

1st Holmes Chapel Scout Group

Group Scout Council

Annual General Meeting – Minutes 24/09/24

**1.Welcome and introductions**

Group Scout Leader Jo Gregory opened the AGM by welcoming parents, scout leaders and our scouts, cubs, beavers and squirrels. A special warm welcome was extended to our guests for the evening – Canon Rob McLaren.

**2. Apologies and absence:**

Apologies were received from Minister Anna Carrington, Mrs Fiona Gresty, Headteacher, Holmes Chapel Primary School and Mrs Helen Ross, Hermitage Primary School, Suzie Gregory, Anne Bishop and Neil Bishop.

**3. Governance topics:**

a) Approval of Minutes of the AGM held on 4th July 2023. Minutes from last year’s AGM were approved with no objections from the AGM attendees.

b) Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR). Jo Gregory explained the Scout’s model constitution and proposed the adoption of the model constitution. The proposal received no objections, and the attendees were happy to accept the POR.

c) Confirm the Scout Group’s financial year. Jo Gregory confirmed the group's financial year runs from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

d) Approve appointed and community members of the Group Scout Council. Jo confirmed that the Scout Group does not currently have any community members, just leaders of the groups and parents. Therefore, no community members to appoint.

e) Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board. The Scout Group currently have an adequate number of trustees and are not currently looking to increase this number. There is however a vacancy for the position of Chair and any parents interested in the role should speak to a leader/trustee board for more information. Jo announced the retirement of Alan McDonald who announced that he is stepping down from his role after 16 years in the role. Special thanks to Alan!

f) Agree the quorum for the future meetings of the Group Scout Council – Proposal to set the quorum to 10 for future meetings. The AGM received no objections to this proposal.

**4. Review of the previous year:**

a) The Group Lead Volunteer’s review of Scouts in the Holmes Chapel Scout Group. Jo delivered the following update on the past year:

Time goes so fast when you're busy, and the whole Scout group has been so busy this year. The time has flown!

Scouting is about giving our young members skills for life, in a fun and engaging way. We are now in the privileged position of being able to start that journey at age 4, with our Squirrel Scouts.

All our sections have offered a wide variety of opportunities to our members over the last 12 months. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have all offered multiple residential opportunities - from chill out times in our own hq, to Harry Potter experiences, participation in national air rifle shooting camps through to participation in the. Local District camp at Tattoo Park. At District camp everyone (even our Squirrels) got stuck into a wide range of adventurous activities, on land and water! Overnight activities are critical for allowing everyone to develop confidence and self-care skills and catapult Scouts through their award requirements!

Across the group, membership numbers have increased, from 108 last year, to 143 this year - but our waiting list still grows faster. We are also on the point of launching our second Squirrel Scout Drey in response to the favourable feedback.

We have also launched our ambitious project to celebrate the group's 100th anniversary in 2026. Our older members have been invited to visit the World Scout Centre at Kandersteg, Switzerland and will stop off at Disneyland Paris where we hope our younger members will join us!

All sections also give thought to our local communities with the expectation that we are all valuable local citizens. Thanks to local fire fighters, most sections have got to know about the fire service and fire safety (essential to an organisation so fixated on campfires!), but Beavers have raised money for the air ambulance but climbing the equivalent of helicopter hover distance on our climbing wall, all sections are seen poppy selling each year and we regularly make donations to local food banks.

None of this would be possible without our tremendous team of adult volunteers. Our core leadership team has expanded massively in this last 12months, but they are also supported by our fantastic Scout Active Support Unit - a group of adults that help out on certain events and activities. Between our leaders and Scout Active Support members, we also have extra nights away permit holders, leaders with mountain biking permits, air rifle and archery permits and a good upcoming group of climbers! This all makes offering these activities easier.

Finally, we are thrilled to have had Awards for Merit presented this year to 3 of our adult leaders for their exceptional service. Anne and Neil Bishop have been involved in the group for several years in various roles but have been involved in Scouting in other areas over many years. Alan Jackson is currently one of our Scout Active Support Unit members and supports in climbing and air rifle training and activities. A massive congratulations to them, and a huge thank you to the whole team for your time and effort!

b) Receive and consider the Annual Report of the Group Trustee board, including the annual statement of the Accounts. The treasurer provided a summary of the annual statement of the accounts. Increased income for this year, however this was offset by an increased spend on building maintenance and security. The AGM attendees received and considered the annual report with no objections being made.

**5. Making appointments:**

No appointments to be made this AGM, treasurer is still in post at the time of the AGM however proposal to identify an alternative scrutineer/auditor to support the Treasurer to audit the annual statement of accounts.

**5. Presentations:**

A slide show was played to the AGM attendees to demonstrate the various activities the 1st Holmes Chapel Scout Group had been involved with including a celebration of those who had received awards over the last year.

**6. Close + Thank you:**

Jo Gregory closed the AGM with a final thank you to all those that have helped to make the last year such a success. Attendees were invited to join the group for drinks and sausages.