

Thames Valley FNF AGM

16 November 2015

DRAFT MINUTES

Start time 21.11

Present

Nas Basra
Alain Williams
Arthur Vered
Tim Griffiths
Rupert Sanderson
Glyn Wisdom
Julie Hoarean

Minutes

1. Apologies
 - None received
2. Approval of minutes of 2014 AGM
Approved, no objections
AW to submit to FNF head office
3. Reports from Officers:
 - Chair, AV:
 - Not much to report about the Thames Valley branch, everything is ticking over. 22 recorded meetings in the last year: 160 total attendees, average 7.3 per meeting. (2 meetings not recorded)
 - We still have a small library, but it is not running as it should as it is hard to get books to meetings.
 - The email list is lively: 4,714 emails in calendar year 2014, 3,359 emails in 2015 to date. It seems to fulfill its purpose, people get valuable suggestions and help for their cases – as they attest themselves. There are a number of other branches' officers who act privately outside FNF and do valuable work to chase CAFCASS and other bodies and hold them responsible for inconsistencies.
 - FNF central is preparing for an AGM on 6th March, John Baker (ex chair) is organising it, it will be in Birmingham.
 - FNF central is skint with about 1½ employees, about 2,500 members, Jerry Karlin is chair of trustees. Many ideas - a lot of them positive and helpful - float around on the officers' mail list, however few of them are put in practice.
 - Treasurer, GW
 - Elected last year

- Been trying to contact the previous treasurer (Leonid Yanovich) and get control of the bank account. Had to write to the chair of Bank of Scotland, almost done, but not yet.
 - Had to write to Chief Executive of Bank of Scotland to be sent the necessary forms to achieve this. Forms now received.
 - Wanted another signatory to prevent this happening again, AV agreed and filled in the appropriate part of the forms.
 - We think that there is some £800 in the bank account.
4. Election of Officers
- All officers resigned. TG became meeting chair for a few minutes.
 - All of the current committee were reelected without opposition.
 - We need to speak to Richard Stone
5. FNF central AGM
- Discuss if to give some money to support the FNF central AGM:
 - £200 to support general costs
 - Help branch members who decided to go, some £20-£30
 - It was felt that this money would be better spent locally on publicity, etc.
 - This was voted on – overwhelming support to spend the money locally.
6. AOB
1. Library
- About 20 books
 - We need to ensure that they are all sufficiently up to date (with changes in law/practice)
 - Some old books have already been weeded
 - The problem is how to bring them to meetings. TG suggested a suitcase to bring them in. Part of the problem is that the librarian (NB) is not able to come to every meeting.
 - AW asked to put a list of all books on the web site and an email button to send to the librarian to bring the book to the next meeting.
 - Using post was discussed, the problem being that if a deposit was not taken then we might not get books back again.
2. Publicity
- We should put up posters in the local area: GP surgeries, libraries, Police, Citizens' Advice, ...
 - When we did a lot of this many years ago we have more people attending meetings.
 - We can either generate posters ourselves or use whatever FNF central has
 - This will be discussed on the mail list

AOB

End 22.17

Minutes remain draft until approved at the AGM in the Autumn 2016.