

**Fourth Annual General Meeting  
Friends of Soqotra.  
Durham University, September 17<sup>th</sup> 2005.  
Minutes**

**Present:** Miranda Morris (Acting Chair), John Farrar, Francine Stone, Kay Van Damme, Wolfgang Schneider, Friedhelm Krupp, Martin Corree, John Dickson, Sue Christie, Rowan Salim, Simon Jones, Kamil Kral, Jindrich Pavlis, Charles Aithie, Pat Aithie, Sabina Knees, David Thain, Abdul Malek Eagle.

1. **Apologies:** Roderic Dutton, Tony Miller, Wolfgang Wranik, Douglas Botting, Peter De Geest, Nick Jeffries, John Shipman, Diccon Alexander.
2. **Minutes** of the Third AGM of FOS, held at University of London on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2004, were approved.

**3. Matters Arising :**

A resolution to extend the maximum term of the Executive officers from 3 years to 5 years was approved by majority vote following detailed discussion. After a term of 5 years the Officer must take one year off unless there are exceptional circumstances.

**4. Annual Report:**

MM gave an update on the sewing machine project. Ten machines have so far been sent to Soqotra and there has been an offer of a further 20.

Funding has become available to supply a library on the island and a number of books have already been sent. Members were asked to recommend further titles for the library. DT suggested English teaching online in the library, while FK offered to supply a number of books in Arabic.

SC explained the situation regarding *TAYF*. There have been delays in the publication of *TAYF* this year resulting from difficulties in translation and printing. It also appears that potential members on Soqotra have been prevented from joining the FOS. Both situations will be rectified in the near future.

**5. Treasurer's Report & Annual Accounts**

JF explained the accounts. While membership receipts are down on last year, overseas membership dues for 2005 have not yet been received. Nevertheless there is a large balance, partly because payment has not yet been made for the newsletter owing to the delays outlined in item 4. It is not the intention of the charity to allow a large balance to accrue and it was agreed that the Soqotris should be approached to determine how excess funds should be spent. JF explained that cheques are preferable to Paypal for membership dues, and that he will investigate the use of direct debits. No money has been received from the USA. SJ asked about other income as listed in summary of accounts. JF offered a breakdown of income.

FK asked about the funds for the library on Soqotra. MM responded that these have been sent directly, in the form of cash and books, and so do not appear on the FOS accounts.

## **6. Election of Executive Committee and Officers**

All existing Officers were re-elected: Roderic Dutton Chair, Miranda Morris Vice Chair, John Farrar Treasurer and John Dickson Secretary; proposed by Wolfgang Schneider, seconded by Martin Corree, all supported. Sue Christie was reconfirmed as Editor. Four new executive committee members were nominated (proposer Francine Stone, seconded Fareed Krup) and agreed unanimously: Kay Van Damme, Sabina Knees, Rowan Salim, David Thain. Other Executive Committee reconfirmed are: Diccon Alexander, Martin Corree, Nick Jeffries, Tony Miller (proposer Kay Van Damme, seconded Sabina Knees).

## **7. Auditor**

The accounts have been audited by a contact of the Treasurer; it was proposed and adopted that she should continue this service next year for a nominal fee (£20).

## **8. AOB**

RS asked who was distributing sewing machines on Soqotra. MM responded that this was a responsibility of MM and SCF.

Discussion re AGM and Conference and location. It was agreed that the conference should occur every year, not decreased to biannual. London was suggested although many felt that an international conference venue may be preferable. KVD suggested the University of Ghent as a potential venue for 2007. FK will be organising a workshop in the Gulf and suggested that FOS may wish to combine this with a conference. It was agreed that the next AGM will be at the Exhibition in Edinburgh, the following (2007) in Ghent and subsequent meetings in Soqotra and Bahrain.

JF appealed for material for the website and FK suggested that a list of members should be included – they must be asked due to freedom of information restrictions.

## **9. Date of next meeting**

Next AGM in Edinburgh to coincide with RBGE exhibition. Date and venue to be advised.