

Stroud Valley Scout Group

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 19th July 2023

MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

Philip Cowpland (Chair), Anne-Marie Delrosa (Committee Member), John Jones (Group Scout Leader), Aaron Young (Scout Leader), Sammy Peters (Beavers Leader)

Parents: Kerry Smith, Karl Durr-Sorensen, Daniel Le Masurier

APOLOGIES: Kim Strudwick (Treasurer), Luke Inder (Committee Member), Gareth Thackeray (Bookings Secretary)

1. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2021

Minutes of the AGM for 2021-2022 financial year were approved.

2. Group Scout Leader's Report: John Jones

This was the year Scouting came back to somewhere near normal with us being allowed to Camp again and resume more usual activities. Our numbers suffered over Covid period, but we are getting back to normal levels.

Beavers

We were Fortunate to get the Services of Kat as another Leader to assist Sammy.

Cubs

We were hoping Tom would take Cubs on, but in the end he didn't think it was for him and as he is also helping with Scouts he decided to stay on as an assistant. Dan became a Leader in February at the age of 18 unfortunately he is off to Uni in September. So, our aim becomes to get more leaders so I can retire.

Scouts

Numbers for Scouts have been healthy and in September we started a second troop on a Monday the boys who started remained loyal, but in December Simon moved to a new Job in Exeter so the Boys transferred to Thursday nights.

Group

Phil took over as Chairman and Kim as Treasurer. This allowed Luke and Anne-Marie to step aside from these roles and take up hands on roles in the Funding and Building works on the Coach House.

Luke and Anne-Marie have been with us many years and all their children having been in Scouting as Young People and Young Leaders. And we as a group would not be where we are today without both there valuable input over the years and I

would like to thank Lucy and Steve their Partners for allowing them to put in the hours they have.

They still do a lot of roles we would like to spread around others to lighten loads. We are desperate for a secretary which is not a massive job but vital for us to comply with the Charities Commission.

It would be nice to get a fund-raising Committee together to raise some funds and take work off the Leaders and Committee.

ANYBODY INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LEADER

I was the only Leader with a Nights Away permit and our aim last year was to get some more Leaders qualified we failed, but then last month George, Sammy and Aaron all qualified.

I personally would like to thank all the Leaders, Young Leaders, Youth Members, Parents and Committee for all their efforts in keeping the Group going forward over the year.

3. Chairman's Report 2021-2022: Philip Cowpland

Thankfully it's been a full year of activities, with many exciting opportunities and activities for all our members, and good progress has been made with most aspects of Stroud Valley Scout Group.

I've been Chair of the Committee for a year now, and I'm inspired by the work that goes in to keeping this group going, particularly in regard to the positive work that had been carried out by Anne-Marie and Luke to further the groups aims of long-term sustainability, of which you'll hear more later.

Committee Role

Like many of you, I had no idea of the committee's role, which is wide and varied, when I was asked to consider taking on the role of Committee Chair. The Committee is involved in the finance, maintenance and safe running of the centre and the scout group. This will range from keeping and presenting accounts over the year, organising insurances, repair work and maintenance to the building, its contents and the site as a whole. We work closely with the leaders and meet regularly over the year to discuss all these items.

More support is needed across the whole committee spectrum, from

- Fund raising Committee to help organise and run fundraising events.
- Building management and site maintenance committee- to help maintain the building and infrastructure- from helping carry out or commission condition/safety audits to generating enthusiasm and support for work day activities.
- Committee secretary/ies to take minutes and distribute to members.
- Further support with Hall hire and site bookings- sub- committee?

Remember, the more people that get involved, the more smoothly the group can run. The good news is you shape what you do and the time you have to give. Scouts happens when a lot of us give a little (and no, you don't have to be a Scout or outdoors expert to volunteer).

Thanks

Thanks to all parents over the last year for your continued support, and to all our leaders. They put a huge amount of time in to give our children the opportunity to be part of the scouting organisation. Your work is hugely appreciated by all the children and parents, and it's especially encouraging to see that you are inspiring some of our maturing scouts to take up the challenge of continuing on as young leaders.

