

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 1<sup>st</sup> Kesgrave Group Scout Council

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2017, 6.15pm,  
Kesgrave Scout Hall



**Present:** Full details of attendees are attached to the original minutes. The total number of those present was estimated to be in the region of 200+.

**Chairman's Welcome:** – Mr President, Honoured Guests, Leaders, Supporters, parents and young people, welcome to the Annual Group Meeting for 2017.

Since our last annual group meeting at the family camp at Vauxhall Farm, the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have been very busy enjoying the many activities led by the leaders and helpers. The previous minutes and financial reporting in summary and detail forms have also been available to peruse at your leisure.

In April 1927, the Kesgrave Scout Troop was officially formed with the first investitures being made close to St George's Day that year, so that makes us 90 years old this year. To celebrate this, we will shortly be having a BBQ and early next month an exciting camp for the young people, leaders and volunteers of the group will take place at Vauxhall farm once again (meeting after this AGM).

My sincere thanks to the volunteers who make this group achieve what it does for the both the adults AND young people in helping to build their confidence and life-skills required in this day and age. The video playing shows how these are used in various situations and activities – so have a look if you haven't already – warning – it's a 2-hour video of nearly 2500 pictures that are from the group's website from 2016/17.

So, to all the scouting leaders and assistants, please accept my sincere thanks to you all for supporting the group and leading in the areas and sections that you do.

If you are not associated directly with a section, your volunteering time is also very gratefully accepted to ensure the group can provide the resources it needs to meet the scouting activities planned whether a role on the committee or as a supporter helping with fund-raising activities.

Thank you ALL very much for what you do.

You may remember that the main HQ team had a publicity drive about waiting lists of 50,000 young people waiting to join the movement and the lack of leaders. It's really highlighting taking the next step-up from being a helper to being a leader that was the main thrust of this publicity drive and our group is no different.

We can always do with volunteers to help with activities to keep the group running and this help can take many different forms, whether it's giving some help to set out the monthly jumble sale or assisting or leading a section or giving a presentation about a subject of interest related to our badges that you may have some knowledge or experience of, it would be very welcome. Please contact Gareth, the GSL or a section leader if you would like to offer some help.

The Freemasons are celebrating their 300th anniversary and are giving us the chance of a grant to help with leader training. You can help by voting on-line – details are on the notices distributed and on the group's Facebook page, so please vote by end of July!

On with the rest of today's official business before some more activities!

1. **Apologies:** were received from: Jane Dickinson, Tracey Scase, Adrian Slim, Tony Smith, Tracey Vobe
2. **Minutes of the previous AGM:** The minutes of the 2016 AGM had been made available to attendees. Carl Gloess asked if these represented a true record. Agreed by all present. Carl Gloess signed a copy.

- 3. Group Scout Leader's Report:** Yet again it is a pleasure to introduce the successes in our Scout Group over the last year. I won't stray too much into the "programme" activities of the beavers, cubs and scouts - their leaders can tell you much more than I can!

As many of you will be aware, we have implemented a new online administration tool, Online Scout Manager to help streamline the administration for our leaders. We think this is working well from our side, but if you have any questions or issues can you please let either myself, Mark Davey, Luke Sumpter, Alan Comber or Celia know and we can hopefully help!

In our 90th year, 1st Kesgrave Scout Group has over 300 members, with three quarters of those being young people (our beavers, cubs and scouts). Over the last year cubs saw an increase in membership of 10 cubs, beavers increased by six and scouts remained broadly the same. This cements our place as the largest scout group in the district and county. We are one of the largest scout groups in the country and one of few our size meeting on one site (others have been created through mergers).

This excellent increase in our membership does however bring with it some challenges! Two years ago we opened a fourth beaver colony to accommodate the 20+ six year olds waiting to join beavers. Two years on they are old enough to move to cubs, and yes - we need to accommodate them, and there isn't enough room in the three cub packs! We are therefore looking to open a fourth cub pack to provide our exciting programme to more young people.

This excellent scouting, as you will see later cannot happen without the creativity and commitment of our excellent team of volunteers, the section leaders and section assistants who put ideas into action - we would not be here without them! The last year has brought some challenges (paid work keeps getting in the way!) and we've shuffled some people around so the same faces are here in slightly different roles - flexibility is key. I would be lying if I said we had enough adults in section leader or assistant roles, we're just about managing! We could do a lot more with a handful of additional volunteers!

There are a group of people in our group who are rarely seen at section meetings, nonetheless they play a vital role in our group - our supporters. At jumble sales, executive committee meetings, hall bookings, health and safety, leader training, Christmas Fayres, maintenance... the list goes on! [Maybe get them to stand up?] Adlib

As we are in our 90th year I thought I would set us all a challenge. In the next year, if 90 new people could volunteer, it might just be once to set up the jumble tables on a Friday evening or packing away on Saturday lunchtime or it could be to commit to once a month to be a section assistant in beavers, cubs or scouts. You may be an administration whizz and could help organise the committee that interviews leaders as part of our Safeguarding policy. It might not even be you! It could be a relative, friend, neighbour, colleague. You can speak to anybody and we can find something for you!

