

**Minutes of 40th Annual General Meeting of
1st Woosehill Group Scout Council
20:00, Friday 9th July 2021
via Zoom online**

1. Group Chairman's Welcome and Introduction

- 1.1. Nicky Roberts took the chair and welcomed those present on behalf of the leaders and Executive Committee to the 40th Annual General Meeting of 1st Woosehill Group Scout. Nicky also introduced Stuart Faria (Treasurer), and Amanda Parker (GSL) who would be presenting reports during the meeting.
- 1.2. Nicky welcomed the representatives from Wokingham District, namely Steph Gould (District Chair) and Neil Graham (District Commissioner).

2. Apologies for Absence

- 2.1. Apologies were received from Martina Smith, Sarah Dempster, Shelly Smith, Steve Kelly and Sam Pedder.
- 2.2. A list of those present is presented at Appendix 1.

3. Approval of minutes of 39th Annual General Meeting

- 3.1. The 39th Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, 7th July 2019 had been circulated via OSM in advance of the AGM.
- 3.2. There was one correction, point 12 should read 'Election of members of Group Executive Committee' not 'Election of co-opted members of Group Executive Committee'. These were then proposed for approval by Fiona Fairhead and seconded by Craig Koch.

4. Group Chairman's Report

The last year was another unusual one for our busy and active Group who is celebrating its 40th year in existence. I am happy to report that the group had only small drop in membership numbers compared to last year with 100 young people and 27 adult volunteers recorded at the 2021 Census in January.

The Exec Committee has been mostly consistent for the year. A huge thanks to Roberta Goodey who has now stepped down from looking after Hall Bookings for a number of years. Steve Kelly has taken over this role and we intend to open up bookings to the general public from September as long as there are no government restrictions in place. Another big thanks to Martin Bishop who is stepping down as Maintenance Manager. He has supported our group in this role for 5 years and will be missed. We are now looking for a replacement so please get in touch with me if you would like to learn more about this role.

Amanda Parker our GSL has been actively involved with all the sections this year. Enough leaders were recruited to keep Kingfishers Beavers going which has been a huge achievement.

Key comments relating to the Executive Committee during the 2020-21 Scouting year:

Fundraising and Grants/Donations – We have been unable to hold any actual face to face events this year.

- Please continue to use Easyfundraising.com, which has earned us over £258 to date for no work at all – please add us to your favourites!
- We also have registered with Amazon Smile. You can link 1st Woosehill Scout Group to you amazon account and every time you order a percentage will be paid to us from Amazon.
- Income from hall bookings has been low this year but in the second half of the year Platform YP asked to hire the hall twice a week to restart their lessons. This has worked really well with lockdown requirements and Platform YP will continue to use the hall for the foreseeable future.
- Total fundraising (excluding rental) this year was still £81 considering we have been unable to run any events.
- We plan to start back with events from September and are always looking for new volunteers to share the load, it's very much a team effort
- John Staunton, a parent and employee of Dulux/AkzoNobel put us forward for a donation from their Community Fund. We were successful and the donation of £1000 has gone towards the toilet refurbishment. So big thanks to them.
- We were also successful in obtaining government support grants totalling £20,240. Thanks to Steve Capel for applying on our behalf

Website :

- run by Martin Rowan, includes recent reports, photos and news items

Maintenance:

Back in December 2020 it was discovered that the main hall parquet flooring had lifted in places. Upon investigation Steve Capel confirmed that the reason for this was damp penetrating from outside through the floor slab. A team of volunteers took to digging a trench alongside the concrete foundations of the hut following the perimeter of the main hall. This has allowed the damp course under the floor to dry. We also borrowed dehumidifiers from parents to speed up the drying process inside. The plan is now to fill the trench with gravel and landscape the surrounding grass area to allow for flow of water around the hut to protect the foundations.

We have also made improvements to the drain pipes to allow rainwater to flow away from the hut into the main drains. The plan for later in the year is to make improvements to the soakaways which are currently under efficient.

We held a Summer 2021 working party which included gutter cleaning, picnic tables treated with preservative, weeding and general tidying up. Many thanks to Martin Bishop, Amanda and Iain Parker and all the volunteer parents who turned up to help.

We still plan to refurbish both the toilets. We have appointed an individual to undergo the work and hope this project will be completed by the end of the year.

Again, many thanks to Martin Bishop for being our maintenance manager for the last few years.

General Exec Issues:

- We have had a stable team for the last year, but currently there are two vacancies, Fundraising and Maintenance; As I said earlier Martin Bishop has stepped down as Maintenance Manager, so if you could help the group by coordinating maintenance, minor repairs, upgrade projects and routine inspections and certification please get in touch. We also need a fundraising lead to help coordinate the fundraising team, look at reintroducing some of our existing events and bring some new ideas and a fresh approach to hopefully increase our fundraising income for this current year.
- Our aim is to get some Beaver and Cub scout parents involved, to help guarantee continuity of OUR Scout Group.
- We have a group camp booked for next year during the queen's platinum jubilee bank holiday celebrations so look out for the invitation email in the next few months.
- For the future we are confident that scouting will be back to normal and we are planning to celebrate the groups 40th anniversary in a non-socially distanced manner!

