

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 11th Hucclecote Scout Group
6th March 2018

Those Present:

Mark Gaulton (Chair,) John Morris (GSL,) Hannah Bradley (Treasurer,) Jeff Hall (Gift Aid,) Selena Nield, Andrew Barton, Chris Edmunds, Graham Thomas, Adrian Hughes, Jim Harley, Terry Newland, Denys Matthews, Steve Plant, Tracy Maguire, Matt Hall

Apologies: Jackie Burge, Nikki Hughes, Chris Slater, Pete Shute

Minutes. Minutes of the last AGM were agreed.

1. Chair's Report

MG welcomed everyone to the AGM, in particular the new members of the Committee and started by explaining the purpose of the AGM.

MG stated that looking back over the last 12 months, which had been his first year as Chair, it had been another successful year for the 11th Hucclecote in providing a diverse programme of scouting. This is due to dedication and hard work of the leaders, young leaders, helpers and committee. MG extended his sincere thanks to everyone for their continued investment of time and commitment.

Monthly Committee Meetings have remained inclusive of the leaders as well as the committee members. This has allowed sharing of ideas, knowledge, opinions and created a sound working relationship.

MG presented his report details

- Hannah Bradley, as Treasurer is our “conscience” when it comes to the finances. In addition to the usual monthly Group Finance reporting to the committee, she has delivered the change of bank from NatWest to TSB. I’d like to say it has been a smooth transition, but unfortunately it has been rather painful! MG thanked Hannah for everything she had done in the year and especially persevering with completion of the transfer. MG also extended his thanks to John and Hannah for obtaining a credit card reader!
- Gift aid has continued to provide us with a welcome source of funding. As well as diligently ensuring we can claim as much as possible, he has ensured that changes in personnel have been updated in HMRC. MG thanked Jeff very much for his dedication and perseverance in getting in the gift aid.
- Tracy continues to provide an invaluable service to both scouts and the committee by ensuring that we get printed letters/leaflets etc out to parents. MG extended his appreciation and also recognised her for the help in pulling together the Group Introduction pack and standing in as secretary when she has been able.

- Adrian has taken on the maintenance of the website from Paul Day, who left the committee in the summer of last year. He has delivered the transfer of the website to a new hosting facility as well as revamping the look and updating content received from the sections. MG extended his appreciation to Adrian for his hard work and drive to improve our 'shop window'.
- MG formally thanked Selena, Graham, Denys, Simon, Jim and Matt for joining the committee and for either already submitting their forms or recognised they were in the process of doing so. MG articulated that his view that the committee is now in a good place and was confident we could now move forward.

MG then went on to list some of the things the committee had delivered this year:

- Security lights (installing new ones & adjusting existing ones)
- Removal of fly tipping outside fence
- Council cut back bushes at the back
- The fire extinguishers had been replaced/refilled
- MG also thanked Pete and Chris for sorting out the cub area in the loft, it just leaves the scout/explorer and Group areas
- He had also facilitated two planning sessions and was in the process of writing up the plan for committee approval

In addition to the behind the scenes activities, the committee has also provided the following:

- Helped on Founders Day – thanks to other parents too for setting up, clearing away and raffle prizes.
- Lawn mowing through two of the dads, MG wanted the minutes to reflect his thanks to Steve and John for that.
- Quiz and Curry Night. MG also announced another one is planned, and he couldn't wait to hear Steve narrating songs again
- Involvement in the running of Father & Sons camp
- We held another successful Halloween/Fireworks night. MG extended his thanks to Peter Newland for running the fireworks
- Christmas meal – thanks went out to Chris for organising this again
- We now have a Facebook Policy – thanks to Denys for creating this.
- We now have an extended list of 'Friends of the Committee' who are willing to help as and when they can.

MG wrapped up his summary of the year by stating that he was extremely grateful for all the help and advice the committee and it's Friends provide him and he felt immensely proud of what we have achieved. Looking forward, there are a number of things planned for this very exciting year for the Group and MG listed a few:

- 90th anniversary
- 40th anniversary of Father & Sons
- Completion of the land purchase.
- Delivering and enacting a plan to uplift the hut – I was hoping to have put this to the AGM, but unfortunately, I have just not had the time to write it up. I will bring it to the committee in the next month or so.
- Policy updates

This completed the Chair's report for the year. Once again he extended his sincere thanks to everyone involved in the running of a very successful and popular Group.

2. Treasurer's Report

HB presented the Treasurer's report

HB stated that moving the group bank account from NatWest to TSB has taken a long time. Once MG has been set up with internet banking everything will be completed.

Action: MG stated that he would like to build a forecast per annum moving forward

MG thanked HB for her report and recognised the good state of the accounts.

