



Minutes of the 1st Grundisburgh Scout Group AGM 2021

A social distanced Annual General Meeting was held outside the Scout Hut on the 18th September 2021 at 4pm followed by a BBQ open to all members families.

Group Scout Leader Stuart Ross welcomed everyone to the Meeting, explaining how good it was to start meeting people after a year and half of restrictions. Leaders, Members from other Scout Groups, Members of the Parish Council, and friends and supporters from other organisations were all present.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for unable to attend were received from Group Chairman Phil Stebbings, Sam Brown, Anne & Clive Willetts, Nicola Hobbs, Peter Kendall, Geoff Caryer, Pat Waine, Ian Wynn, Jo Saagi, Adam Thorpe, Alan & Celia Comber, Andy Vobe, Keith Haddock, Richard Garnham, Pat Hall, Tracy Kearney, Sally Talbot, Gill Girling, Alison Garrod, Rosie Venn and Colin Grimwood.

2020 ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS:

Due to Covid-19 there was no AGM last year. The report was audited by Christine Wade a registered Chartered Accountant and approved by the Committee and Trustees. It can be viewed on the website. Financial figures of 2020 are included in the 2021 Annual Report and Accounts.

SCOUTING REPORT:

Group Scout Leader Stuart Ross summarised what has happened with the Group in the past and will be coming up in the future. Like all Scout Groups across the UK they have felt the effects of Covid-19 but the lockdown gave the Scout Group a chance to spend time on projects such as maintenance. Walls have been painted, storage improved, overhanging trees and thick bushes removed, bicycle rack installed, plus the entrance door colour has changed to Scouting purple.

Since being allowed back to meeting face to face from April onwards the Group has accelerated out of the starting blocks with 33 additional new members across the four Sections. The Group welcomed 9 new Young Leaders now working across the Sections of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

Previous Young Leaders Ryan Swain, Lorna Banham and Ben Huxley have become Adult Leaders and it is really pleasing to see them working within the Group. Lorna is now going to university but will stay in touch and the Group wish her well as she has been brilliant in restarting the Beavers after lockdown. Newly appointed Section Assistants Mike Walls and Daniel Turner have been fantastic at Cubs providing lots of support. Stuart gave personal thanks to our other Section Leaders who have been essential for the continuation of the Group for several years now.

The Scouting Association are rolling out a new division for young children aged 4-6. This new Section is called 'Squirrels'. These are mainly developing in deprived urban cities and there will be a slow phasing in with Groups who wish to hold a 'Squirrel Drey'. 1st Grundisburgh has 9 members on the Beavers waiting list that could start in Squirrels but there are no immediate plans to start one, however the Group is open to offers from adults wishing to open a Squirrels Section.

Now that Scouting is back after lockdown, the Group are hoping to offer more camping opportunities and to get the parents more involved especially as the Group is growing. There is currently 24 Beavers, 22 Cubs, 23 Scouts and 18 Explorers with a long waiting list for Beaver places. There is a desire for Scouting in the Village, and the Group need make sure it continues by running creative and adventurous programmes whilst building a strong team that can work together and deliver a much-needed asset - a New Headquarters.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Carly Richmond delivered the Financial Report for last year. 2020 to 2021 was a very difficult year with all the disruption the pandemic brought. The main aim was to ensure the Group could cover essential costs during this time. In the absence of the usual Scouting activities, main expenses included maintenance and redecoration of the Scout Hut and the purchase of equipment from Kit Crew, the kids holiday camp company. The Group focused on reducing other costs where possible and switched energy supplier which has led to a saving in electricity bills.

In terms of income, the Group received over £1000 in gift aid from HMRC from previous years claims. Fundraising was hit hard by the pandemic with much of the 2020-2021 proceeds coming from the textile bin. The Scout Group did benefit from several government grants during the pandemic. In November the Group received £1334 which covered the insurance premium which is the largest operating expense outside the membership fees to the Scouts Association.

Further grants were received which covered lost fundraising income and allowed the Group to pay the membership fees to the Scouts Association without having to charge members the usual subscription fees, though several families did make donations.

After being gifted a £500,000 Legacy from the Nigel Batchelor estate, the Group received a further Legacy of £150,903.12 from the estate of John Batchelor which has also been allocated for the new HQ fund. This second legacy has been split between two new bank accounts. Despite the difficulties and disruption of the pandemic, the general fund covering Scouting activities remains healthy and the new HQ fund has increased.

APPROVAL OF 2021 ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS:

The 2021 Report was approved by a majority vote. No-one was against and the report will be signed off by Chair and Treasurer when the Chair returns from holiday.

