

**Beltane Fire Society**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**

**Attending via hangouts:** Gav, Sara, Ella, Tom, John, Marsha, Neil B, Caroline

**Attending in person:** Russ, Shae, Rebecca, Steve, Becca, Lindsey, Brad, Alex, Daniel

**Apologies:** Alun, Jamie

**Discussion: Can Beltane Fire Festival 2020 continue as usual in the face of coronavirus?**

- No real choice but to cancel April 30th.
- Cannot run a festival without a run-up, and it will be a long time before we can have a run-up.
- Look at options for postponement. A lot of the events industry is leaning towards announcing postponed dates at this stage.
  - Other organisations announcing postponement dates may be more for the purpose of avoiding mass refunds, rather than a realistic plan to postpone to a specific date.
- Late summer may still be too early to announce for.
- It is still our plan to create some way to mark the changing of the seasons and help people feel connected.
- Board & Blues should continue to support the community, even remotely.
- It would seem that every organisation similar to us is stopping operations at the group level, and even without the government's actions that would be the correct thing for us to do too.

**Decision: Do we cancel the festival as a public event?**

Indicative vote from trustees, blues and contractors, to cancel Beltane on 30/4/2020: Approved: 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

Final vote from trustees, to cancel Beltane on 30/4/2020: Approved: 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

**Is it still necessary to hold a GO meeting tomorrow? Is it an unnecessary hazard?**

- May be possible to conduct the meeting remotely.
- Both emotionally and practically, we may need an in-person meeting to ensure everyone understands the reality, and gets focused on effective ways to go forward.
- Possibly limit in-person attendance to 1-per-group, with more dialing in.
- Get word out to the GOs ASAP (tonight), so that the news sinks in and the purpose of tomorrow's meeting is clear

**Discourage groups from continuing practices unofficially, and remind them to act responsibly.**

**Action point:** talk with groups which still have major expenses (such as rehearsal spaces and getting ready spaces), and groups whose expenses are invoiced to BFS.

Consider offering tickets to be transferred to Samhuinn instead of being refunded.

- Or offer them the option to donate the money.

- Unless we feel Samhuinn is 100% guaranteed to go ahead, we should offer tickets for 'our next festival'.

### Discussion: weighing up alternative ways to celebrate Beltane

- Create a digital event?
- Allow the May Queen / Green Man to lead something, as the hub of the society
  - However, make what happens participatory and not exclusive to 'core' performers.
  - Blues to contact GM & MQ to make plans.
- Give everyone the opportunity to create something over the six weeks that can be released online on the 30th.
  - Continue to be a showcase for our members' creativity.
  - Be sure to include the production groups too.
  - Include Angus' diary entry?
  - An opportunity to reinvigorate project Lore
- Create a script for a ritual that can be performed either together in a livestream, or by yourself or in small groups.
  - Know that you are participating in something in unison with the rest of BFS, even if you're not in contact during the night.
- Possibly create a facility in Beltonia or elsewhere for those who aren't tech-savvy to create their own video pieces.
  - Vision Mechanics have a Slingstudio kit they can lend, that allows shooting on-location video with multiple devices with minimum fuss.
- Remind people to support each other. Given the serious material hardship it may be the time for the community to offer each other material support.

*All Blues and Contractors leave.*

### Discussion: Discussion on Contractors & Future Implications of COVID-19

- TW asked for a discussion around BFS contractors as they would be impacted by the cancellation of the festival
- Costs for them until the end of June - EC would be £3,000 and Comms would be £1,445
- Discussion on whether we do or don't keep them
- Good strategically to keep them in case any governments choose to help with stimulus package
- BM confirms they had already promised that the contracts would be fulfilled till the agreed end as we wish to give the best example of how to lead in our sector
- Vote for Extending the contracts for both EC and Comms till the start of August 2020? - **7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain**
- Things to consider for future: AGMs and if we postpone this / Lughnasadh 2020 / Samhuinn 2020 / Could we be savvy with the CEC since we are a festival city