5. Treasurer's Report and Approval of Accounts

- 5.1. The 2020-2021 accounts were circulated by email to all members and parents of the Group before the meeting.
- 5.2. The Treasurer's report was presented by Stuart Faria. Stuart referred to the Receipts and Payments accounts and Statement of Assets and Liabilities.
- 5.3. If you have any queries regarding the accounts, please email Stuart Faria or the Chair. The accounts were proposed for approval by Steve Gray and Marc McGurk and no one opposed the Accounts.

6. Group Scout Leader's Report

1st Woosehill Scout Group has certainly done its absolute best despite all the challenges it has faced this year. The support from 'Team 1st Woosehill', which includes the Executive Team, Section Teams has been determined, resilient and flexible. Our dedicated Section Leaders, who for many months spent their work days on zoom, still found enough energy in the evenings to bring scouting in ingenious ways to our young people via the wonders of technology. Many other groups were not able to provide scouting over the last few months so well done Woosehill.

I think a mention must go to the new leaders who, despite not meeting any other adults or young people face to face, completed training and join our merry team. Thank you to all the leaders for their Risk Assessments (RA's) keeping us all Covid and activity safe. Wokingham District Scouts has provided lots of support with our Group RA's and the county training team have been busy behind the scenes.

There really was great excitement and relief when we were finally allowed to meet up face to face outside at the end of the Spring term. Camp-fires marked the end of another scouting lockdown. The scout hut grounds and building have been kept in order by Martin, Andrew, Steve and Iain over the winter ready for face to face scouting to commence.

I would like to say thank you to all our young people and parents for embracing scouting via Zoom and giving us your continued support. Hopefully this will be the last

year we have our AGM via Zoom, but it does mean all 1st Woosehill supporters who wish to join us are able to.

The Summer term has worked extremely well with activities and meetings planned for outdoors (we are now allowed indoors) and despite being at the mercy of the great British weather I believe all but one meeting has been indoors. I believe that is the advantage of scouting as a whole ...we love to be outside.

All sections have been out and about; hiking, cycling, raft building, kayaking, growing, quidditching pioneering, orienteering to name just a few adventures.

I look forward to another year of happy fun and safe scouting. Amanda

7. Section Leaders' Reports (previously distributed via email)

- 7.1. The Section Leaders' reports had been electronically distributed to their Beaver, Cub or Scout parents and Nicky invited everyone to make sure they read the reports as they are a fantastic advertisement for our wonderful scouting adventures.

8. Group Scout Leader's nomination of Group Chairman for approval by Group Scout Council

- 8.1. A nomination for Nicky Roberts to stand as Chairman of the Group Executive Committee was made. There was a show of hands in favour, none against and no abstentions. There being no other candidates, Nicky was elected unopposed.

9. Election of Group Secretary

- 9.1. A nomination for Sarah Dempster to stand as Secretary of the Group Executive Committee was made. This was proposed by Amanda Parker and seconded by Emily Mason. There were no other candidates, so Sarah was elected unopposed .

10. Election of Group Treasurer

- 10.1. A nomination for Stuart Faria to stand as Treasurer of the Group Executive Committee was made. This was proposed by Andrew Jordan and seconded by Fiona Fairhead. There being no other candidates, Stuart was elected unopposed.

11. Declaration of section leaders continuing as members of the Group Executive Committee

- 11.1. Section leaders must be requested to opt in to be trustees of the group. Fiona Fairhead, Craig Koch and Steve Gray all have agreed to be trustees and all have signed appropriate forms.
- 11.2. We currently have three section leaders for Scouts, two for Cubs, one for Swifts Beavers and a team of joint leaders for Kingfishers.

12. Election of members to the Group Executive Committee

12.1. This was proposed by Sue English and seconded by Steve Gray. The Members were elected to the following posts:

Post	Candidate	
Quartermaster	Marc McGurk	Marc McGurk agreed to continue in the role of Quartermaster.
Maintenance	Vacancy	
Hall Bookings	Steve Kelly	Steve Kelly agreed to continue in the role of Hall Bookings.
Facilities Coordinator	Sarah George	Sarah George agreed to continue in the role of Facilities Coordinator.
Fundraising Manager	Vacancy	

13. District Representative's address

Steph Gould thanked the group for the invite and was pleased to see some old and new faces. She congratulated us on continuing to run through the pandemic and was showing as a healthy group in accounts and young people numbers.

Neil acknowledged that we are a fantastic group and thanked us for everything we do for the young people of Wokingham.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 A nomination for Keat How (parent of scout) to be our independent Auditor of Accounts was made. This was proposed by Stuart Faria and seconded by Nicky Roberts.

15. Close

Thank you for all attending this AGM.

Appendix 1

Name	Role
Nicky Roberts	Group Chair
Amanda Parker	GSL
Steve Capel	Scout Leader
Steph Gould	Wokingham District Chair
Neil Graham	Wokingham District Commissioner
Sue English	Assistant Beaver Scout Leader
Nicky Hopkins	Assistant Cub Scout Leader
Andrew Jordan	Group Supporter
Ross Anderson	Assistant Cub Scout Leader
Fiona Fairhead	Scout Leader
Craig Koch	Scout Leader
Martin Bishop	Outgoing Maintenance Manager
Stuart Faria	Group Treasurer
Emily Mason	Beaver Scout Leader
Sarah George	Assistant Beaver Scout Leader
Steve Gray	Cub Scout Leader
Marc Mcgurk	Quartermaster