

1st ST NEOTS SCOUT COUNCIL

Annual General Meeting

21st May 2026

Open time: 6.15pm

Close time: 7pm

Scout Hut, Bedford Street, St Neots, PE19 1AX

1. Introduction and welcome

Rhys Thomas (RT) welcomed all to the meeting and made the necessary Health and Safety announcements.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Keith Horn, Graham Capper and Martin Hoather.

3. Governance topics

3a. Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 03.05.2025

RT asks the General Scout Council (GSC) to refer to minutes from the last AGM, provided. RT proposes that these minutes are taken as read and asks the GSC to accept them as a true record of the meeting. By show of hands, the GSC accepted the minutes with no objections or abstentions. APPROVED

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

Copies can be made available. RT proposes that in line with the recommendation from The Scout Association, the Group Trustee Board proposes we accept the model constitution for a Scout Group from Chapter 5 of Policy, organisation and Rules. Proposed by Catherine Gregorious (CG) and supported by Elly Warburton (EW). RT asks for a show of hands from the GCS. There were no objections or abstentions to Chapter 5 being accepted. APPROVED.

3c. Note the Group's financial year

RT asked the Group Scout Council members to note the Group's charity financial year is 1st Jan-31st December.

3d. Agree the maximum number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board

RT asks the General Scout Council to agree that the maximum number of 12 members in line with policy for Trustee board be accepted. RT asks for a show of hands to approve. There are no objections or abstentions. APPROVED

3e. Agree the quorum for future meetings of the Group Scout Council (excluding this AGM)

RT asks the General Scout Council to agree the number needed for quorum at meetings in the coming year, being the minimum number of members present at a meeting. RT recommends that the quorum of 5 be set for meetings executive committee. RT asked for a show of hands to approve. There were no objections or abstentions. APPROVED

4. Review of the previous year

4a. The Group Lead Volunteer's review of Scouts during the past 12 months in the 1st St Neots Scout Group

In the absence of a Group Lead Volunteers, CG read a prepared report. She thanked all members for supporting the scout group over the last year in contributing to a successful year. Several long standing Scout leaders have left over the last year and we have merged Monday and Tuesday night scout sessions due to a reduction in leaders. That said, we had a great year within the section, taking part in camps and trips away.

The Cubs had a memorable trip to Disney as well as camp trips, and Beavers had a successful camp also. The Squirrels sections has now been running for 2 and a half years and continues to build the skills of young people.

We had a successful 9th Beer Festival last year and were able to present Chief Scout Awards to young people in all sections over the year. 1st St Neots Scouts were proud to have one of our members recognised for long service.

CG also welcomed new members of trustee board.

CG also acknowledged the work and support of Gareth Howell who has been with the Group since 2017 and he was presented with a gift of thanks for all his work.

CG also thanked the parents for supporting the group, looking forward to a successful year ahead. She encouraged volunteers from within the GSC to support the work of the group, highlighting current gaps of a GLV and leaders.

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

Gareth Howell drew attention to Scouts accounts for last year, with good revenues from hirers and regular use from all sections. Income of over £60,000 with excess of £13,000 to allow more investment in the hut in line with Committee plans. The Scout Group were able to pay off loans for the building of the classroom leaving a strong financial position. CG accepted and Helen Barnard (HB) seconded acceptance of the financial report. Nikki Billingslea was the independent examiner for the finances.

5. Making appointments

5a. Appoint the Group Chair, following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the Group Trustee Board

RT stated that 3 current trustees were appointed at last year's AGM and will not need to be reappointed until next year. Rob Jackson (RJ) introduced himself to the group and his history with Scouts, providing support with governance with knowledge of district scouts also. He put himself up for the role of Chair of the group. He was nominated by Monique Noon (MN) and seconded by HB. There were no objections or abstentions. APPROVED

5b. Appoint the Group Treasurer, following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the Group Trustee Board

RJ invited Monique Noon to the position of Treasurer. Nominated by CG and seconded by RT. There were no objections or abstentions. APPROVED

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

RJ invited Catherine Gregorious and Rhys Thomas to be members of the Group Trustee Board. Nominated by EW and seconded by Vicky Filler. There were no objections or abstentions. APPROVED

5d. Appoint the Independent Examiner

RJ proposed Nikki Billingslea who is qualified for the role and is willing to undertake it.

RJ asked for a show of hands to approve. There were no objections or abstentions.

APPROVED

Closing remarks

Scouting awards

Squirrels- Will M

Nichol- Bertie W

Cator- Huxley N

Thornhill- Max S

Harvey- Laksh T

Scout of the Year-Connie W

Prevention of Future Deaths Report update to GSC

In April, the Executive Committee considered the report and have carried out a review of the risks identified with all scouting activities and visits. These are shared centrally. We are in the process of producing a written action plan with named leads, deadlines and measurable outcomes but in addition to this, we will be covering dynamic risk assessments and regular spot checks of risk assessments. We are doing a skills gap analysis and will then plan training to fill these gaps. CG made the GSC aware that we will continue to feedback. The Trustee Board commits to an annual review of our health, safety and safeguarding arrangements to provide assurance that improvements remain effective.

RJ thanked this group for completing this piece of work to try to ensure that accidents and mishaps are avoided.