3. Secretary's Report

No report from the Secretary this year.

4. Group Scout Leader's (GSL) Report.

JM endorsed the Chairman's dedication.

JM outlined the success of the Hucclecote 11th in attracting young people by noting that:

- There are 17 groups in the District
- With Upton St Leonards being the biggest
- There are 90 young people in Hucclecote 11th and 22 adults

JM went on to say that this is a reflection on the quality of our leaders. However, we have no long term resilience – we need to find new leaders.

- 45% of leaders are parents – lots of whom have been part of the Hucclecote 11th as young people
- 45% come from young leaders – we need to ensure that they are mentored effectively. We should have an induction pack.

JM continued by saying this was his challenge for the leaders over the next year.

MG thanked JM for his report and echoed the need for succession planning. He also recognised JM's work as GSL, including being the Safeguarding Officer. **Post meeting note:** MG would also like to extend his appreciation for JM's involvement in moving the purchasing of the land forward.

5. Beavers.

As JB was unable to attend, she submitted a report for Monday Beavers, which MG read out.

18 Beavers attended the Gloucester North Fire Station in July. They learnt about the safety of

having a smoke detector in the house, and what to do if they discover a fire. They all got to sit in the engine and have a play with the hose. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it, even a Beaver who had his arm in plaster.

11 members attended Dick Whittington and his Cat Pantomime at the Everyman in November. Tweedy of course made the whole pantomime memorable - everyone was thoroughly in the Christmas spirit afterwards.

8 members attended the Who Kidnapped Santa? Sleepover in December. A thorough investigation took place after the Beavers discovered that Santa had been kidnapped. Lots of detective work took place, including finding the elves and other members of Santa's family, but no Santa was found. He was eventually released after a very long night, however, he didn't have time to make a long stop, as being kidnapped put him a whole day behind, so he dropped off selection boxes for all the children and explained that as they had all helped find him, he would try his best to make sure they got everything that they wanted for Christmas.

Currently have 14 invested Beavers, 3 uninvested and 2 new starters. No waiting list at present.

Upcoming events:

- Climbing at the Warehouse on 16th April.
- Tubing at Gloucester Ski Slope on 18th June.
- Camps Got Talent Sleepover was originally going to be 23rd July but schools don't break up until 25th. Will probably be 27th/28th July but will be confirmed shortly.
- Pantomime in November – Aladdin.

As NH was unable to attend, she submitted a report for Thursday Beavers, which MG read out.

Thursday Beavers have had an exciting year. I'm sure all who attended will agree that two of the highlights of the past year have been our outdoor Gruffalo themed sleepover and our indoor Christmas sleepover with a visit from Santa Claus himself. Without a Nights Away Permit in our colony, thanks goes to Rishona Steward (Upton St Leonards Cubs and Active Support Leader) for stepping in as permit holder for both of these events.

Over the year, the Beavers have participated in a wide range of activities including:

- Caving and bouldering at The Warehouse Climbing Centre
- A Benchball tournament against St George's Beavers
- Science experiments
- Summer water fun
- Tesco Farm to Fork Trail
- Spaghetti towers
- Halloween and Christmas parties.

In October 2017, they welcomed Ashleigh Lawn, as an Assistant Beaver Leader in the colony. The end of 2017 saw them say goodbye to Tony McAndrew and NH thanked him for all of his time and efforts over the many years he has been part of the group. This led to her own role switching from Assistant Beaver Scout Leader to Beaver Scout Leader. The current leadership team now stands as follows: Nikki Hughes (BSL), Greg Warman (ABSL), Ashleigh Lawn (ABSL) and Matt Day (YL).

After difficulties with leader shortage in the New Year, due to my own absence, whilst I complete my final school teaching placement with university, NH extended her thanks to John Morris for stepping in and providing a fantastic programme for the Beavers, including an exciting visit from a magician.

She also thanked her Dad, Adrian Hughes, who had taken on the Beaver colony finances and helped set up a new bank account with TSB, allowing them to move to online banking and electronic payments. This has helped us to remove the need for cash to be taken to and from the hut and has also been the perfect opportunity to update our signatories on the account. Since April 2017, we have awarded 6 Chief Scout Bronze Awards and a grand total of 183 badges overall (thanks to OSM no maths was involved in working out that total!). As has been discussed, we have continued to use OSM, as it has been an effective way to keep track of children's badgework and share our termly programme and children's progress in badges with their parents. Our waiting list continually grows, with the next available spaces extending to beyond January 2019. We currently have 21 Beavers in our colony, however, there are 7 children currently on the waiting list who are already 6 years old. This has shown a positive increase in interest in Scouting over the past year, with a waiting list that has more than tripled in size, however, poses a problem as we cannot increase numbers due to the limited spaces available in the Cub pack.

