

11th High Wycombe (Hazlemere) Scout Group

AGM 22nd November 2023 -19:30 at Widmer End School

MINUTES

Present

Steven Pease, John Summers, Malcolm Walters, Anne Greenhill, Allan Hill, Steph Owen, Duncan Greenwood, John Shore, Clare Francis and Joanna Sawkins

Apologies for absence

John Friel, Tom Dell and Ross Summers all sent their apologies

Malcolm welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

1 – Minutes of previous AGM report: Minutes were agreed.

2 – Governance Topic:

- a) All agreed to adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules. John noted there would be further changes in Jan'24.
- b) Finance – Anne would speak about the treasures report later on in the meeting.
- c) It was agreed that for the trustee board, the POR would be followed and there would be between 5-12 members. Each member could hold the position for 1-3years before being re-appointed.
- d) The Quorum for the Group Scout Council meetings (AGM) and the Group Trustee Board was decided on 6 people – 1/3 trustees plus 1.

3 – Review of previous year: Malcolm - As of 1st Jan'24 there will be new safe guarding yellow cards and posters. The posters need to be displayed at all meetings. New safe guarding rules state that any safe guarding concerns (mental, physical etc) need to be reported directly to the HQ and the dedicated Safe Guarding team would deal..

Steve mentioned new rules ref registering for courses – if you are booked on a course and then cancel, you will automatically be suspended until the training is completed. Too many leaders are booking on a course and then cancelling, re booking etc and the time lapse is too great.

The figures for the District are looking good and are just below pre-covid levels. Children are up by 6.2 and Adults are up by 2.8. It is thought these numbers will increase before the census.

Steve mentioned that the District are looking for new leaders. They are looking into a new scarf and this is at the approval stage. The District are hoping to make use of the new Scout Hut when it is up and running.

Malcolm mentioned the idea of setting up a Squirrel Drey once the hut is up and running. This would need more adults as a greater adult:children ratio, and the adults would need more training due to the age of Squirrels (4-6yrs). To be looked into further once in the Hut but Malcolm and Allan are keen to get the Squirrel Drey up and running.

Mention of setting up an Explorer Group. Steve explained that Explorers can not be connected to 1 specific Scout Group and work as a satellite group. Currently 1 Explorer Group who run in High Wycombe over 2 nights, but they have high numbers so a further Explorer Group would be welcomed. The group would be run by District and again this will be looked into further once the hut is up and running.

4 – Receive Annual Report of the Trustee Board and Statement of

Accounts: John noted that group remained solvent, however moving forward new ways to raise funds was needed in order to continue to provide a worthwhile activity programme for all members. The cost of materials for building the new hut are still rising and the cost of living will have an impact with the rise of water and electricity prices.

Steph asked if the new hut could be rented out to generate further income. John explained that the Scouts could charge to hire the hall out, but only to non-profit community projects and not to a business. Malcolm was mindful of the residents on Beaumont Drive - the car park at the hut had been expanded to try and alleviate resident's concerns and the hut would not be used late at night with loud music.

John explained that he is still in negotiation with the council ref the new lease for the land – this has been on going since 2016. The price rise has been in dispute for the past 3 months. Still lots of time left on the current lease so no immediate concerns.

Anne spoke about the accounts (report online). The Woodland Explorers loan will start to accrue interest – should receive further information about this in Jan. The interest will go up due to the increase in inflation. Since the 3 groups have resumed activities, there has been an increase in Subs which is welcomed. Anne mentioned introducing a software package to help with the accounts moving forward. Anne stressed the importance of getting parents to sign up for Gift Aid as this generates a lot of money.

Steph questioned whether OSM could be used for payments as this would make it easier and less time consuming for leaders to keep track of the finances.

The Trustee are happy for leaders to use OSM more and get full advantage from it. Steph currently uses OSM successfully for 30 Cubs and said she was happy to help other leaders in using it.

There is an option to agree to Gift Aid on OSM which Steph is using to encourage all Cub parents to sign up for.

It was agreed there would be another meeting to focus on OSM and how the leaders can get the most out of it at a later date.

The statement of accounts was accepted.

5 – Appointments:

Group Chair - Malcolm nominated John to continue to be the Group Chair. John agreed but said he was looking to step down in the not-so-distant future – he would want a ‘less’ role. Malcolm said he had asked a number of people to stand for chair and it was a challenge to find someone to replace John. He said he would put it out to parents once the hut was up and running and things were more stable and hoped someone would step forward. All agreed that John would continue in his role for now.

Secretary – Clare said after 5 years she would like to step down as group secretary. Everyone thanked Clare for her hard work over the years. Malcolm proposed Joanna for the new secretary and John seconded this. All agreed.

Treasurer – Anne said she was happy to continue being the group treasurer so John proposed Anne and Malcolm seconded this. All agreed.

New members to the trustee board – no new members for the board. It was decided that this would be looked at again when the hall was up and running as some leaders may want to be part of the trustee board.

Examiner – Anne said that Tracy Fountain was happy to continue her role as the independent examiner. All agreed.

Steve presented John and Clare with a 5 year certificate and badge in recognition of their hard work over the past 5 years.

6 – Any Other Business: It was decided that another meeting would be held after 31st March’24. Due to low numbers attending the AGM, it was proposed to hold the AGM during the summer months and at an event where parents are already in attendance. Steph proposed a ‘Grand Opening’ of the new hut in the summer, giving time for the hut to be used and iron out any teething problems. A big event with a BBQ for all parents and John mentioned inviting supporters of the new build e.g. local councillors and local building merchants. All agreed this was a good idea and to be looked into further.

Meeting concluded at 20:40