

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 1st Kesgrave Group Scout Council

Friday 14th June 2019, 7.30pm,
Kesgrave Scout Hall



Present: Signing in sheets attached to original copy of minutes.

Apologies: were received from: Alan Brown, Carole Brown, Jane Dickinson (CC), William Donnelly, Alex Leggett, Julie Lovett (DC), Peter Mason, Mervyn Scase, Tracey Scase,

- 1. Chairman's Welcome:** – Appendix 1.
- 2. Minutes of the previous AGM:** The minutes of the 2018 AGM had been made available to attendees via email and printed copies at the meeting. Carl Gloess asked if these represented a true record. Proposed by GX, Seconded by LC. Agreed by all present. Carl Gloess signed a copy.
- 3. Group Scout Leader & Section Leaders' Reports:** It has been a year of consolidation at 1st Kesgrave with the number of people in our scout group exactly the same as last year! Our total membership this year was 322 which, although unchanged since last year, shows that we are at capacity. We remain by far the largest scout group in the county and one of the largest scout groups in the country. I have yet to find a group which has a "single location" with as many members. We were also successful in accommodating the vast majority of young people wanting to join beavers in the term after their sixth birthday, a first in a long time!

This year has seen our young people travel further, higher and wetter than ever before. Our skilled leadership team has ensured our programmes are full of exciting and challenging activities. What is significant is that our young people are getting more and more opportunities to feed their ideas into the programme of activities and shape their scouting. Creating our leaders of the future both within and outside of scouting is one of our big aims and we continue to build independence and resilience in our young people.

Our group could not function without our expert volunteer support team behind the scenes. Many of these people are 'below the radar', helping out at jumble sales, taking bookings for the scout hall, preparing and organising the Christmas Fayre, completing maintenance jobs at the hall, paying bills and organising our finances. There are too many of them to name but it is important to acknowledge the important part they play in our Scout Group, thank you!

Our scouting activities would not exist without the commitment and dedication of our team of volunteer section leaders and assistants. The scout group runs on volunteering and scouting runs through our volunteers like the message in a stick of rock. They give hours of their time to ensure our young people get the best experiences possible - thank you! We always have change in the leadership team, and there is always an opportunity for more people! At the moment I am looking at needing at least five leaders to join the group to be "comfortable" by September. A further five leaders have suggested they would like to change their role and reduce their weekly meeting load by the end of the year. If I were running a company, I would be advising the board that the supply of leaders was our biggest risk - and it is for the group. If we don't have the adult volunteers committed to giving up their spare time we don't have the sections and 250 young people won't get access to scouting. This needs to be a focus for everybody, not just the existing team, but every parent/carer - could you do something? Do you know someone who could? Scouting volunteering isn't just about working with young people. My role involves the direct line management of over 70 people. In the "standard" model of a scout group, I would be line managing about 10 people! Perhaps you or someone you know has the skill set to manage and motivate a (smaller than 70) group of adults rather than a group of 25 young people!

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 you play a part in that?

Gareth Cox, Group Scout Leader, June 2019

4. **Treasurer's Report and Approval of Accounts:** CG spoke about the annual accounts and explained the figures contained in them. A summary document was circulated to those present as well as full copies of the annual report. CG asked if anyone had any questions. There were none. CG asked those present if they accepted the accounts. Agreed unanimously by show of hands. CG expressed thanks to Celia Comber for all the hard work in preparing the accounts.
5. **Reports from Sections:** Paul Clack showed a video made by the Beavers, Lesley Creasey read a report on behalf of the Cub leaders and Alan Comber spoke about the Scout Troops.
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 eleven sections:**

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

Fynn Beavers	Vacant
Gipping Beavers	Vacant
Lark Beavers	Jonathan Ashley
Stour Beavers	Vacant
Bader Cubs	Steve Browne
Constable Cubs	Vacant
Ransome Cubs	Vacant
Wolsey Cubs	Vacant
Tuesday Scouts	Vacant
Thursday Scouts	Sarah Linsell
Explorers	Vacant

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>	Nick Heppleston
<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>	Carole Brown
<i>Cub Leader Representative</i>	Tracey Scase
<i>Scout Leader Representative</i>	Michelle Higgins
<i>Raedwald Unit</i>	Sam Slater-Smith

12. **Any other business:**

- a. **Presentations by GC:** Michelle Higgins – Wood badges and 10-year service certificate, Jono Ogden – 5-year service certificate

b. **Ivan Dadswell** – gave CG a bag which he had been given in 1982 by Skip Terry which contains some of the old records of the group which he wished to add to the archive. CG gratefully accepted these on behalf of the group.

c. **SS** – explorers had been to help with a Beaver meeting at Hallowtree. Section leaders to ask SS if they would like the explorers to help at their meetings.

d. **CC** – leaders to let her know which young people are being presented with awards later in the term.

The meeting closed at 8.22pm and was followed by refreshments.

Appendix 1

Chairman's Address AGM 2019

Mr President, Honoured Guests, Leaders, Supporters, parents and young people, welcome to the Annual Group Meeting for 2019.

Shortly we will be sending 5 young people on a special adventure to the World Scout Jamboree in the USA. It hasn't been an easy journey so far for some of the contingent since they attended the selection process, received the news that they had been given a place and all the work that followed to raise the funds for their ticket and more. The 'and more' is because of an element of solidarity funding to enable less fortunate young people around the world to attend the event. All these young people will meet, share stories, make friendships and many memories to last a lifetime. We will get to hear about their experiences once they return but for now we wish them all well for the trip.

I would like to say a really special THANK YOU to our volunteers who make this group achieve what it has done and continues to do in helping to build confidence and life-skills required in this day and age – and that's for all the people in the group, young people and adults alike - and that's what Scouting is all about... being prepared with skills for life.

Thank you ALL very much for what all of you do.

I am very pleased to say that special recognition in the form of a Good Service Award was made at the St George's Day parade for two of our volunteers. Gareth Cox, our GSL, was awarded the Award for Merit and Gerald Woods the Commendation for Good Service. Thank you both for what you have done and continue to do!

Volunteers 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.

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

Are there any Apologies please?

Carl Gloess
Chairman