



Annual General Meeting

Date: 23rd September 2023

Venue: Upton St Leonards Village Hall

Attendees

- Dave Hawkins (District Commissioner), Paul Trott (Group Scout Leader), Matt Dymock (Group Chair) and 20 other members of the Group Council

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Matt Dymock welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the reason for holding the AGM, reminding those present that as members of the Group Council, all were welcome to vote.

2. Apologies for absence

No apologies had been received.

3. Approve the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2022 AGM had been circulated prior to the meeting and **were duly approved**.

4. Governance Topics

A revised Group Constitution was proposed which takes account of the recent changes made by UK Scouting. These changes emphasise the Group's status as a charity and the responsibilities of its Trustees. Electronic copies of the Constitution were circulated with the AGM invitation and paper copies were available at the AGM itself.

One of the main differences is the renaming of the Executive Committee as the Trustee Board. The composition of the Board is unchanged but we are encouraged to delegate more to sub-committees which will require more volunteers than ever. **The revised Constitution was adopted.**

The Group Council also approved the following proposals

- A maximum of 6 members may be elected to the Trust Board
- The Group's financial year should remain as 1st April to 31st March.
- The number of people required to be present at meetings for decisions to be made should remain at:
 - Fifteen for the Group Council
 - Five for the Trustee Board, including at least two of Group Chair, Group Treasurer, Group Secretary and Group Scout Leader
 - Three members for sub-committees, including the sub-committee Chair

5. Review of the Previous Year

Paul Trott presented his Review of Scouting for the year and the Annual Report which had been approved by the Group Executive Committee.

There has been a step forward this year with more children and adult volunteers (both on Group nights and behind the scenes). Opportunities for the children have included sleepovers and canal boats trips as well as camping.

A Group Plan has been completed to identify goals and priorities and the first to be achieved is the opening of the Squirrel Drey.

The aims for the coming year are set out in the Annual Report, copies of which were available at the AGM as well as on the Group website.

Paul invited any further questions to be addressed to him.

Matt presented the Statement of Accounts explaining that there was a small deficit for the financial year ending 31 March 2023 of £2,000 due to inflationary cost pressures such as hall rental.

The Annual Statement had been produced in the required format and approved by the Group Executive Committee and the Independent Examiner, Nick Bishop. There being no questions the Annual Statement was received by the meeting.

6. Making Appointments

Paul reflected on Matt's first year in post, creating policies and procedures and establishing the Social and Fundraising Committee which had organised the AGM event. He was pleased to nominate Matt for the coming year and **Matt was duly elected.**

Current postholders Lois Sharpe (Group Treasurer) and Becky Amos (Group Secretary) were **nominated and elected for a further year.** There were no further nominations.

Current members of the Board Mr Mark Blake, Mr Tom Siddall, Mrs Sarah Mackenzie and Mrs Rishona Steward were willing to stand again and were **duly nominated and elected.**

The Group Scout Leader had no further nominations and the Group Council was reminded that other members can be co-opted during the year. Any interested parties should contact Paul, we would particularly like parents from the younger sections to be represented.

It was proposed that Mr Nick Bishop be re-appointed as the Independent Examiner of the Group's accounts for the coming year. **This was approved by the Group Council.**

7. Chair's Closing Remarks

In closing, Matt thanked Paul, Section Leaders, members of the Social Committee and all those supporting the Group for their work over the last year.

8. District Commissioner

The District Commissioner echoed Paul's thanks to those attending the meeting and to the Group volunteers. Only 3 of the 17 Groups in the District have Squirrel Dreys and it is an achievement to get this underway.

Wood badges for completion of training were presented to Rosemary Trott (Scouts) and Isabel Trott (Squirrels).

Signed.....

Chair

Dated.....