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Francesca Galloway
Company Secretary
27.11.2006

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Tourism Concern
held at Stapleton House, 277-281 Holloway Road, London, N7 8HN
on October 14th 2006 at 11.00AM.**

The Meeting opened at 11.00 with Stroma Cole (SC) in the Chair. Minutes: Francesca Leadlay.

SC welcomed everybody.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** (Others previously notified).
2. **Minutes:** approval proposed by Peter Stone and seconded by Roger Diski and accepted by the Meeting.
3. **Matters Arising:** none.

4. Chair's Report

The Chair presented her report on Tourism Concern's activities for the year ending March 2005. 60% of Tourism Concern's income is earned from its through membership, donations and sales. There is £53,000 in reserves. Other income since end of March 2006 allows us to continue. It was emphasised that these were the draft accounts. Peter Stone asked that members should contact him if there were queries when the full accounts are released.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer (Peter Stone) thanked the Acting Treasurer (Brian Wade) who was absent from the meeting for all his invaluable support. He explained that there was a need to find a new reporting accountant, as the previous one did not produce work to an acceptable standard or to deadline. It was noted from the 2005-2006 results that there was an excess of expenditure: £81,000. He displayed the sources of incoming monies and also the spending on projects, outreach, management and administration. New sources of unrestricted income included the Ethical Travel Guide, Gift Aided giving, and an increase in standing order payments. At the end of 2005 there was approximately £129,000 in the accounts. The new Treasurer will be Sumit Agarwal with Peter Stone as Assistant Treasurer.

6. Appointment of Reporting Accountant

Peter Stone explained that we do not require a full audit. We require a reporting accountant to review the financial figures and comply with Acts such as SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice). The way of presenting figures may change. Peter Stone proposed Mrs Kim Hooper as the new reporting accountant. Matthew Gorman seconded the proposal. Members voted unanimously in favour of her appointment. There were no abstentions.

7. Resolution requiring a vote

Stroma Cole explained that TC's Objects in the Memorandum of Association state the purpose of the charity, which was originally set up as an educational membership organisation. The purpose of TC has expanded and evolved. The Charities Commission required clarification that we were working on sustainable development. Council had been working on the TC objectives so as to conform with the regulations of the Charity Commission. The changes centred on 'sustainable development'. The drafting of new wording for the Objects was a long, involved process and the Charity Commission have agreed that the proposed wording is acceptable. This was circulated to members more than 21 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting, as required by the Charity Commission.

The resolution requiring a vote contained the following:

That this meeting agrees the following changes to the Company's Objects in the Memorandum of Association:

Replace the Objects in clause 3 of the Memorandum of Association that currently read:

The Company is established to promote the advancement of public education in the study of and research into the impacts of tourism development on global communities and environments, and the dissemination of the useful results of such research.



with:

The Company is established:

1. *to promote the advancement of public education in the study of and research into the impacts of tourism development on global communities and environments, and the dissemination of the useful results of such research; and*
2. *in the context of tourism and tourism destinations, to promote sustainable development for the benefit of the public at large and the local communities by:*
 - 2.1 *the preservation, conservation and the protection of the environment and the prudent use of natural resources;*
 - 2.2 *the relief of poverty and the improvement of the conditions of life in socially and economically disadvantaged communities; and*
 - 2.3 *the promotion of sustainable means of achieving economic growth and regeneration.*

Sustainable development means "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

Stroma Cole explained that the new wording for the Objects has to be formally voted on by the members before it is accepted as changed by the Charity Commission. After discussion, Matthew Thomson proposed the resolution. Matt Gorman seconded. The resolution was passed with a unanimous vote. There were no abstentions. ←

8. Introducing new Council members

New Members of Council introduced themselves: Jacqui Smith. Julie Jones. Motti Essakow and Sumit Agarwal were introduced in absentia.

9. Membership Drive

In order to continue our campaign work, to produce hard-hitting research, to keep up pressure on government and tour operators, we need more support. Members were asked to recruit a friend, relative, or even five friends or relatives to increase our campaigning impact.

10. Any Other Business

- i. The speakers' programme was discussed. A PowerPoint presentation could be prepared which would be emailed to speakers. Access to resources is important.
- ii. The Ethical Tour Operators Group (ETOG) is a forum to share good practice and specialist knowledge, to create a dialogue as well as being a funding stream. It is not an opportunity to exploit TC's name. The ETOG will build linkages between community-based tourism organisations and tour operators.
- iii. It was asked if there was a possible opportunity for linkages between Responsible Travel and TC seeing that RT are starting an online database of community-based tourism initiatives.
- iv. It was asked if TC had worked with the Federation of Tour Operators. Tricia Barnett said that TC campaigns to get them to change. As a result of our work they all have Responsible Tourism Policies on their websites and statements on labour conditions. The FTO also has a questionnaire for hotels and paid TC to be consultants for that project. The big tour operators have adopted TC's language. This represents a huge shift from travel editors and the industry.

In the absence of further business the Meeting closed at 12.30.