

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1st Stanmore Scout Group

06 September 2024 Meeting Minutes

1st Stanmore Scout Hut, 186 Marsh Lane, Stanmore HA7 2SL

1. WELCOME, OPENING REMARKS AND TRUSTEE REPORT

Vipul Mehta (VM) and Shailesh Vekaria (SV)

VM and SV welcomed everyone and introduced Trustees and special guest Reshma Patel Lead Volunteer from Harrow District.

SV explained that the purpose of the AGM is to formally approve and adopt the annual Trustee reports and accounts to year end 31 March 2024 (circulated ahead of the meeting via OSM), in line with the requirements of the Charity Commission's Guidelines.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Gillan Barnard – Deputy Lead Volunteer Harrow District. (Our liaison with the District)

David Huntley – Assistant Scout Leader

3. MINUTES FROM LAST AGM 06 October 2023

Proposed by VM, seconded by Ashley Martin (AM). Attendees voted all in favour with no questions arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

4. GOVERNANCE – VM

VM explained the changes in Scouting Governance this year including changes to titles and references and the requirement to agree and adopt the following:

- a. **Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR)** (issues to the Council ahead of the meeting to review on the Scout Association Website), proposed by VM, seconded by Lizzie King (LK) and agreed unanimously by the Council.
- b. **Maximum number of Trustees on the Board** (minimum requirement of 5). VM proposed maximum of 9, Bhrat Patel (BP) seconded and agreed unanimously by the Council.
- c. **Quorum required for AGM.** VM proposed minimum of 10, AM seconded and agreed unanimously by the Council.

5. GROUP LEAD VOLUNTEER'S REPORT – Ashley Martin

Ahsley firstly noted that its been a privilege to lead 1st Stanmore as GLV in what has been a fantastic year with the group growing in numbers for a 3rd year running.

It has been a brilliant year of activities a highlight of which was Scouts joining the Jamborette in Harlem last summer, representing the first time in several years that 1st Stanmore has taken part in an International event. We are hoping to be able to repeat this in 3 years at the next event.

AM thanked all of the Leaders and volunteers and paid tribute to those who have stepped down after committed and much appreciated service this year, particularly Duncan McDowall (Scout Leader) and Rob Curtis (Treasurer). AM reflected gratefully on the personal support given to him.

AM reminded the Council that the group is run fully by volunteers and it is a very very small and diminishing team of volunteers and parents without whom we would not exist and made an urgent appeal for anyone with time and / or skills to come forwards.

6. GROUP TRUSTEE REPORT – VM

The report including the financial statement reviewed independently, was issued to the Council ahead of the AGM.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT – Ona Jomaa (OJ)

OJ presented the financial report, including total income and outgoings, reserves, and risks.

OJ reported that the financial position of the Group is stable and healthy and the year ended with surplus.

During the reporting period, a flood in our Scout Hut resulted in approximately £11,100 of repairs. £8,200 of which we recovered from our insurers.

As we are a charity with income of less than £250,000 we prepare our annual statement on the basis which summarises the movement of cash into and out of the Trust during the financial year.

OJ reported that she considers the 1st Stanmore Scout Group is in good financial position to continue.

There were no questions from the floor.

SH proposed the accounts, seconded by Jackie McDowall (JM) approved unanimously by the Council.

8. APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEE BOARD

SH explained that the role of the Trustee Board is to ensure that the group is well governed, meets compliance standards and creates and runs a fulfilling and safe programme of activities for our young people. The Board will oversee the governance of the charity for the next 12 months.

In addition to this AGM, the Trustee Board meets 3 times a year, near the start of each term. Our function is to review and approve programmes, keep an eye on our finances and purchasing decisions and generally support the leadership team in delivering the Scouting Programme.

- **Chair:** GLV AM thanked VM and SV for working so well and hard together to Chair 1st Stanmore for the last 2 years. AM expressed it as his privilege to propose VM who has been volunteering for 14 years as Chair, seconded by Ramesh Dave (RD) and agreed unanimously by the Council.
- **Treasurer:** VM thanks OJ for stepping in as Acting Treasurer after RC resigned and for all of her hard work in managing the Group's financial transactions and subs collections through the year. Sadly OJ will be stepping down herself this year. VM proposed SV to be appointed as Treasurer, AM seconded and agreed unanimously by the Council. VM thanked SV for stepping in and all of his hard work as Co-Chair.
- **Trustee Board (min 5 required).** VM proposed Jigna Patel (JP), Bhrat Patel (BP). Ramesh Dave (RD) and LK seconded, agreed unanimously by the Council.
- **Independent Reviewer:** We have not had any volunteers to perform this critical role ahead of the AGM. AM proposed to proceed with agreement from the Council that we will appoint someone by the end of the financial year. LK seconded agreed unanimously by the Council.
- SV noted that JM will be stepping down from the Group Trustee Board to focus on her Beaver section, the Board thanked Jackie for her dedication and time commitment without whom the Beaver Section would not have grown or even exist. JM was thanked by all with applause.
- SV appealed for further nominations to volunteer as Trustees or parent helpers. We particularly need representatives from different sections.

