

1st Winchester Scout Group
Minutes of the 53rd Annual General Meeting held on 12/7/23

1. Present:

Parents, Trustee board and supporters (23 Group Scout Council Members).

2. Apologies were received from:

Christine Holt, Andy Canning and Robin Cook (District Commissioner)

3. Welcome:

Tom Shaw (Chair) explained the purpose of the AGM was to meet the legal requirements of the Charity Commission, to review the year from April 2022 to the end of March 2023, to confirm our Annual Resolutions, to elect the members of the Board of Trustees (formally known as the Executive Committee), and to set the scene for the year ahead.

4. Minutes:

The minutes of the 52nd Annual General Meeting that was held on 21 June 2022 had been made available to all members via a link in the AGM email sent out prior to the meeting.

The agreement of the minutes was proposed by Sarah Lodge and seconded by James Philp as a correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.

5. Trustees' Report

The Trustees' Report had been made available to all members via a link in the AGM email sent out prior to the meeting. Mike Wilson (GSL) gave a brief summary of the Trustees' Report and explained the report confirms various factual details of the Group, highlighting that we follow the Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) of the Scout Association and also those of the Charities Commission.

The agreement of the Trustees' report was proposed by James Philp and seconded by Melanie Gregorian. There were no objections.

6. Financial Report

The Financial Report was made available to all members via a link in the AGM email sent out prior to the meeting. Edwin Loverseed (Treasurer) provided the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2023. Ed fielded questions regarding the finances and budgeting for the running of the 1st Winchester Scout Group. Ed explained our external financial obligations such as the loan on the Scout Hut and our grant from the council which requires us to make the Hut available for the provision of an early years facility. The remaining Loan balance was fully paid off in the prior year. As well as the costs of running the Hut the other major expenditure is the capitation that we pay to the Scout Association for each young member. Accounts have been independently reviewed by Bruce Martin and the Group fundamentally remains solvent and in good standing. Ed thanked numerous people for their support with managing the finances including Pam Payne, Lucy Butterson, Lara, Amy and Paul Freeman.

The agreement of the Financial Report was proposed by Sarah Lodge and seconded by Suzy Wright. There were no objections.

6. Annual Resolutions

Tom (Chair) explained that a few changes have been introduced recently by the Scout organisation, notably the move from 'Executive Committees' to 'Trustee Boards'. This is primarily to align ourselves with the language of the Charities commission and reinforce the focus of Trustees to ensure good governance oversight and to maintain focus on supporting and assuring the organisation's strategic goals. He added that

considerable time had been spent looking at these changes, mostly by our District, and that fundamentally it doesn't change much for us regarding what we do. That said there are some subtle changes that are now reflected in the Scouts Policy Organisation and Rules (POR).

Every charity must have an agreed constitution. Although every charity can agree on its own constitution, it is strongly encouraged that we adopt the constitution as described in Scouts PoR. The model constitution in POR section 5.4 has been updated and describes the role, membership and operation of the Scout Council, and the Trustee Board.

Tom (Chair) proposed that we fully adopt, unchanged, the model constitution in POR 5.4 and asked if anyone present had any questions. No questions were asked.

The agreement to the constitution as described in POR 5.4 was proposed by Mike Wilson (GSL) and seconded by Matt Nation. There were no objections.

In addition to this constitution we are asked to pass the following annual resolutions that we will adopt for the year ahead:

Trustee Board

- a) There should be a maximum of 6 Elected Members to the Trustee Board
- b) Quorum should be 70% of the Executive Committee
- c) The Trustee Board may make decisions by telephone, video conferencing and/or email

Group Scout Council

- d) A minimum Quorum of 20 voting persons for the Group Scout Council
- e) That the Independent Examiner for the next year should be Bruce Martin

The agreement of the above resolutions was proposed by James Philp and seconded by Edwin Loveseed. There were no objections.

7. Trustee Board Nominations & Elections

Tom explained that we must elect or nominate members to the Trustee Board for the year ahead and that all members were standing again except for Gill Bowyer who is standing down. Tom expressed huge thanks to Gill who has taken on a number of roles over the last 5 years and notably has managed all of our direct vetting checks, stepped in to managed the hall booking, supported Mike Wilson as GSL Admin, and in the year just passed almost single handedly organised the Scout Quiz.