Special thanks to Anne Marie and Luke for their sterling work and tenacity in progressing the refurbishment project – from initial funding right through to design and project management. You will appreciate that this role alone takes a very determined effort from them both, and it is unrealistic to consider that they should find additional time to help in the day to day running of the group- but they have had to, and it's time to step up and enable them to see the building project over the line, by getting involved in your scout group committee.

Thanks to the existing 8 committee members. There is a huge amount of work that goes on behind the scenes particularly with the maintaining of the site and the hut but also in the organisation of the regular and ad hoc hall bookings that support us financially. This enables us to keep subs to a minimum for all the cubs and scouts. Without these bookings funding would have to be found elsewhere. We have a really good team within the committee who work really well together, but as I've already stated, more support is needed, and most of the roles can easily be "job-shared" with a little organisation. The committee continues to struggle to keep up with the workload on top of our other family/ work commitments, with several people carrying out multiple roles, so we really do need additional support.

Visit our website:

<https://www.stroudvalleyscouts.org.uk/>

The website is a great resource for parents and helpers. See all the most up to date information on events, fundraising and site development.

Further ambitions for the coming year

Our ambitions for the coming year will be very much focused on:

- Finalising funding and getting underway with the refurbishment work.
- Section support/ development/ expansion, particularly in finding additional adult helpers/ Leaders.
- Look at potentially developing areas of the site for food growing, Habitat development, Additional fire pits and maintaining some 'wild areas'.

Thank you everyone for attending our AGM. We have a really great group of children, parents and leaders that make Stroud Valley Scouts a really exciting and special organisation to be part of. If you have any questions or queries now or over the coming year please feel free to approach any of us at your convenience.

4. Treasurer's Report and adoption of accounts for 2022/23: Kim Strudwick (presented at meeting by Anne-Marie Delrosa)

During this financial year, the role of Treasurer was undertaken by Katy Baxter, Anne-Marie Delrosa and Kim Strudwick.

The accounts for year ending 31 March 2023 have been independently examined by our accountant David Richardson. He has signed off on the accounts.

Section Income and Expenditure

Income for all sections was back to normal.

	Inc	Exp	Difference
Beavers	£ 989.53	£215.66	£773.87
Cubs	£3,330.94	£1,519.16	£1,811.78
Scouts	£3,645.46	£3,149.14	£496.32

Hall Hire

Hall hire income has remained stable this year, with slightly more regular hires and slightly fewer ad hoc bookings. An increase in charges for regular bookings was introduced from January 2023. Total income from Hall Hire was £9988.50.

Utilities, Insurance and Premises Expenditure

This includes water, electricity, gas, buildings insurance, cleaning, and waste collection. Total costs were £12,943.27 – the above items accounted for £6,402; the rest of the expenditure was from repairs to roof, electrics and kitchen upgrade and tree felling work. Electric and Gas contracts have been fixed for two years.

Other Income and Expenditure

Other expenditure this year included web hosting, lottery licence and card reader for events. Unfortunately, we weren't able to hold the Fireworks event and Christmas raffle.

New Build Account

Thanks to Anne-Marie for her fundraising work, we received a grant for the Coach House Refurbishment of £87k from Severn Trent, of which £43k has been paid into the New Build account. This will go a long way towards the new project and AM is currently in negotiations with Severn Trent about final building costs. We also received £1k from Charities Trust. As a result the new build / renovation account ended with £50,918.06. Transfer from the account supported the Asbestos and Bat Survey.

Conclusion

The Group's total funds for all sections at the end of the year was just under £5,500. We are operating at break even. Our aim this year is to start work on the Coach House, continue with grant applications for the refurbishment of the Explorer Den and do fundraising activities for camps and camping equipment.

Kim Strudwick, Group Treasurer, Report presented at AGM 19 July 2023

5. Report from Scouting section: Aaron Young

We currently have 24 Scouts in the Troop. 6 are Senior Scouts and will be moving up to Explorers after the Summer Holidays. We are expecting at least 2 Cubs to move up to the Troop soon after.

We have gained another leader who is currently going through the appointments and training process. We also have one of our Young Leaders turning 18 and she has agreed to stay on with us as an adult leader. This is really positive as we already had a healthy number of leaders, but this will bolster that and puts us in a very secure position for help at Camps, Activities, and any Events the Troop organises.

