made ~£300 but can't access the account to find out as the Paypal is still in Niges name. Training tops went well (although don't wash them cos the bit on the back comes off), sold ~100. Still have a load of scarves left - can sell some at xmas party, do a stall with some of Kiptiks stuff. Zip hoodies should be coming out by end of month. Trying to get eco-friendly hoodies. Beenie in the pipeline. Stickers. Mugs. Tobacco tin. Running out of enamel pin badges (~20 left). Kev: For t-shirts - 'no sweat' campaign are partnering with worker-owned factories in Pakistan (have unions, run as a cooperative, do welfare stuff etc) to ramp up production and lower prices in order to be competitive against other clothing manufacturers. Big impact on climate as well.

Just Jack and Steve doing it so we need more people to chip in with designs and ideas so there is a broader range. **ACTION: Email treasury@eastoncowboys.org.uk if you want to help design merch.**

5. Clapton CFC/ultras emailed saying they want to formalise a network of fan-owned anti-fascist clubs in Europe (we've been part of an informal network for years) and have invited us to join. The idea is to have annual meetings, talks etc. Have invited 26 teams from Italy, 6 from France, 1 from Spain, 5 from UK (United Glasgow, Mount Pleasant, Republica, Clapton, us), 3 from Germany, 1 from Warsaw and 1 from Cyprus. Peace: they are properly on it, not just party heads. No one objected and a

few said it will help us to up our game a bit. **VOTE: For 14, against 0, abstentions 2 = carried.** **ACTION:** Jody to email Clapton accepting their invite, Sal to send full proposal out. If anyone really objects to us joining bring it to next meeting and we can maybe withdraw.

6. Easton Community Centre were going to do their own fundraiser on the back of ours (which gave them confidence) this summer but then there was a fire in the BCFM studio. Can we do something as a club? Or individuals help them do something themselves even if it's just to provide contacts. Vernie: We still have £9k in the bank so don't need to fundraise for ourselves and it's in the heart of our community so we should help, but do we have enough volunteers? We can't promise that the club will actually run another night. **ACTION:** Sal to get back to Iris and get a more solid plan from them and then we'll provide volunteers.

7. From Jake: Umm Al-Khair (I'm sure you know) are the Bedouin community we have had links with over the years and they are embarking on a new project to grow grapes, since their thyme crop has failed. I spoke to Hamed about donating some money to HIRN, and he said it would be better and more effective to take on a project for ourselves, rather than just arbitrarily donating some money. The agenda item would be to put this forward as a project for the Easton Cowfolk to take on. It would involve putting on a fundraising event potentially, or doing something else to raise money. I would aim to raise a couple of grand.

I.e. we fundraise specifically for this project rather than just generally sending money to HIRN and then maybe a few of us can go out there and help with the actual project. Peace: we've been supporting HIRN for 12 years now and this is definitely something we should be supporting. Jody: how soon do they need this? **ACTION:** Julian/Jake to find out, planting will be over winter. BEX: Knows them and says they will probably be working a number of different organisations so our fundraising is probably not as time sensitive as other things. It might not be for the first lot of grapes for example. Peace: can we do a big fundraiser and split it between ECC and this? **VOTE on whether to take on fundraising for this project: unanimous (16) = carried.**

General discussion on fundraising: Sal: we end up fundraising for the same things cos they know us and know to ask, when maybe there's lots of other organisations that would benefit but don't know to ask us. Sooz: we should maybe advertise our potential. Kev: our fundraising comes organically cos someone in the club has links and that's nice, otherwise we might be overrun. Ad: needs people with the energy so as long as someone proposes and has the energy to lead on it we should go with whatever. Steve: ECC is underused and could have up to 10 temporary licences a year to put smaller nights on e.g. bands, can we do a regular one? **ACTION:** Sal to

add to what to talk to Iris about, what are their appetite for putting on events?

Julian: doesn't always have to be big, we can do wee things e.g. crowdfunders.

Vernie: netters have done loads of small things e.g. quiz nights and raised £500/600 a pop. Cowgirls get £70-100 for cake sales at casual league days. Jackie makes loads on charity cake sales in Plough after roasts.

8. Our new constitution states that officers (club chair/co-chair, secretary and treasurer) can only serve max 2 years. **Anyone interested in taking on any of these roles from next summer please come forward so no one has to be forced into it (again).**

AOB:

Bex: request from a friend from BDS (Boycott Divestment Sanctions): Argentina are scheduled to play Uruguay in a friendly but for some reason this is being held in Tel Aviv – can we issue a statement asking for players to boycott this game? **VOTE: For: unanimous** (now 15 as Sensi fucked off to the pub) = **carried.** **ACTION: Bex to draft a statement and Jody/Sal to share through all channels.**

Peace: Selling white peace poppies - pledge to remember ALL victims of war including civilians and promote peace. 10p from each will go to Palestine museum.

Sooz: Re the 'Stuttgart coach disaster' – cowgirls gave £600 which we were supposed to get back and we never got it back, can we get it from the club? Kev 2nd. It's a long story but basically people ended up paying out of their own pockets. **VOTE: For: unanimous = carried.** **ACTION: Sooz let Vernie know who to pay.**

Steve: CACKK are going to do an xmas party on Dec 14th in afternoon. **Looking for a Santa.** Last year it was advertised as a kids party and became a plough thing not a cowfolk thing, so don't tell everyone. Anyone who wants to fundraise at this contact CACKK. Present donations needed.

Steve: Update on cricket? Jody: doesn't know, will chase. Last summer couldn't change their name. Steve proposes we form a friendly cricket club for next year as there are now people left without a team. Peace: it's almost definite they're going to change their name. Jody: they want to avoid further conflict with the club. **VOTE: ECCSSC forms a friendly CC which Steve will lead: For 11, against 0, 4 abstentions = carried.** **ACTION: Sal to update website and direct people to Steve.**

Jody: nice to see 16 at a meeting, better than last time when we were calling round trying to get quorate, but there's 120 people in club so should do better.