

1st St Neots SCOUT COUNCIL

Minutes for the 2024 AGM

7th June 2024

Open Time – 18:00

Closed Time – 18:45

There were 20 Adult members of the GSC in attendance, and 10 Young People.

The Interim Chair made the necessary Health & Safety and domestic announcements.

1. Introduction and welcome

The Interim Chair (Gareth Howell) welcomed members of the Group Scout Council and guests. GH explained that the Group's Chair could not attend the meeting and would not be re-standing. GH said he will stand in as Interim Chair until a new one is found.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies have been received from Alan Watson, Keith Horn, Victoria Filler and Helen Barnard.

3. Governance topics

GH explained that we will use this first part of the meeting to make sure the charity's foundations are in good order

3a. To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14/06/2023

The Interim Chair said the Group Trustee Board have reviewed the minutes of the previous AGM at their meeting held on 14/06/2023. The minutes have been on display on the Group's website for two weeks and the Interim Chair proposed that these minutes be taken as read and asked the Group Scout Council to agree they are a true record of that meeting.

Seconded by Amiee Stearne. Approved by a show of hands.

3b. To adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR)

The Interim Chair said in line with the recommendation from Scout Headquarters, the Group Trustee Board proposes we adopt the model constitution from Chapter 5 of the March 2024 version of Policy, Organisation and Rules. The Interim Chair said a copy of

this was available for review and inspection prior to this meeting, and copies are also available at this meeting.

Seconded by Martyn Wright. Approved by a show of hands.

3c. To note the Group's financial year

The Interim Chair asked the Group Scout Council members to please note the charity's financial year is 1 January to 31 December.

3d. To approve the appointed and community members of the Group Scout Council

The Interim Chair said that whilst the Group Scout Council can admit other people to membership there are no such members.

3e. To agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board

The Interim Chair said that following good practice recommendations from the Charity Governance Code, Policy Organisation and Rules state that Trustee Boards should have a minimum of 5, and no more than 12, Trustees in total. This includes ex officio and co-opted Trustees.

The Interim Chair said that the Group Scout Council must agree the number of people to be appointed to the Trustee Board. The outgoing Trustee Board recommends that EIGHT people are appointed. The Interim Chair proposed that the Group Scout Council approves that recommendation.

Seconded by Aimee Stearne. Approved by a show of hands.

3f. To agree the quorum for future meetings of the Group Scout Council (excluding this AGM)

The Interim Chair said that the Constitution requires the Group Scout Council to set the minimum number of Group Scout Council members that must be present at Group Scout Council meetings for it to take decisions. The outgoing Trustee Board recommends the quorum should be set at TEN people. The Interim Chair asked the Group Scout Council to approve that recommendation.

Seconded by Kris Pay. Approved by a show of hands.

4. Review of the previous year

The Interim Chair said we will now move on to reflect on the activities of the past year.

4a. The Group Lead Volunteer's review of Scouts in the 1st St Neots Scouts Group

The Interim Chair asked the Group Lead Volunteer (Adam Wright) to present their Annual Review.

AW said that it had been an incredible year for the Group. Some of the highlights included a muddy Scouts Winter Camp in January. In February, the census showed an increase in Young People by 25%. In April, the Group held the annual beer festival and raised £3K. May was a trip to Disneyland Paris for the Cubs. In June, the Group took part in the first St Neots Festival Parade. July was the World Scout Jamboree with Adam, Catherine, Felix, and Billy representing the Group. In October, the Group welcomed the first of our Squirrels who are 4-6 years old. The Squirrels have been an incredible success story. In November the Group was present in the Remembrance Parade and December saw Leaders celebrating with a silent disco.

The hall is making a good income with regular long-term hirers. The Group has been active fundraising with the beer festival and a stall at the Christmas Lights switch-on. The Group was also chosen as one of the Mayor's charities for the year. All this means that the Group is in a strong financial position and there are plans to continue the development of the hall.

There have been a total of 12,000 Scouting hours provided by volunteers in 2023.

AW thanked all the Leaders for their hard work. He also thanked the Trustees who work in the background to ensure everything works well. Also, to all the Young People who have worked hard towards their badges. AW reported that there had been 40 Chief Scout bronze, silver and gold awards handed out last year.

AW asked parents to get involved in volunteering as this gives a great sense of satisfaction.

The Interim Chair thanked the Group Lead Volunteer for their review and thanked AW for his leadership.

4b. To receive and consider the Annual Report of the Group Trustee Board including the annual Statement of Accounts

The Interim Chair said that the Group Trustee Board had approved the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts at its last meeting and had also received the report on the accounts from the Independent Examiner. The report showed no concerns.

The Interim Chair asked the Group Treasurer to give their explanation of the Statement of Accounts.

The Treasurer (Gareth Howell) said that at the end of 2023 there was a deficit of £8K; which was planned as we had started 2023 with a very healthy surplus of £26,887. The Group came into 2024 with reserves of £18,633 and planned to spend money on improving the building and outside space. GH said that no deficit was expected this year, and the accounts are looking positive. GH asked for any questions, but there were none.

GH ended by saying the annual report is on the Group website and will be submitted to the Charity Commission in due course.

AW thanked GH for acting as Treasurer.

Please note: No vote is required, the Group Scout Council only 'receives and considers' the report.

5. Making appointments

GH said that this part of the meeting will be used to organise the setup of the charity until the next AGM and will appoint a Trustee Board to oversee good governance for the charity over the next year.

5a. To appoint the Group Chair, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the Group Trustee Board

The Interim Chair handed the chairmanship of the meeting over to the Group Lead Volunteer.

Adam explained the open selection process agreed by the Trustee Board. AW said that as the current Interim Chair is not re-standing an open selection process will be started to find a new one. GH will act as Interim Chair for the present time.

Group Lead Volunteer then handed control of the meeting back to the Interim Chair.

5b. To appoint the Group Treasurer, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the Group Trustee Board

The recommendation of the Trustees was that Gareth Howell should be appointed as Group Treasurer for a period of three years. This was approved by a show of hands.

5c. To appoint members of the Group Trustee Board, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the Group Trustee Board

The recommendation to the Group Scout Council was that Keith Horn, Ben Williams, Helen Barnard, Elly Warburton, and Victoria Filler should be appointed as members of the Group Trustee Board. This was approved by a show of hands.

The Interim Chair thanked the Trustees for their work during the previous year, and particularly those members who are standing down – Martyn Wright, Catherine Gregorious and Graham Capper. Samantha Davies will also step down as Group Secretary but will remain as minute taker for the Trustee Board.

5d. To appoint the Independent Examiner

The Treasurer proposed Nichola Billingslea as Independent Examiner.

GH confirmed that Nichola Billingslea is qualified for the role, and asked for a show of hands to approve her nomination. This was approved by a show of hands.

6. Closing remarks

The Interim Chair closed the AGM and thanked everyone for attending and then handed over to the Group Lead Volunteer.

Meeting closed at 18:45

Adam explained that each year the Leader's discuss the outstanding young people and choose one to be awarded "Squirrel/Beaver/Cub/Scout of The Year".

This year's recipients are:

Squirrels – Sophie S

Nichols Beavers – Laksh T

Cator Beavers – Tommy C

Cubs – Miles S

Cubs – Rudi E

Hodgson Scouts – Freya A-D

Rowley Scouts – Ben P