
Council

Minutes of a special virtual meeting by Microsoft Teams Saturday 23 May 2020 at 13:00

Present on Teams:	Craig Poxon	-	Chair
	Paul Applegate		
	Mary Barratt		
	Mark Bayada	-	MDC Chair
	Adrian Bond	-	Vice Chair
	Jack Davies		
	Natasha Higman	-	Treasurer
	Kate Lindsley		
	Sam Lee	-	EPC Chair
Sue Stanhope			
In attendance on Teams:	Tony Butler	-	Chief Operating Officer
	Lise Moore	-	Finance Manager
	Martin Soulsby	-	Vice President
Apologies for absence:	Liz Ashley	-	Editor, Skydive the Mag
	Angel Fernandez	-	Communications Manager (sick)
	Jeff Montgomery	-	Safety & Technical Officer & STC Chair (on furlough)
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General (sick)

In-camera session

Item Minute

91/20 Tenth special meeting

This tenth special virtual meeting had been convened to consider the effect on the sport of the national lockdown during the coronavirus pandemic. Chair stated that the meeting would be recorded for minute taking purposes only and the recording would be deleted once the minutes had been agreed. This meeting was an in-camera session only to make decisions on financial aid to drop-zones.

91/20 Declarations of interest

These would be taken as they arose

92/20 Apologies for absence

Martin Shuttleworth (sick), Jeff Montgomery (furloughed), Angel Fernandez (sick), Liz Ashley.

93/20 Minutes

COUNCIL APPROVED the draft minutes (circulated) of the special virtual meeting on Saturday 16 May 2020 which were taken as read as a correct record of the meeting. The Chair asked Council members and attendees if they were happy to continue with the method of sharing the draft minutes with Council members and attendees for comments or changes prior to publication.

94/20 Matters Arising

None were notified.

95/20 Financial Matters

95.1.1 Applications by Affiliated PTOs for grants and loans

This is a confidential minute book minute, not for publication

After the awarding of grants and loans, the balance of the Drop Zone Defence Fund stands at £30k and the balance for available loans stands at £132k. There remained a number of grants and loan application which had yet to be agreed.

96/20 Reports to Council

96.1 Update on the PTOs SIG request

The Chair gave an oral update on the request made by the DZOs to convene a Special Interest Group (SIG). Friday 22 May was the deadline for the final substantive papers to be submitted to Council for consideration. (minute 84.3.1). The Chair said that he felt that some of the requests made in the paper were unsubstantiated or rather vague claims, whilst others that had been identified as 'short term' requests would take much longer to discuss and action. He went on to say that he felt some of the requests may require a special resolution and external advice from our Governance Advisor. The Chair stated that he had spoken to Grant Richards who was acting as a nominal figurehead for this SIG who said that they wanted to open a dialogue between themselves and British Skydiving. Given those points, the Chair had suggested to Grant a virtual meeting would not be appropriate for this type of discussion and he recommended that we address the items on the paper that we can deal with in the short term in writing and that the meeting as originally requested be delayed.

96.2 Update on the member resolution (not on agenda)

The Chair stated that although the draft resolution had come through from Mi-Voice, the senior officials felt that with the current wording, if members came to the site with no prior knowledge of the resolution and did not read the supporting papers, then members may agree with it as it is not clear that financial offers are in place from British Skydiving. Senior officers also wanted it made clear to the members that in order for the resolution to pass, it would require a simple majority of the total voting rights as per the Companies Act 2006, part 13, rather than a majority of those present as would be the case with an election.

This wording was sent to Alex Busby-Hicks on 21 May and to keep to the time frame previously agreed upon with Mi-Voice, would need to have been agreed by 22 May. Alex Busby-Hicks again brought up the issue around how abstention votes would be counted. The Chair re-iterated that the position of abstentions was laid down in the Companies Act and that an abstention would act as a no vote. A suggestion was made that the wording be changed to state that for the resolution to pass, it would require 50% of the total eligible membership. The Chair said he would go back to Alex Busby-Hicks to relay this.

Action: Chair

The Chair said that he would get back to Mi-Voice on Tuesday due to the bank Holiday and that the updated timeline would be that British Skydiving could expect a result on about 20 June.

[Secretary's note: Senior officers are the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer; Senior Officials are the COO and Secretary-General.]

96.3 From the COO

The Chair spoke to the COO's draft email in SharePoint which the COO expected to be send out at around the same time as the member resolution. The COO was looking for assurances that the wording in his email would be supported by Council.

Concern was raised that some points were not addressed in his email but the COO stated that he would be happy for additions to be made, providing that it did not make it too long and therefore less likely to be read by members.

97/20 AOB

None

98/20 Dates of future meetings

The Treasurer stated she would not be available for a meeting next week, so the next virtual special meeting was tentatively agreed for two weeks' time, Saturday 6 June 2020 at 13:00 by Microsoft Teams.

Previously scheduled meetings were for Tuesdays at British Skydiving HQ, Leicester LE2 9TF: 16 June, 15 September and 24 November. However, physical meetings were suspended whilst government restrictions on social distancing remained, so these dates were now reserved for virtual meetings by Microsoft Teams.

The meeting closed at 14:33 (duration 1:33).