



1st Merrow Scout Group

Registered Charity No. 305753

David Hunt

Group Scout Leader

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Annual General Meeting – 2017-18

30 January 2019

- 1 The Chair, Henriette Whitehead-van Prooije, opened the meeting and welcomed all, in particular the new Matt Sarti, the new District Commissioner.
- 2 This had been another busy and successful year with a highlight being the Easter Tea, held at Merrow Methodist Church where approximately 40 elderly people enjoyed a tea served by Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. The May Fair was enjoyed by all and we collected around £3000. The last group activity of the year was Carols by the fire, where we sang Carols, ate hot dogs and drank mulled wine and hot chocolate.

The AGM was later than planned this year due to some issues finalising the accounts.

The chairman gave particular thanks to Sam Ritchie for her hard work in compiling the accounts and getting them agreed by the External Examiner in a particularly difficult year.

- 3 Apologies for absence received from: Sarah York, Nigel Durbridge, Martin Jones, Claire Brown, Paul Brown, Judith Hunt, Kath Ebdon, Mike Ebdon, Michael Eagle, Jenny Dickson and Lucinda Derry .
- 4 Approval of last year's AGM minutes: Approval was proposed by Sue Reekie and seconded by Louise Spinner. The minutes were approved unanimously and signed by Henriette Whitehead-van Prooije.
- 5 Treasurer's Report. We had higher income in the year due to an increase in subscriptions, net of capitation fees paid to the district. This was because the group has grown again with a third Beaver colony being started and more young people accepted into the relatively new Cub pack. Donations and grants were also higher than the previous year. One grant, from Aspire for a Mess Tent, has resulted in us having a restricted fund for the first time, which is shown in the accounts.

Payments are also higher than in previous years due to a catch-up with expenses and higher repairs and maintenance and utility costs.

Overall, we had a surplus of £19,986 for the year.

Within the Statement of Assets and Liabilities, we reported cash of £118,465 (£98,479 in 2016-17) and also included an estimate of the value of non-monetary assets for the first time. This was based on insurance cost.



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Unfortunately, there were some gaps in the vouchers and invoices to support expenditure reimbursed to two sections. This resulted in a significant delay in preparing the consolidated accounts and was also mentioned in the Independent Examiners statement. He does, however, conclude that there is not any material misstatement in the accounts.

In an answer to Karen Summers, District Treasurer, Sam Ritchie confirmed that the £7,053 shown as reimbursement due the leaders in the 2016-17 accounts was included in payments in 2017-18 and that the £1,147 shown in the 2017/18 accounts did not include the £1,136 of un-receipted payments mentioned in the Independent Examiners statement.

In answer to a further question from Karen Summers, Sue Reekie confirmed that the 27 January 2019 date stated in the Trustees Report for dates acted is correct as, although outside the financial year, the SORP requires trustee information to be included up to the date the Trustee Statement is approved.

Approval of the accounts was proposed by Katie Philipson, seconded by Denise Stafford and approved unanimously.

Sam Ritchie suggested that a gift should be given to Andrew Strawson, the Independent Examiner, which was agreed by the meeting.

- 6 Section Reports: As we now have eight sections (including The Roughts) to report on, the leaders have decided to give an overview (presented by the GSL) of what happened in the sections, rather than individual reports.

The young people learn a lot and had fun!

The leaders learnt a lot and had fun!

A lot of badges were earned!

Section meetings included; fire-lighting, outdoor adventures, wide games, hikes, cycling, visits to the fire station, pioneering, first aid, a ghost tour of Guildford, backwoods cooking, rifle shooting, athletics, Burns Night celebration, axe throwing, sculpting in breeze blocks, pancake night, astronomy evenings and donutting.

They also included lots of excitement, mess and noise!

Overnight stays included sleepovers and the HQ, PGL trips, overnight camps, winter camps, summer camps, a night on HMS Belfast and a Danish National Jamboree. The list goes on, and it is important to remember that none of this would happen without detailed planning and a lot of the leaders' time, both at the section meetings and outside them.

- 7 GSL Report: Leaders, thank you for contributions to the section report, the leaders are rightly very proud of what they have achieved and I am sure that you will appreciate that every section has done many more activities than those mentioned.



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In their reports, the sections 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 administration, welfare and safety of their section. I would like us all to show our appreciation. [The meeting gave a round of applause].

The group has had another successful year, including adding a 3rd Beaver Colony.

In addition to thanking the leaders, I must thank the members of the Executive committee for all their hard work behind the scenes. I especially need to mention Henriette, our chairman, Sam, our treasurer, and Sue, our membership secretary. When I took over as GSL I had a vision. I wanted to offer a high-quality scouting experience to as many young people in the local area as possible. That vision led to a vision statement, that vision statement led to a business plan and that business plan has led to the group growing from three sections to seven and ambitious plans for a new Scout Centre in Merrow. Henriette, Sam and Sue have stuck with me from day one and have shown incredible loyalty to me and 1st Merrow and we would not be the group that we are without their skills and dedication.

1st Merrow is a charity governed by the rules of the Scout Association and of the Charities Commission. Today's society and the need for professionalism, transparency and accountability means that 1st Merrow is run along the lines of a business and here are some facts about that business. We are:

- A business that (along with other Scout Groups) offers a unique product
- A business that has over 200 clients
- A business that delivers amazing customer service
- A business that constantly strives to improve its product
- A business with over 40 trained employees
- A business with a turnover in excess of £55k per annum
- A business so successful that we have a long waiting list of young people who want to become clients

However, the most amazing facts are that:

- We are not a business, we are a non-profit organisation
- None of our employees get paid
- We are all volunteers
- There is no profit-sharing scheme
- And we run this wonderful organisation in our spare time

Like any organisation, we have had our fair share of setbacks. Most of us are frustrated that we are not meeting today in a new Scout Centre, but that will come in time. When I look back at what we have achieved, the successes that we have shared, I am so proud and humbled to lead 1st Merrow and these amazing employees and clients.

The AGM meeting expressed its thanks to all Section Leaders, and in particular to David Hunt, our GSL



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8 GSL's nomination of Group Chairman:

David Hunt nominated Henriette Whitehead-van Prooije as Chairman of the Group. This was proved by the meeting unanimously.

9 Appointment and election of Members of the Executive Committee:

Henriette Whitehead proposed the following officers:

Vice Chairman: Jonny Lewis

Secretary: Marijke Reijnders

Treasurer: Sam Ritchie

Membership Secretary: Sue Reekie

David Hunt seconded and the meeting approved unanimously

Rob graham proposed Louise Spinner and Denise Stafford as a members of the Executive committee, this was seconded by Sam Ritchie and approved unanimously.

10 Appointment of the Independent Examiner: Sam Ritchie proposed Gill Salmons. Seconded by Jonny Lewis and agreed by all.

11 District Commissioner: Matt Sarti thanked the Group for his invitation to the AGM, having been appointed as District Commissioner in August 2018. He believes that Guildford East is an exciting place to be for scouting and is impressed with the phenomenal work done at 1st Merrow to increase the number of young people offered the scouting experience. He explained that the District had now concluded that what we do with our buildings is in our own gift – we just need to provide the District with a copy of the planning permission for the new headquarters, once it is approved by Guildford borough Council.

He concluded by thanking all the leaders for giving exciting opportunities to young people in Merrow

The meeting closed at 8:35 p.m.