

1st Cookham Scout Group

Minutes of AGM Meeting – 23rd September 2024

Attendees: David Baddeley, Mark Boulding, Mike Cutting, Rebecca Danks-Burrows, Brenda Davison, Mike Day, Kate Dilley, Susie Felix, Nigel Hague, Rob Harris, Dave Hellmuth, Karen Hope, Michelle O'Sullivan, Andy Pearce, Claire Pearce, Steve Perry, Tim Sharples, Emma Thornton, Peter Turner, Andrew Sutherland, Joelle White.

1. Introduction and welcome.

Nigel welcomed everybody to the AGM in the Scout Hut.

2. Apologies for absence.

Apologies from Jeff Hurst, Tamsin Jones, Nick Powell, Michelle O'Sullivan.

3. Governance topics.

a. Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 25th September 2023.

The minutes of the previous AGM held on the 25th of September in 2023 were published on the website one week prior to the AGM.

Recommended: David Hellmuth, unanimously approved.

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

Recommended: Mike Day, unanimously approved.

c. Note the Group's financial year.

The financial year runs up to the 31st of March 2025.

d. Approve appointed and community members of the Group Scout Council.

None were proposed.

e. Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Group Trustee Board.

The suggested number is 12.

Recommended: Nigel Hague, unanimously approved.

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

Upon consultation with District, the suggested quorum of 15 was unanimously approved.

4. Review of the previous year.

a. The Group Lead Volunteer's review of Scouts in 1st Cookham Scout Group.

The Squirrel Drey is now firmly established and running. We currently count 196 young people enrolled. A big thank you to the 56 adult volunteers for their outstanding support all year round.

The Cub Camp took place this year at White Place Farm while the Scouts went to Monmouth for a week.

Formosa has now been officially relinquished. The offer was accepted for White Place Farm back in May, paperwork is in process with the solicitors. The funding is also in place for further work needed on site.

A big thank you to the whole team of helpers involved with the two main fundraising events, the Bonfire Night and the Summer Fair, for making those so successful.

The group has sadly lost two of their former Presidents, Denis and Brenda Boothman, who passed away earlier this year. They both had a very long association with 1st Cookham, Denis as a Scout Leader, Brenda as a Cub Leader. They were both Trustees for many years and Brenda also organised the Scout Gang Shows in the 1980's and 90's. As an acknowledgment to their contribution in making 1st Cookham the success it is today, we have dedicated a room in the Scout hut to their memory.

Finally, more thanks to the members of the Trustee Board, to Jo as secretary and intake admin, to Tim for all his work as Treasurer, and to all the adult volunteers and leaders who provide outstanding Scouting in Cookham.

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

The fundraising was slightly below £20,000 this year, due to the fact the Bonfire Night was a wet evening with many events happening at the same time. The rental income has gone up with the inflation, so have the energy costs. The spending is comparable to the previous year.

£150,000 were attributed to the purchase of White Place Farm in March. A fundraising campaign started the 15th of June to help raise money. Thanks to some major donations and pledges, the group has now received in the region of £200,000. This will allow the group to complete the purchase, cover the admin fees, develop the site as required and keep a reserve of £60,000 for safety. This in turn allows the group to keep running as it does and offer scouting to everyone, especially through the hardship fund.

The annual Statement of the Accounts was recommended by Steve Perry and approved unanimously.

5. Making appointments.

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

Nigel Hague is now stepping down after 5 years of commitment towards 1st Cookham Scouts as Chair. Upon advertising, David Baddeley has been proposed as a candidate to take over the role.

Recommended by Andy Pearce, seconded by Tim Sharples, and agreed unanimously. David Baddeley is therefore the new Chair for 1st Cookham Scouts.

b. Re-appoint the Group Treasurer, following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the Group Trustee Board.

Tim Sharples was nominated as Group Treasurer.
Recommended by Peter Turner, unanimously approved.

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

Tamsin Jones decided to step down as a trustee.

Andy Pearce, Mike Day, Tim Sharples and David Baddeley have been appointed Trustees for a 2-year term.

Brenda Davison, Kate Dille, Nick Powell and Charlotte Strudwicke have also been appointed Trustees for a 2-year term.

Rebecca Danks-Burrows, Susie Felix, Emma Thornton and Mike Cutting have been appointed Trustees for a 3-year term as they joined the Trustee Board more recently.

This allows for a good continuity, with no recruitment needed next year.

d. Appoint the Independent Examiner of the Accounts.

Peter Austin was appointed as an independent examiner for another year.
Recommended: Nigel Hague, unanimously approved.

e. Comments by District Commissioner or their representative.

Rob Harris thanked everybody for their support and for securing the funding to develop White Place Farm for the group.

f. Close.

Nigel thanked all those who had attended, and the meeting was closed at 8:30pm.