The GSL is a role nominated by the District Commissioner and Mike Wilson will continue to lead the scouting programme and work with our leaders to deliver scouting for the 1st Winchester Scouts

Mike (GSL) advised that it is for the GSL to nominate a Trustee Board Chair and proposed Tom Shaw continues in this position. He explained that Tom had previously taken on the role 6 months ago on an interim basis. The agreement of the Trustee board Chair was the seconded by Edwin Loveseed.

Tom reported that the members standing for election to the Trustee Board are:

- a) Mike Wilson Ex-Officio Group Scout Leader

b)	Edwin Loveseed	Ex-Officio	Treasurer
c)	Tom Shaw	Ex-Officio	Chair
d)	Isabelle Brady	Ex-Officio	Secretary
e)	Mike Hobby	Elected	Member
f)	Jonathan Robinson	Elected	Member
g)	James Philp	Elected	Member (and QM)

In addition the following Leaders have agreed to sit as Ex-officio members of the Trustee Board.

h)	Melanie Gregorian	Ex-officio
i)	Mark Weston-Smith	Ex-officio

The approval of these Trustee Board nominations was proposed by Adrian Lodge and seconded by Gill Bowyer.

8. Scout Awards

Mike (GSL) said he was heartened to see the Sections delivering programs and encouragement for the Young People to achieve their Bronze, Silver and Gold Scouting awards. He added that these 'top awards' at each age level require a degree of drive and commitment from the Young Person – the leaders can ensure that opportunities are available, but it is the mark of a focused beaver, cub or scout that they achieve their bronze, silver or gold award.

9. Looking ahead

Mike (GSL) said a little about the following points:

- The Family Fun day at Pinsent was well received and a similar event was being planned. He hoped that more volunteers and families across the Group will be able to join and a date would be shared soon.
- All the Sections have camps in their programmes - there is a Scout Camp later this month in Dorset, we had a beaver camp very recently, and cubs also had a great cycle camp in April. The Osborne SEN Troop have a camp in the New Forest in August.
- There are some very promising new volunteers coming on board, but, he asked everyone to consider if and how they, or others they know, might be able to help. He explained that there are lots of different ways to do this, with many hands making light work, and all the roles are rewarding. There are He asked anyone interested in volunteering to contact him or the other Exec members. Two areas are in particular need of volunteers- Training coordination and Webmaster.

Mike (GSL) expressed a big thank you to all the adult volunteers without whom we would have no Group - those that are in front of the Little People every week, and those that are supporting in all sorts of other ways.

Tom (Chair) asked all members to make a note of Sunday 3rd September when 1st Winchester are supporting the Littleton Show by managing the car parking. Lots of people/ volunteers are needed to rotate shifts during the day. Tom will be sending an email with further details but please ear mark the date for now.

Tom (Chair) then thanked Mike (GSL) for all his hard work and contributions to 1st Winchester

19. Tom (Chair) opened up the meeting to everyone and the following questions were asked:

- Hannah Stevens enquired about guidance for taking Cubs with special educational needs on camp whose parents were unable to join, saying she was keen for these Cubs not to miss out. Mike (GSL) agreed that Scouts is an inclusive organisation and suggested liaising with the Osborne group and Dave Kesby would be helpful for guidance.

- Mike (GSL) raised the possibility of setting up Squirrels for the pre Beaver age group. There are certain practical difficulties because our hut is occupied with the nursery until 6pm and most evenings with existing sections. A weekend slot is being considered. James Buckland spoke about a group in Southampton who had managed to introduce Squirrels and contacting them maybe helpful. Mike (GSL) asked anyone interested in setting up Squirrels to contact him.
- Sarah Lodge asked everyone to think about how attendance at AGM could be improved. A quick poll suggested that the majority felt a virtual AGM meeting was preferable to a joint social face to face event. Johnathan suggested wording the AGM email differently so that members are more inclined to join.

The meeting closed at 21.19pm

--- END OF MINUTES ---