No volunteers came forward on the night

9. PRESENTATIONS

Beaver Scout Section Awards

JM highlighted the brilliant activities Beavers have undertaken this year from camp, sleepovers, firelighting and hikes. Our Beaver Section has continued to grow and JM has not only provided a fantastic programme but also mentored several Young Leaders. There remains an appeal for more parent volunteers and Leaders, as JM is running this solo at present.

JM thanked all of the Beavers, Young Leaders and Parent helpers. The following awards have been made:

Beaver of the year: Niam Shah

Most improved Beaver: Rhys Patel

Young Leader of the year: Aaron Raval.

Cub Scout Section Awards

BP reflected on another action packed year, with camps, hikes, firelighting and coding, with Cubs being prepared for transition to Scouts.

Chief Scout Silver: Aran Vekaria

Cub scout of the year: Aran Vekaria

Most improved cub scout: Toby Bender

Young Leader of the year: Iris Cliquet

Scout Section Awards

AM thanked LK for stepping in to run Scout section and all of her efforts in planning the programmes supported by the Assistant Leaders through changes. The highlight was the Harlem camp, February Freezer and Docklands camp, in addition to pioneering and even car maintenance! This is reflected in the achievement of no less than 4 Chief Scout gold awards which is a notable achievement in one cohort not achieved for several years.

Scout of the Year - Christopher Cheong

Most Improved Scout - Honor Conneely

Young Leader of the year - Kai Gohil

Chief Scout Gold Awards - Alexandru-Stefan Fabian, Balthazar Cliquet, Alfie Hardy, Aya Jomaa

10. KEYNOTE, DEPUTY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER RESHMA PATEL (RP)

RP thanked all for their service and attendance on behalf of Harrow District and Gillan Barnard, District Commissioner.

In her role RP works with all 31 Groups in the District and personally thanked all of the Leaders at 1st Stanmore and praised their commitment as well as their immense support to her and the District to continue to achieve fulfilling programmes. Reshma reflected that the number of awards and particularly the Chief Scout Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards are a reflection of the dedication of the Leaders to provide a high quality of programmes and dedication to each child. For this RP gave praise to JM, BP and LK and their teams, reflecting that these awards are not easy to get.

RP reflected on all of the hard work that goes into planning each camp. 3 -12 months in advance compliance, safeguarding, risk assessments all have to be managed alongside logistics, equipment, communication and administration – in addition to the hard work at, and after camps – while planning and running weekly meetings with enriching programmes. All volunteers are also busy working people with families and other commitments but give up their time so willingly.

RP echoed the appeal of the 1st Stanmore Trustee Board for more volunteers and helpers, no matter what time or skill commitment can be offered.

RP went on to present the following awards:

- **5 Year Service**
 - Ona Jomaa, Jackie McDowall, Duncan McDowall,
- **10 Year Service**
 - Lizzie King
- **Jack Petchey for above and beyond Leadership**
 - Aya Jomaa – this prestigious award comes with a £200 for the Group and was awarded to Aya noting her selfless leadership skills.
 - Ashley Martin – with a £1,000 award for the Group which AM wishes to put towards enabling our Hut to be used for Archery and open up this facility to the District.

AM paid tribute to Jack Petchey who sadly died at the age of 99 this year, his foundation continues to do fantastic work for the benefit of young people who would not otherwise have the opportunity to access such varied and rewarding activities.

JP paid tribute to AM. Without AM the Group would not have survived recent turbulent times. AM has been critical to maintenance at the hut especially after the flooding we experienced last year and the driving force behind organising the successful Harlem camp. JP addressed the Young People in the room and reflected that in the 15 years that she has known AM as an assistant Scout Leader himself she has drawn inspiration from AM, his lifelong commitment not only to Scouting, but to the Group and District. AM's standout qualities include respect for his Leaders and influencers that have driven him to give so much of himself no matter what back to his community carrying on the legacy of his family. JP appealed to the Young People to follow in AM's inspirational footsteps.

11. AOB

With no other business VM thanked everyone for attending and closed the AGM.