**1st Emsworth Scout Group**

**Scout Council Annual General Meeting**

**Scout Hut, Conigar Road. 12th September 2024**

1. **Opening Ceremony at 7.20pm**

The meeting was opened with a welcome address by members of Drake Cub Pack with an Olympic themed procession of flags.

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

Ian Wright, the Chairman, welcomed all present to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. He also welcomed the Hawk District Chairman, Ian Rowney to the meeting.

##### GOVERNANCE

1. **Apologies for absence**

Sarah Harris (Treasurer), Andy Wright

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

The minutes of the previous AGM for 2023 had been circulated to everyone prior to the meeting and posted on the web site and were approved. These have already been approved by the Board of Trustees on 16th Oct 2023.

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

IW explained that under section 5.4 of Scout POR (Policy, Organisation and Rules) we need to formally adopt the Constitution every year. The minutes of the AGM will be verified at the next Trustee Board meeting and then will need to be formally approved at next years AGM.

The Constitution operates 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.

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. As there are over 20 member present this meeting is in Quorum.

The maximum number of members to be elected to the Trustee Board is between 5 and 12 – currently 7.

1. **Financial Year**

The Date of the Financial year was announced as – 1st April to 31st March

1. **Appointment of Community members of the Group Trustee Board**

Currently there are no community members on the Board of Trustees.

1. **Trustee Board**

It was agreed that the Trustee Board shall consist of 5-12 members as per the constitution

1. **Quorum**

The quorum for Scout Council meetings including the Annual General Meeting, was set at 150% of the Trustee Board. The trustee board is currently 7 therefore quorum is 10.5 agreed to be 10.

1. **Quorum for Trustee Board Meetings**

The quorum for Trustee Board meetings is 50% of members plus 1. This is 3 plus 1 = 4

##### REVIEW OF THE LAST YEAR

1. **Group Scout Leaders Report (GSL) now Group Lead Volunteer (GLV)**

Michael Croucher (GSL) thanked everyone for attending the meeting and also the Cubs for their introduction and the Beaver leaders for putting on the refreshments and decorating the hut with Olympic flags. The GSL provided a review of the last year including highlights such as the opening of the Squirrel Dray in September last year and plans for a second dray this year.

He thanked all of the leaders for their hard work across the year. The Group Camp last Summer was challenging when the site chosen as the venue was closed at short notice. The scramble to find an alternative venue resulted in a very successful camp – the first post COVID camp.

MC thanked all the leaders and especially Hilary Walker who has stepped down from Cubs, after over 35 years in different sections and has helped in setting up the Squirrel section – she is also remaining a part of the Group by carrying out other tasks to support the leadership team.

MC then thanked Richard Jarczyk – who stepped down from Cubs this term after approaching 20 year as a leader. He is taking over of chair of the Group as well as other roles to support the leadership team.

The Group is always looking for volunteers as it takes a large team of people to run the Group effectively.

1. **Trustees Report**

IW gave his final report as Chairman of the Group. He outlined the challenges faced in the running of the Group. This report was posted on the wall and will be posted on the Web site to view. IW explained that the Board of Trustees meet approx. 6 times a year – alt months to discuss all the issues facing the Group and formulate plans to deal with them.

**Accounts**

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 as well as posted on the walls in large format to view

In the last year the Group have seen a drop in our surplus by approx £7k. This adds to the deficit of £6k last year meaning the group has lost £13k from its reserves in the past 2 years. As a result of this it has been necessary to increase the subs from £144 per annum to £180. This is the first increase in subs for 10 years. Scouts is a non-profit organization and the aim is to provide a first class Scouting experience to our members, however the Group does have increasing costs associated with running the group including Insurances, Capitation fees payable to HQ and increased energy costs heating and lighting the hut, repairs and equipment replacement. The Annual Subs cover all activities (except camps) meaning no additional monies are sought as part of delivering Scouting activities each term.

As a group we do need to keep a reserve in case there is no income such as was the case during the pandemic where we were unable meet face-to-face for months but continued to deliver scouting.

Ian thanked Sarah for the work she does on the accounts, and she is now stepping down to be replaced by Andy Grice.

##### APPOINTMENTS

1. **Appointment of Chair of the Trustee Board**

**Chair -** IW explained that he was standing down as Chair after 34 years and was handing the role over to Richard Jarczyk. This appointment was made by the Trustee Board and so no formal vote is required to appoint under the new constitution.

1. **Appointment of Treasurer**

Sarah Harris is standing down as treasurer this year and the Trustee Board has approved Andy Grice as the new Treasurer.

1. **Trustee Board nominees to Group Trustee Board**

IW announced the appointment of Gordon Frost and Steven Duffy to the board of Trustees. He also advocated anyone else that wishes to be involved to approach any members of the Trustee Board for consideration.

All Trustees are limited to an initial 3-year term, with a maximum of 3 terms – 9 years in total.

Katya Porter and John Forster continue to be on the Board of Trustees for a further 2 years having been appointed last year.

1. **President and vice President**

These roles are currently unfilled but remain as a future option is needed.

1. **Appointment of Independent Examiners**

Wendy Hodgson of David Bailey Accountants was nominated as our Independent Examiner, Appointed unopposed.

1. **Adjournment of AGM**

Next years AGM will be held no later than 30th September 2025

The meeting closed at 7.50pm

Following the adjournment of the meeting Ian Rowney (District Chairman) gave a short address to the meeting with thanks to the Leaders and to the Scouts receiving their awards for all their hard work.

The presentations concluded at 8.05pm.