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**NOTES FROM EIF BOARD MEETING HELD AT 10.30AM ON 23RD APRIL 2021.**

Those in attendance were:

Steve Heap was Chair

Susan Tanner

Paul Hooper

Andy Lenthall

Mark Laurie

Jim Winship

Apologies

Carl Hagemann

**Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The meeting approved the minutes of the previous Board meeting.

The meeting noted Carl Hagemann sent his apologise. He was attending a family funeral.

His comments had been circulated in advance for all to read.

**Covid Update**

The meeting initially discussed the situation regarding COVID and the return of events. It was agreed that EIF should continue to chase DCMS for clear guidance on the registration of attendees to events and whether every person in a party needs to be registered.

Concerns were expressed over the critical urgency for a Government backed insurance scheme, the absence of which is currently causing many events to be cancelled. EIF to continue pressing for this. There is generally felt to be a lack of understanding in Government of the urgency for this. Susan Tanner reported that she had attended an APPG meeting about insurance and that the chairs of the group were putting together a paper on insurance and were due to present this to the Chancellor of the Exchequer shortly to press the case for insurance. She promised to keep EIF members informed of anything coming out of this.

Members were also asked to report back to EIF on any local authorities still blocking events so that this can be reported to DCMS.

**Future of EIF**

The meeting discussed a paper presented to the Board members by Steve Heap proposing the restructuring of EIF. Susan Tanner questioned the ability of the Board to change the structure of the existing company, which is limited by guarantee and which was set up specifically to manage the Purple Guide and income from it. It was also felt that the covenants in the existing structure made it difficult to pay for the costs of running the Forum.

Susan Tanner said that under the current Memorandum and Articles – as stated in section 6 – it was not possible to pay the Directors of EIF Ltd. She also suggested that the Forum should be strengthened and formalised with a constitution and kept separate from EIF Ltd. Mark Laurie put forward an alternative opinion and suggested EIF should be structured in such a way to be seen as a prominent professional body of the outdoor events industry.

Paul Hooper, having read the Memorandum and Articles, agreed changes could not be made under the current structure.

Andy Lenthall also felt that the Board needed to take legal advice on how the Forum could be restructured.

Steve Heap, (not speaking as the Chair) made it quite clear to the board that his paper was about profile, recognition, and regard for EIF and that is what needed strengthening. This paper was to stimulate that debate and move towards achieving those aims.

After much discussion, it was agreed that the Board should seek legal advice on how best to move forward. This will be researched and reported back to the Board as soon as possible.

**Business Visits and Events Partnership**

Jim Winship raised concerns about the Partnership wanting to set up a new sub-group covering outdoor events as he felt this unnecessary with EIF already represented in the Partnership and, with its broad membership, was in a better position to represent the interests of the sector. Having a sub-group within BVEP covering outdoor events could also lead to confusion. However, Susan Tanner and Andy Lenthall said they felt that the sub-group might give outdoor events a stronger say in BVEP and suggested that others from the Partnership might be persuaded to join the sub-group. Steve Heap said that the recent experiences of One Industry One Voice suggested that some caution was needed over this and would continue correspondence with Simon Hughes.

Paul Hooper asked if he could join the BVEP outdoor events sub group and Susan Tanner said she would ask BVEP and put Paul forward.

The board meeting ended with the decision to reconvene when legal advice was obtained.