



## 1st Merrow Scout Group

Registered Charity No. 305753

David Hunt

Group Scout Leader

Tel: 01483 502873

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### 1<sup>st</sup> Merrow Scout Group

#### Annual General Meeting – 2016/2017

4<sup>th</sup> January 2018

- 1 The Chair, Henriette Whitehead-van Prooije, opened the meeting and welcomed all. This was another successful year with a full and exciting programme for all units as a result of the strong leadership of all sections.

The Group Campfire Carol Service was again a great success and very well attended in December. The May Fair was also a great success again and raised £3000.

Plans for the redevelopment of the buildings are completed and ready to be discussed with the District.

- 2 **Apologies for absence** received: Denise Stafford, Iain Robertson, Rob Graham, Judith Hunt, Jonny Lewis.

- 3 **Approval of last year's AGM minutes:** Minutes were approved. Proposed by Mike Eagle and Seconded by Mike Ebdon.

Minutes signed off by Henriette Whitehead-van Prooije and filed.

- 4 **Update on New Scout Centre.** First Phase of the architects plan and a full tree survey completed. GSL (David Hunt) to discuss drawings with DC (Mike Eagle)

- 5 **Treasurer's Report Receipts and Payments.** Net receipts for the year were £4k, down £7.4k on last year with the main decrease being the late receipt of Gift Aid income and £1k decrease in donations as there were no Group fundraising events in 2017.

Membership income is similar to last year, reflecting the full capacity of the various sections; the May Fair continues to go from strength to strength, generating £2.9k, £0.5k up on May 2015 with similar income generated again in May 2017.

Although expenditure on the section activities, badges and training decreased slightly over the year, this is mainly down to the unclaimed section leaders' expenses noted in the statement of assets and liabilities, rather than a decrease in activities. Camp income and expenses have increased significantly during the year, mainly as a result of the Beaver camp during the year. It is good to see that the majority of the receipts



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and almost all of the expenditure in the sections (excluding capitation fees paid to Group) are in relation to camping and Scouting activities which shows, in common with the previous years, that there is a healthy and varied set of activities being undertaken.

Maintenance expenses are kept to a minimum because of the decision to rebuild the Scout buildings briefly mentioned earlier in the meeting, and this year the repairs were significantly lower than last year (£1.2k decrease) and more in line with earlier years, although this reduction was offset by the £1.2k capital expenditure on heaters and humidifiers.

The other increased expense was the building project costs of £6.4k for architects fees, surveys and other work required in advance of applying for planning permission for the new Scout building. All other income and expenditure are at similar levels to the previous year.

**Assets and Liabilities.** The receipts and payments above resulted in net receipts for the year of £4,141 which increased net cash funds to £98,479. This is split into the current £70k funds set aside for the rebuilding of the lower Hut, a fund to cover nine month's cash flow of £21.5k (£11k for Group and £1.5k per section) and a balance of £7k. The majority of the funds are held in the Charities Official Investment Fund deposit account, gaining interest at a little below the Bank of England base rate. Non-cash assets and liabilities comprise Gift Aid due from membership payments (£14.6k) and expenses due to leaders (£7.0k), with the latter being mainly in respect of one of the Cub Packs.

Mike Eagle commented on the assets and liabilities outstanding, this needs to be settled before year end 2017.

Mike Ebdon disagreed to the according to Mike unnecessary expenditure on the Architectural drawings of the new building. GSL pointed out that the Exec committee had decided to employ an architect to have the architectural backing when 1<sup>st</sup> Merrow is going to apply for grants. Also surveys have to be included in the drawings before going to planning.

Approval of Financial report: proposed by Sue Reekie and Seconded by Richard Noyau and agreed by all attendees.

- 6 **Section Reports:** This was another successful year with a full and exiting programme for all units as a result of the strong leadership of all sections. The individual reports are archived.
- 7 **GSL Report:** This year has been marred by the death of 2 members of the Merrow Family. Chris Gee was a Scout through and through who had been a Beaver, Cub,



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Scout and Explorer Scout. His family have been associated with 1<sup>st</sup> Merrow for over 40 years starting when his mother Caroline was in Venture Scouts. His younger brother Matt has just become a leader with the Troop.

We also lost Pauline Eagle, who some of you will know as Heron from the Aspen Beaver Colony. She was a shining example to us all, she set the standard for Scouting in Merrow and we wouldn't be the Group we are today without her impact. She was awarded the Silver Acorn for distinguished service to the Scouting.

This year will be starting a 3rd Beaver Colony called Maple which will be run by Sandy Jones. Once this section is up and running to full capacity, we will have approaching 240 young people in the group including the Roughs.

In their reports, the section leaders like to praise everyone else, but the biggest credit must go to the Section leaders themselves, who take on the responsibility and accountability for the programme, camps, section admin, welfare and safety with their section and would like us all to show our appreciation.

Thanks you to all of the leaders, assistants, helpers and executive committee members, who help to make 1st Merrow a very successful Scout Group, special mention to Henriette who works tirelessly behind the scenes and makes my job a lot easier.

The AGM expressed its thanks to all Section Leaders.

- 8 **GSL's nomination of Group Chairman:** David Hunt proposed Henriette Whitehead-van Prooije as Chairman. Seconded by Sam Ritchie and agreed by all.
- 9 **Appointment and election of Members of the Executive Committee:**  
Henriette Whitehead proposed Marijke Reijnders as Secretary. Seconded by: Richard Noyau, and agreed by all.  
Henriette Whitehead proposed Sam Ritchie as Treasurer. Seconded by: Sue Reekie and agreed by all.  
David Hunt proposed Jonny Lewis as Deputy Chair. Seconded by Richard Noyau and agreed by all.  
David Hunt proposed the following as Executive Committee members:  
Sue Reekie; Denise Stafford; Louise Spinner; Richard Noyau; Malcolm Spencer; Duncan Rosie and Rob Graham. Seconded by Henriette Whitehead and agreed by all.
- 10 **Appointment of the Independent Examiner:**  
Sam Ritchie proposed Gill Salmons. Seconded by Marijke Reijnders and agreed by all.



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### 11 **Trustee Report.**

The report has been approved and signed and a copy was given to District Commissioner.

### 12 **District Commissioner:** Mike Eagle thanked the Group and recognised the time spent by all. Thanks given to David Hunt for all his hard work and input into 1<sup>st</sup> Merrow.

Jamboree 2019 confirmed 7 scouts will get the chance to attend this in North America. District agreed a donation of £1000 for each scout attending, towards cost of £3000.

Bi-Annual "Beavers Go Wild" will be held on the 23 June 2018 @ Merrist Wood.

New Sasu Leader is Christine Lintos. Russell Baldwin is ADC Scouts - (act) and Nick is GSL 1st Shalford.

Mike concluded by reporting that the District continues to be very pleased with all the work and commitment at 1<sup>st</sup> Merrow.

### 13 **AOB**

Mike Ebdon thanked the Group and pointed out that all our hard work makes for very happy children. He also expressed that he would like to be considered when organising future meetings with regards to the new building as he is deeply interested in the project.

### 14 Henriette Whitehead-van Prooije thanked everyone especially the GSL and the meeting was concluded @ 20:35 pm.

The next AGM will be September 2018.