

1st Cookham Scout Group

Minutes of AGM Meeting – 29th September 2025

Attendees: David Baddeley, Rebecca Danks-Burrows, Brenda Davison, Kate Dilley, Mia Fleming, Dave Haines, Lizzie Parnell, Andy Pearce, Claire Pearce, Steve Perry, Nick Powell, Tim Sharples, Peter Turner, Joelle White.

1. Introduction and welcome.

David welcomed everybody to the AGM in the Scout Hut.

2. Apologies for absence.

Apologies from Mike Day, Jeff Hurst, Hamish MacMillan, Emma Thornton, Andrew Sutherland.

3. Governance topics.

a. Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 23rd September 2024.

The minutes of the previous AGM held on the 23rd of September in 2024 were published on the website one week prior to the AGM.

Recommended: by Peter Turner, unanimously approved.

b. Note the Group's financial year.

The financial year runs up to the 31st of March 2026.

4. Review of the previous year.

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

Our Scout group continues to thrive with no let up with children eager to join Cookham Scouts with 196 young members from the age of 4 to 18 years of age. A big thank you to all our Section Teams for their continued dedication, time and commitment for providing outstanding Scouting at 1st Cookham.

The Beavers and Cubs held their usual camp in the May Bank Holidays at White Place Farm, whilst the Scouts held their annual Scout summer camp on the Gower.

The Bonfire Night and the Summer Fair remain as our main fund-raising activities. All the money raised allows us to subsidise all our activities and camps, and funding White Place Campsite once it is acquired.

After 40 years of service, Heather Hague has decided to retire. Heather has been a Cub Leader with 1st Cookham for nearly 30 years, helping to run numerous Scout Summer Fairs raising a lot of money through the silent auction. Nigel also stood down as chair of the Trustee Board. The Scout Group presented them both with a Red Letter Day voucher in appreciation of their service to Scouting in Cookham. The whole group wishes them both a well-earned retirement.

Our utmost thanks go to David our Trustee Board Chair, together with Tim our excellent treasurer, and Joelle our Group secretary who also manages all the admissions from our extensive waiting list, and the other Board members who all do a vital job.

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

The annual Statement of the Accounts was proposed by Tim Sharples and approved unanimously.

The fundraising is in line with the previous years, slightly less for the Bonfire and slightly up for the summer fair (due to the weather). Expenses are also consistent with the ones from last year. The group obtained £39,000 from the fundraising for the White Place Farm purchase.

We have £217,000 available for the White Place Farm purchase, £140,000 of those will be required to complete the purchase and cover the solicitors' fees. It is agreed to keep a £30,000 as a contingency fund, for instance for unexpected repairs (like the Hut roof).

White Place Farm update: we are still waiting on the solicitors to conclude on the documents.

Scouts' Hall maintenance: the roof has been redone; some electric work was carried out. The next step is to go ahead with some redecorating.

Montessori nursery: they have signed for a new lease, with new owners who are asking for extra time/days. David will meet with them and see if we can come to an arrangement that is agreeable to all.

5. Making appointments.

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

David Baddeley has now been the chair for a full year and has been proposed to carry on in his role.

Recommended by Andy Pearce and agreed unanimously. David Baddeley remains the 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 Dave Haines, unanimously approved.

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

Susie Felix had to step down from her role as a Trustee, our utmost thanks for all her help. Mia Fleming has been approved as a new Trustee.

d. Appoint the Independent Examiner of the Accounts.

Peter Austin was appointed as an independent examiner for another year. After 30 years of support, he would however happily step down. If someone else volunteers to do this role, the board will consider new candidates and do a swap-over.

Recommended: by Tim Sharples, unanimously approved.

e. Close.

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