

**Minutes of 41st Annual General Meeting of
1st Woosehill Group Scout Council
17:15, Saturday 11th June 2022
at Scout Hut**

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 41st 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 Tony Haywood (District Executive)

2. Apologies for Absence

- 2.1. There were apologies from Martina Smith, Lydia Harrison, Sam Peddar and Mark McGurk.
- 2.2. A list of those present is presented at Appendix 1.

3. Approval of minutes of 40th Annual General Meeting

- 3.1. The 40th Annual General Meeting held on Friday 9th July 2021 had been circulated via OSM in advance of the AGM. The minutes were proposed by Amanda Parker and Fiona Fairhead, no one opposed the minutes.

4. Group Chairman's Report

The last year has been very much 'back to business' for our busy and active Group who is celebrating its 41st year in existence. I am happy to report that the group has grown in the last year from 100 to 132 young people and an increase from 27 to 32 adult volunteers recorded at the 2022 Census in January.

The Exec Committee has been consistent for the year. A huge thanks to Marc McGurk who is stepping down as Quartermaster. He has supported our group in this role for the last 4 years and will be missed. We have been successful in replacing Marc with Myles Harrison who has a child in Kingfishers Beavers.

Amanda Parker our GSL has been actively involved with all the sections this year. She has recruited new leaders for most of our sections which has been a huge achievement.

Key comments relating to the Executive Committee during the 2021-22 Scouting year:

4.1. Toilet Refurbishment

This was finally completed just before Christmas last year. We removed all furnishings from both the boys and girls toilets, replacing them with modern sanitaryware and clean and wipeable cubicles and doors. This overhaul included a purpose-built disabled toilet with access from the hallway which has been fully aligned to the relevant standards.

The total cost was just under £20,000. On behalf of the Executive committee I would like to thank our builder, Steve Jauncey, for completing this refurbishment in a timely

fashion and within budget. I'd also like to thank Amanda Parker for her careful management of the project.

4.2. Fundraising and Grants/Donations

We haven't managed to hold any fundraising events yet but as the community around us is getting back to normal we plan to start getting our presence out there at local events and start to fundraise again.

- Please continue to use Easyfundraising.com, which has earned us over £260 to date for no work at all – please add us to your favourites!
- We also are registered with Amazon Smile. We raised just over £28 last year. You can link 1st Woosehill Scout Group to your amazon account and every time you order a percentage will be paid to us from Amazon.
- Income from hall bookings has been steadily increasing this year. We currently have the Woosehill Toddler group and Diddi Dance as our regular hirers and there are a couple more activity groups joining us after the summer holidays.
- Total fundraising (excluding rental) this year was still £51.28 considering we have been unable to run any events.
- We are planning some events for later this year including a quiz night for parents and a stall at the Wokingham winter fair in November. We are always looking for new volunteers to share the load, it's very much a team effort
- We were also successful in obtaining government support grants totalling £7810. Thanks to Andrew Jordan for applying on our behalf.

4.3. Website :

The Website is run by Martin Rowan and it includes recent reports, photos and news items. We have now made the scout hut booking form available online so potential hirers can get all the relevant information to us quickly which then means we can respond back quickly.

Maintenance:

Since work was done to prevent the main hall parquet flooring lifting, we have seen a marked improvement with only a little lifting. Now the foundations have dried out the next job is to waterproof them and then fill in the trench around the hut with stones and gravel. We then plan to tidy up and landscape around the building

We held a Spring 2022 working party which included gutter cleaning, weeding the car park and general tidying up. Many thanks to Amanda and Iain Parker and all the volunteer parents who turned up to help.

Future plans are we would like to do some work on the car park adding more gravel. The exec is also considering new projects including a permanent, waterproof outdoor area.

4.4. General Exec Issues:

We have had a stable team for the last year, but currently there are two vacancies, Fundraising and Maintenance; These role descriptions can be found on the website and if this is something you could help us with, please get in touch

Our aim is to get more Beaver and Cub scout parents involved, to help guarantee continuity of OUR Scout Group.

We had to cancel our group camp that was booked for this year due to clashes with other events over the Jubilee bank holidays. We hope to hold one next year.

I'd like to finish with some thank-yous. Firstly, to the executive committee who tirelessly work in the background to keep the group going. I'd also like to thank Amanda Parker and her group of leaders/Assistant Leaders and section assistants who keep scouting alive in Woosehill with their weekly sessions and exciting activities every term.

5. Treasurer's Report and Approval of Accounts

5.1. The 2021-2022 receipts and payments accounts and statement of assets and liabilities were circulated at the meeting to attendees by Stuart Faria, Treasurer.

5.2. The treasurer then highlighted key points to note on the accounts.

Overall for the year there is a deficit of just over £10,000 reducing the total funds held to just under £50,000. This is largely due to the toilet refurbishment project using almost all the £20,000 capital reserve and offsetting the general fund surplus of just over £10,000.

Generally most receipts and payments have increased significantly this year compared to last year reflecting the fact that a more or less full programme was run compared to the Covid affected programme of the previous year.