JM – added that he had been doing a lot of badge work with the Thursday Beavers and the Global Issues badge work had been completed, they were halfway through the Safety badge and will soon be moving on to the Communicators badge.

MG extended his thanks to JB and NH for providing their respective reports and also to JM for supporting Thursday Beavers whilst NH is completing her final teaching placement. He also thanked them for their dedication to the Beavers and it was due to this that they were in such a strong position.

6. Cubs

In the absence of PS, CE presented the Cubs report. He started by listing the many activities they had provided this year:

- March 17 – Visit to Tesco as part of their Farm to Fork project for healthy eating. Several Cubs completed their Naturalist badge.
- April 17 – Good attendance at the St George's Day parade.
- May 17 – The Cubs completed Navigator stage 1
- June 17 – 9 Cubs took part in the District Sixers and Seconders wide game at Robinswood Country Park.
- July 17 – Cub Camp at Cranham with 'Outlaws of Sherwood' theme. The Cubs took part in Archery and completed the Backwoods cooking badge. Cubs also completed the Athlete activity badge. Andrew organised a City Walk as part of the Local Knowledge badgework. To end the Summer term we ran a Parent and Cub night, with games, quizzes and problem solving.
- September 17 – The Pack went on an evening hike.
- Simon Shaw, who is one of our Dads, organised a night making and launching water rockets.
- October 17 – Robinswood Country Park conservation project.
- November 17 – Pack Holiday at Cranham Indoor Centre. The Camp had a 'Pantomime' theme and the 18 Cubs who attended earned their Entertainment badge.

- There was a visit from the Police Canine unit who brought along one of their drug search dogs.
- 10 Cubs took part in bag packing at Sainsburys. Remembrance Day Parade was attended by 26 Cubs.
- December 17 – Once again a fun filled Christmas Party.
- January 18 – District Cub Quiz – Two teams represented the Pack, with one of the teams winning the District Shield. 34 Cubs completed the Home Safety activity badge.
- February 18 – An evening of Circus Skills was held by The Shooting Stars Circus. The Cubs learned a variety of circus skills and a brilliant night was had by all.
- Founders day was attended by 14 Cubs, which was disappointing.

Several Cubs have moved up to Scouts during the year, with most of them gaining their Silver Chief Scout Award.

Additional badges earned have included; Outdoor Skills, Our World, Personal and Team Work Challenges, Hikes Away and Nights Away.

At the end of 2017 Cub numbers peaked at 40. Numbers have now settled at 36. Cubs to Scout and Beavers to Cubs should level out over the next few months. Currently we have a waiting list of 5.

MG thanked CE for presenting the Cub Pack report and recognised all the efforts of the Cub leaders in providing such a varied programme. Again the numbers were in a strong place because of this.

7. Scout's Report

SP presented his report.

- Currently running at 21 Scouts
- Over the next 18 months, these numbers will significantly rise
- T N has been focusing on badgework and there has been lots of badges completed over the last three months
- Camps over the last year have included: Rudford, Mayhill and York
- 9 Scouts took part in the Cotswold Marathon
- There have been numerous sleepovers at the Hut
- St Georges Day and Remembrance Day Parades attended
- Fundraising with The Explorers to raise money for the Austria trip in the Summer

SP stated he was looking at 'Strategy' Camp for the Scouts who are not going to Austria – this is run more like an activity weekend, rather than a traditional Camp.

SP thanked all the Scout leaders, helpers and occasional helpers, including DM who has been very proactive in keeping their Facebook site up to date.

MG thanked SP for his report and the continued hard work he puts in to running the troop and he also thanked TN, DM and HB for their added support in running the Scouts

8 .Explorers

Action: Explorers to submit a report

9. Election of Officers.

Chair: Mark Gaulton was re-elected. Proposed by Steve Plant. Seconded by Chris Edmunds.

Treasurer: Hannah Bradley was re-elected. Proposed by the Mark Gaulton. Seconded by Terry Newlands.

Secretary: Selena Nield was elected. Proposed by the Mark Gaulton. Seconded by Hannah Bradley.

Election of existing committee members. Proposed by Mark Gaulton, seconded by all committee members.

Mark Gaulton proposed ex officio membership of the committee to all section leaders. John Morris seconded this.

10. Any Other Business

JH informed the committee that he wishes to stand down by the end of the year.

JM said that James Newman will be taking on the role of Assistant GSL in the near future and he will be informing the District in due course.

MG stated that he is looking at recruiting a Vice Chairperson for the committee.

MG thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.