ELECTION OF MAIN SCOUT GROUP COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

The following people were proposed as Group Chair, Group Secretary and Group Treasurer who were willing to stand again.

- Philip Stebbings – Group Chair
- Patricia Ross – Group Secretary
- Carly Richmond – Group Treasurer

All were approved by a majority show of hands with no-one against.

Due to their Leadership role in the Scout Group, all Section Leaders are automatically approved as Ex-officio Members of the Scout Group Committee. Also, as part of our Partnership Agreement with Fynn Valley Explorer Unit their Section Leader is also automatically approved onto the Committee.

ELECTION OF PARENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE COMMITTEE:

The following Parents were proposed as Parent Representatives onto the Scout Group Committee

- Paul Boswell
- Roger Brash
- Rowena Rogers
- Chloe Turner
- Daniel Turner
- Caroline Warren

All were approved by a majority show of hands with no-one against.

NOMINATION FROM THE GROUP SCOUT LEADER FOR MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE:

Group Scout Leader Stuart Ross nominated the following people to become Members of the Scout Group Committee with new roles created.

- Alison Banham – Deputy Chair
- Jason Banham – Advisor for the New HQ/General Member
- Dave Brown – Assistant Explorer Leader/General Member
- Christina Poguntke – Minutes Secretary
- Mike Walls – Cub Pack Section Assistant/General Member

All were approved by a majority show of hands with no-one against.

CO-OPTED MEMBERS FOR THE COMMITTEE:

There was no Co-opted Members to the Committee this year, however, in the future further people may be chosen by the Scout Group to form a Sub-Committee regarding the new HQ project.

As in past years a Representative of the Guiding Association within the different Village Sections have been co-opted onto the Committee. As of 2021 their Sections have closed and lay dormant, but should they restart then the Co-opted position will be offered.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR:

Due to the Legacies gifted to the Scout Group within the last two years the services of a chartered accountant were required to audit the accounts. It is unlikely that the Scout Group income will be over the threshold levels for accounting, therefore Stuart proposed to use Celia Comber a General Accountant and 1st Kesgrave Scout Group Treasurer to be auditor again for next year's accounts.

Celia was approved by a majority show of hands with no-one against.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Stuart updated everyone with the latest progress on the new HQ project. It is believed that Lord Cranworth is still in favour of the Group obtaining the piece of land behind the hut, but final decision has not been made as it is awaiting the result of the Chapel Field housing development. The decision on Chapel Field has been put on hold by East Suffolk District Council.

Hopkins Homes asked for support from the Scout Group regarding the new housing development. The Committee met in July 2021 to discuss the matter and agreed to remain neutral at this current stage in order not to upset a lot of people in the village. We will continue to work with Lord Cranworth and we wait to see what happens with Chapel Field.

Stuart also updated everyone on fundraising efforts during the pandemic. Covid-19 has stopped two Duck Races and one Fireworks Display. However, the Committee are holding an extraordinary meeting soon to decide if the Fireworks Display will run this year. Local Government Covid Grants have helped to replace some of the lost fundraising and pay for building insurance and membership fees.

Stuart explained the textile bin was changed in 2020. The Group now has regular pickups every two weeks and receives on average just under £40 income per collection. The Scout Group has also created an Amazon Smile account and urge everyone to use it as this easy fundraising way can provide a small income for the Group and help pay for Section materials that get used.

ADDRESS BY REPRESENTATIVE FROM DISTRICT OR COUNTY:

Steve Cage gave apologies from the new District Commissioner and said how pleased he was to be representing the District. He was himself a Cub, Scout and a former Leader at 1st Grundisburgh for many years.

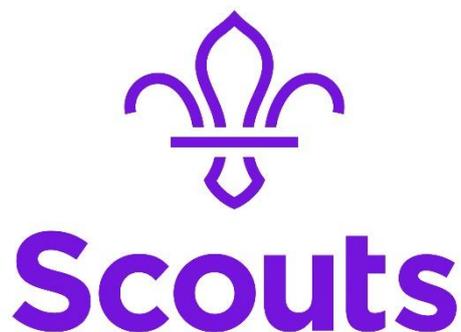
He explained to the meeting that Stuart was in fact a Scout under his leadership and praised Stuart for the work that he has done with the Scout Group. Steve presented Stuart with the Award for Merit for all his hard work and contributions made in Scouting.

OPEN FORUM & QUESTIONS

An Open Forum then took place where questions could be put towards the Committee regarding topics discussed or other points of view. The Annual General Meeting was then officially closed at 4:55pm with a BBQ laid on afterwards for all members and families.

Signed:

Dated:



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