Since the last AGM the Scout Troop have been working hard towards various Challenge Award Badges. This is in part because our Senior Scouts have missed out on a few badges they would have ordinarily earned during their 4ish years in the Troop, however due to COVID and not being able to hold Camps or run Activities and Events etc the Senior Scouts have missed out. We really want to give all members of the Troop an opportunity to earn their Chief Scout's Gold Award. This is the highest award available to Scout youth members and is only awarded once all nine of the Challenge awards have been completed.

Since September 2022 the Senior Scouts have earned a number their Challenge awards.

1. Creative Challenge Award, which required them to take part in creative activities such as Music groups, Photography and even Website design outside of Scouts as well as producing promotion material for joining Scouts (which you may have seen proudly stuck up on our display boards in our meeting hall).
2. They've earned their Personal Challenge Award which as the name implies required the Scouts to complete two personal challenges, they set themselves – some of the best examples include Supporting a new Scout to complete their Membership Award, Bring the right equipment to Scouts every week for a term and parents favourite Do all the washing up at home for two weeks.
3. The Scouts have also earned their Skills Challenge Award, which mainly consisted of learning Skills for Life – things around taking part in physical activity for 6 weeks, showing they understand a sensible diet through to learning home skills such as fixing a bike puncture and ironing their uniform.

We attended Strategy in June 2022 which is always very popular with the Scouts and earns them their Nights Away Staged badge too. We also like every year attended the Stomp which is a 12–14-mile night Hike that happens November time and earns them their Navigator Stage badge.

And many more Challenge, Activity and Staged awards throughout the year.

Finally, the Scouts and Scout Troop would like to take this opportunity to pass their continued thanks to all the Committee members for ensuring the upkeep of the Grounds and Scout Group. The Scouts appreciate that this is at times often a thankless task but ensures that we can continue to deliver quality Scouting to young people in our local community.

6. Report from Cubs section: John Jones

I was hoping last years was going to be my last report, but here we go again.

Number wise we were at 22 at the end of the year and it was funny year for numbers which have fluctuated for various reasons. We held a joint Camp with the Beavers which was very successful and the Cubs did Archery, Rifle Shooting and Problem Solving games amongst other things. We have presented many badges and done plenty of Badgework. We also took part in the Farriers Challenge at the end of October and although we didn't win, we performed with credit.

We have tried to run a balanced programme and Ggames throughout the year.

I would like to thank Tom, Dan and all the young leaders for the time and effort they have put in.

We are desperate for Leaders as I need to retire and with Dan going to Uni it is going to leave us very short. We have to have 2 over 18s to run a meeting. So if you know anyone please ask them to contact me, they don't have to be parents or have a Scouting background.

7. Report from Beavers section: Sammy Peters

We have 11 Beavers, and 8 on the waiting list. Two moving up to cubs before December and 3 new Beavers joining us soon.

We have another Leader Kat who joined us in September. We did have parent helpers, who helped us weekly, unfortunately they are unable to help us as frequently.

Since the last AGM Beavers have been busy, in April we did the Beaver Bounce the last on before Steve retired, we had the group camp/sleepover at Cranham Scouting centre at the end of June, we did den building, bow and arrow making, dam building, campfire cooking and a hike at the sleep over. In November we did a walk to the fish and chip shop to earn their hike badge and money badge. In February we made Tin Can pancakes and in March we did stargazing on the common.

8. Nomination and Election of Committee Members for year

a. Chairman

John Jones nominated Philip Cowpland, seconded by Aaron Young. No other candidates, re-election unopposed.

b. Treasurer

Anne-Marie Delrosa nominated Kim Strudwick, seconded by Philip Cowpland. No other candidates, re-election unopposed.

c. Secretary

Philip Cowpland nominated Karl Durr-Sorensen, seconded by Sammy Peters. No other candidates, election unopposed.

- d. Other Leader and Committee member nominations:
John Jones nominated Gareth Thackeray as Bookings Secretary; Anne-Marie Delrosa, Luke Inder, Daniel Le Masurier, Kerry Smith as Committee members, seconded by Philip Cowpland. Elections unopposed.

John Jones, Aaron Young and Sammy Peters are to remain as committee members.

9. **AOB**
None.