That's the challenge; can we all do our best to help other people and make our scout group even better? Our scouting activities would not exist without the commitment and dedication of our team of volunteer section leaders and assistants. Over the year we have said goodbye to some familiar faces but also welcomed some more! They give hours of their time to ensure our young people get the best experiences possible - thank you! As we look towards the next year, my focus is to ensure we maintain our high quality scouting and ensure we recruit new leaders to allow that to happen - could that be you?

- 4. Treasurer's Report:** Celia Comber presented an overview of the annual accounts which were available for those interested to review. Income for the year from Scouting Activities was £35K with expenditure mapped against that of £45K, Hall income of £15K against expenditure of £21K meant the hall cost the group £6K to run. However, Celia pointed out that without the hall to use for group activities and meetings rent would need to be paid elsewhere. Fundraising provided the group with substantial income of £21K and when added to the investment interest of £1,763 the group had an overall surplus for the year. This means the group is in a sound financial position for projects in the forthcoming year such as replacing hall doors and a new storage shed in the yard. After asking if there were any questions Carl Gloess proposed approval of the accounts which was agreed by a show of hands.
- 5. Section reports:** Paul Clack representing the Beaver section outlined activities over last twelve months. These were all linked to the Beaver motto "Fun and Friends". He issued congratulations to Beavers for all they have achieved and also to parents for keeping up. As part of the balanced programme they had worked towards over 15 badges. Beavers is all about three things – new friends, having fun and learning new skills.

Karen Trickey representing the Cub section reported on a hectic time in the Cubs calendar. In the last year the Cubs 100 celebrations had been completed and the Cubs had taken part in district events. There are 98 Cubs across three packs and the leaders wouldn't be able to run activities without support of parents. Karen highlighted some of the community events they had taken part in; dementia awareness, dementia friendly match at Ipswich Town Football Club, Air rifle competition. Lots of nights away had been achieved at different camps throughout the year and lots of different badges have been awarded.

Alan Comber representing Scout section reported on another very active year. There are approximately 60 scouts at present. Highlights included Cycle Camp, Summer Camp, Walking Weekend, Outdoor Challenge Weekend. At a national level the troops had been represented in archery, JOTI/JOTA. County events that had been taken part in included Wet Weekend, Thorpeness Meare day and Climbing Weekend. District level activities included Link Camp, canoeing courses and St George's Day parade. 6 Chief Scout's awards have been presented. Thanks to parents for their support was also noted.

- 6. **Group Scout Leader's nomination for Chairman:** Gareth Cox nominated Carl Gloess, which was seconded by a show of hands. Carl accepted the nomination.
- 7. **Election of Secretary:** Gareth Cox proposed Karen Turner, which was approved by show of hands.
- 8. **Election of Treasurer:** Gareth Cox proposed Celia Comber, which was approved by show of hands.
- 9. **Election of representatives of the ten sections:**

Gareth Cox proposed the following representatives who were all elected unanimously by a show of hands.

Fynn Beavers	Tim Asti
Gipping Beavers	Tina Shute
Lark Beavers	Laura Thornton-Coates
Stour Beavers	Matthew Chapple
Bader Cubs	Jonathan Ashley
Constable Cubs	Elaine Armstrong
Wolsey Cubs	Vacant
Tuesday Scouts	Carole Brown
Thursday Scouts	Alan Oliver
Explorers	Nick Heppleston

- 10. **Nomination of other members of the Executive Committee:** Gareth Cox proposed the following representatives who were all nominated unanimously by a show of hands

<i>Group Vice Chairman</i>	Andie Morris
<i>Hall Bookings Secretary</i>	Judith Francis
<i>Health and Safety Advisor</i>	Alan Brown
<i>Outdoor Activities Advisor</i>	Jo Saagi
<i>Fund Raising</i>	Carol Ball
<i>Fund Raising</i>	Jean Bridle
<i>General Purposes</i>	Tony Smith
<i>General Purposes</i>	Tracey Vobe
<i>Rupert Fison Centre Director</i>	Alan Comber

- 11. **Section leaders choosing to sit on the Group Executive Committee:**

<i>Beaver Leader Representative</i>	Luke Sumpter
<i>Cub Leader Representative</i>	Tracey Scase
<i>Scout Leader Representative</i>	Adrian Barker
<i>Raedwald Unit</i>	Sam Slater-Smith

## **12. Beaver, Cub and Scout of the Year awards:**

The following young people were announced as winners of this year's awards. The awards will be presented to them in their section meetings.

### ***Beavers***

*Fynn*

*Gipping*

*Lark*

*Stour*

*Haiden Hall*

*Oliver Brown*

*Max Margetts*

*Ethyn Smy*

### ***Cubs***

*Bader*

*Constable*

*Wolsey*

*Joshua Emmerson*

*Erin Lavender*

*Benjamin Woodley*

### ***Scouts***

*Tuesday Scouts*

*Thursday Scouts*

*Matthew Adams*

*Alex Oliver*

Following this Gareth Cox presented Gerald Woods with an award for 25 years' service to Scouting.

**13. Any other business:** Carl Gloess asked if anyone present had any other business to discuss. There was none.

The meeting closed at 7.00pm and was followed by a barbecue.