**1st Emsworth Scout Group**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Scout Hut, Conigar Road. 27th September 2023**

1. **Opening Prayers**

The meeting was opened with a welcome and prayer read in French by members of the Scout Troop

1. **Chairman’s Welcome and brief report**

Ian Wright the Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending, as part of the meeting this year we will need to approve the new Constitution and this will need to happen at each AGM moving forward. He also welcomed Deputy DC Victoria Edwards to the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Hilary Walker, Sarah Harris (Treasurer), Kelly, Ian and Julie Stacey

1. **Minutes of last AGM approved at Executive Meeting**

The minutes of the previous AGM were approved.

1. **Group Scout Leaders Report (GSL)**

Michael Croucher (GSL) thanked everyone for attending the meeting and also the Scout Troop for their hard work in preparing for a French themed evening. The GSL provided a review of the last year including highlights such as the reopening of a second Beaver Colony which has 18 new members. He thanked all of the leaders for their hard work across the year. There is a plan to open a Squirrels section this year with a target of the end of October, there are currently 40 names of the list of potential new Squirrel members and there is also still plenty of interest in joining Beavers.

The Group is always looking for volunteers as it takes a large team of people to run the Group effectively, this weekend there are a group of 80 going on a camp with an age range of 6 to 17.

1. **Treasurers Report and election of Independent Examiner**

As Sarah Harris was unable to attend. Ian gave a summary of the accounts and advised that they are available on the website for people to view them

In the last year the Group have seen a drop in our surplus by approx. 6k, this is due to us spending more on activities and camps. Scouts is a non-profit organization and the aim is to provide a first class Scouting experience to our members.

As a group we do need to keep a reserve in case there is no income.

Ian thanked Sarah for the work she does on the accounts.

No questions were raised.

The accounts were approved, proposed by Pete and seconded by Richard Jarczyk

Wendy Hodgson of David Bailey Accountants was nominated as our Independent Examiner, proposed by Ian Wright and seconded by Stuart. Appointed unopposed.

1. **Approval of Group Constitution and associated matters**

IW explained that due to changes in Scout POR (Policy, Organisation and Rules) that as a Group we need to formally adopt a new Constitution. 2013 was the last time that the Groups Constitution was amended. At future AGMs we will need to adopt the Constitution each year. As part of the changes in the Constitution and POR the Exec Committee will become a Board of Trustees. The minutes of the AGM will be verified at the next Trustee meeting and then will need to be formally approved at the following years AGM.

The new Constitution was proposed by Katya Porter and seconded by Richard Jarczyk, there were no objections

Once the Constitution was adopted we are now operating under the new rules so there were several items that needed to be agreed and will need to be agreed each year. Those items are listed below.

Date of the Financial year – 1st April to 31st March

Quorum – At Trustee Board meetings there must be a minimum of 4 members in attendance, it was also noted that the Chairman does not have a casting vote in the event that there is an equal number of votes cast for and against a particular motion, therefore a minimum of 75% will be needed for approval.

At Scout Council meetings (including the AGM) there need to be 150% more members of the Scout Council present than members of the Trustee Board attending, as an example if there are 6 members of the trustee board present then there must be a minimum of 9 members of the Scout Council for any votes to be valid.

The maximum number of members to be elected to the Trustee Board is 6.

The above were Proposed by Gordon Frost and Seconded by Peter Britton.

1. **Approval of the Group Scout Leaders nomination of Chairman**

Michael Croucher thanked Ian for the support he offers both to the group and to the GSL. Ian has offered to carry on as Chairman for the following year.

All those present were in favour of Ian’s appointment as Chairman

1. **Election of Secretary**

Andrew Wright has agreed to carry on as secretary

Proposed by Richard Jarczyk and seconded by Gordon Frost, no objections were raised – carried unanimously

1. **Election of Treasurer**

Sarah Harris has agreed to carry on as Treasurer for the forthcoming year.

Proposed by Pete and Seconded by Peter Britton. All present were in favour of Sarah’s appointment as Treasurer – carried unanimously

1. **Group Scout Leaders nominees to Group Executive Committee**

Michael Croucher nominated Richard Jarczyk - Carried unanimously

1. **Election of further members of the Group Executive Committee**

Katya Porter and John Forster were nominated, proposed by Hannah and seconded by Rebecca Chambers. There were no objections to this

Elected Unanimously

1. **Adjournment of AGM**

Next years AGM will be held no later than 30th September 2024

The meeting closed at 7.54pm

Following the adjournment of the meeting Victoria Edwards gave a short update on the changes to the District and then presented a number of awards to members of the Group