The three exceptions to this are gift aid, grant & donations and camp expenses. Gift aid is explained by it being claimed a year in arrears, so it is actually the claim for previous year where subscriptions were reduced due to the Covid imposed remote meetings. The grants & donations for both years are anomalies being almost entirely made up of the government Covid grants to business rates payers and are unlikely to be repeated in future. The camp expenses are due to last year including the refunds of fees paid for the Wings camp that was postponed and then ultimately cancelled due to Covid.

Lastly you will see that we have separated out the effect of the scholarship programme that was introduced in May 2020.

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 Simon Coleman and no one opposed the Accounts.

6. To Appoint the Independent Examiner

The Independent Examiner, Keat Howe was proposed by Stuart Faria and Nicky Roberts. There were no objections.

7. Group Scout Leader's Report

Scouting at Woosehill is finally and properly back to normal after the Covid pandemic restrictions and it is a huge relief to us all that face-to-face scouting can take place anywhere without restriction. As much as we all love the scout hut grounds, we needed to escape and take scouting safely further afield. This has been reflected in

the diverse activities the leaders have planned for our young people this year. These activities have included cycling, horse riding and train rides for our youngest members.

This year has seen scholarship program has continued and we have been able to offer scouting to a young person who because of financial constraints otherwise be unable to access scouting, Thank you to Steve Grey for the referral.

Safety is at the heart of scouting, and I am extremely proud of our safety record. The leaders make a huge effort to ensure RA are completed, pre activity visits are made so that our children can have such a safe and rewarding scout experience.

Thank you to Steve Capel for helping to keep up our training especially First aid training and for supporting me through my training assessor training.

In September I was able to support the cubs during their camp at Paccar. It is always such a privilege to spend time with such kind, respectful and fun young people and be part of an adult team who share scouting values. Ask your young people if they can remember the 5 things we can learn from Canada geese!!!

Planning for camps (which the Scouts excel at) and activities safely takes a huge amount of energy time and passion. The section leaders and their teams make this look so easy, but hours of preparation go into this seamless 'production'. I would like to say a huge thank you to them. I am proud to be part of this team.

The Scout HQ building and grounds at Woosehill are managed and maintained by volunteers from the Executive Committee supported by our leaders and parents. Turning up to support maintenance afternoons is an important way parents can help us to keep on top of our long list of jobs. The committee do an amazing job behind the scenes keeping our premises safe.

This year we have been able to upgrade the existing scout hut toilets and add a disabled accessible toilet. These changes have really made a significant difference to all who use our HQ. From a scouting perspective it means leaders and our young people no longer need to share the toilets. (We plan to complete the outside trench work by September. This will help improve drainage in the scout hut grounds and help stop the wooden floor in the main hall from bulging when the weather is very wet. We are waiting for a period of settled weather to complete this job.)

Baden Powell tells us that the purpose of the Scout Movement is to build men and women as citizens endowed with the three H's - Health, Happiness and Helpfulness. I believe our leaders at Woosehill provide opportunities for your children and young people to be happy, have lots of fun free from stress and develop skills which will set them up for life. Thank you for letting your children be a part of scouting at 1st Woosehill this year. Amanda.

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

- 8.1. 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.

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

9.1. A nomination for Nicky Roberts to stand as Chairman of the Group Executive Committee was made by Amanda Parker and Fiona Fairhead. There being no other candidates, Nicky was elected unopposed.

10. Election of Group Secretary

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

11. Election of Group Treasurer

11.1. 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 Ian Parker. There being no other candidates, Stuart was elected unopposed.

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

12.1. 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.

12.2. We currently have 3 section leaders for Scouts, 2 for Cubs, 2 for Swifts Beavers and a team of joint leaders for Kingfishers.

13. Election of members to the Group Executive Committee

13.1. This was proposed by Amanda Parker and seconded by Fiona Fairhead. The Members were elected to the following posts:

Post	Candidate	
Quartermaster	Myles Harrison	Myles Harrison is the new 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	

14. District Representative's address

Tony Hayward from the District Executive said a few words. He said a big thankyou to everyone for all the work they have done over the past two years. He appreciates all the work everyone has done, and the improvements made to the scout hut.

He said that he still recognises people in scouting and has met with some familiar faces today.

15. Any Other Business

Andrew Jordan raised the question about whether the group will run a Squirrels group. The Chairman and GSL raised concerns about capacity at the hut (whether there would be a slot free in the timetable), leaders and the impact on Beavers places. We will review in the future.

16. Close

Thank you for all attending this AGM.

Appendix 1

1ST Woosehill Scouts AGM 2022 – Meeting signup sheet

Name	Role
MYLES HARRISON	QUARTER MASTER
STEVE GRAY	CUB SCOUT LEADER. - HAWKS
Fiona Fairhead	Scout leader
Louis Parker	Scout Helper.
Tony Hayward	Diskid Exec
NICOLA ROBERT	CHAIR
Stuart Fairhead	Scout helper
ADRIAN ROBERTS	Helper
STUART FARIA	TREASURER
ANDREW JORDAN	SUPPORTER
Amanda Parker	GSL
Sarah Dempster	Secretary
Emily Mason	Beaver Scout leader.
IAIN PARKER	Centre Helper
Selina Johnson	Parent.
Simon Coleman	Buzzards.
Steve Cooper	Buzzards