

Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes for the Annual General Meeting
10th May 2018

1. **Welcome to all – Members, Guests and Visitors.**

VS welcomed everybody to the AGM. Went through health and safety for the building.

VS opened the meeting with a slide show presentation. Lots of excitement over the photographs.

Minutes from the previous AGM were approved as true.

2. **In attendance**

See sign in sheets

Apologies

None.

3. **Receive the Reports of the Group**

Chairperson's Report

What a year!

I will leave the activities reports to the Leaders and report on the Group from the Committee's point of view.

Turn back the clock 12 months and I had agreed to continue as Secretary in the absence of volunteers and was helping out in the Cubs section as I could. Sadly, there was no appointment made to the Chair with Dave our long-standing Chairman stepping down after 12 years. We continue to be a highly successful group, with dedicated and skilled leaders, who put in many hours to ensure that Ince and Elton's Children get the best experiences.

Unfortunately, we did not have growth this year, but since we have for the past 11 years that is hardly surprising.

In August we were approached by the PROTOS to claim the £4000 that they were saving for us before it was too late. A bit of fast ringing around found us a company who were willing to quote and complete the electrical work to the main hall within the budget we were offered. This included LED lighting/Heating and re-wiring. This kick started the renovation of the inside of the HQ which has taken place over the last 7 months with various funders and tradesmen, who we are all very grateful to. We are also very grateful to all the volunteers who have put themselves out this year to help with clearing, flooring and painting. The results so far are fantastic. Next year, we hope to get the funding together to complete the exterior of the building. It was after this initial work that I agreed to take the Chair in order to progress the Group, and

Lynne Williams was recruited to Secretary of the Group, to support me.

We have also been beavering away behind the scenes to provide the Group with the correct paperwork and policies to support what has been a rapidly growing and successful Group. These policies have been agreed at the Executive meetings and will be available to the Scout Council on the Website for you to read. Everyone in this Scout Council has a right to question these policies.

In addition, the HQ has now passed over from being a joint building with the Guiders to being solely the responsibility of the Scout Group, with the Guides having a permanent lease. This we hope will be easier on the fundraising and charity status of the Group and the building.

As a Group we are doing our best to be involved as far as possible in our wider community. We have been working on the school garden, attending services with the Church, and provide our plant service and Bonfire for the village. We have been into the school to let the children know what our children have been doing.

The Group has done amazing work on its fundraisers this year, alongside the very successful Bonfire, Flower Sale and Football food, the Quiz and Curry Night for the parents went down very well and will be added to our list of events and fundraisers going forwards.

Alongside new committee members, we have also welcomed new Leaders this year into the Beavers and Cubs sections, Jamie and Paul and importantly we have found a fantastic new Chairperson in Nat Tudor, who has been learning the ropes and who's who over the last few months and has an immense amount of energy to take the group forward and allow me to step back into the Cub Section.

For the year going forwards, we are taking care to recruit volunteers in roles they are happy with and can commit to. There are many roles available for parents from formal leadership and trustees, to fundraising helpers and occasional support for our HQ -Sub Committee and Fundraising Sub -Committee. Having parents on these sub-committees who meet occasionally is vital to ensure our leaders can concentrate on the delivery of the

scouting program. Please think about what you are able or willing to do to support us. I am very excited about the direction of the group going forwards this coming year.

Here's to another exciting year in Scouting!

Group Scout Leader

What a whirlwind of a year. It seems to me anyway. We've ended with a refurbished main hall and brand-new kitchen all thanks to our wonderful committee and leaders.

While all this was happening, the sections continue as usual with all their camps, activities and meetings. Well done.

Our Group attended Harvest Festival last September at St James's Ince and then paraded to Ince again for Remembrance Sunday in November.

This year St George's Day was held in Church as the new committee and leaders for the district hadn't had time to organise a district one. We as a group took over part of the Sunday Service to do a swim up and invest four cubs followed by congratulations to scouts who completed the Cheshire Hike. I was also proud to present Callum with his 'Wood Badge' on completion of his training. Many thanks go to Ruth for allowing us to join in a great service.

I could go into details of all sorts of things, but I am sure these will be covered by other section reports.

I am pleased to welcome to our family of scouts Paul Plummer, who is joining the cub scout section as an assistant leader and Jaime graham who is joining as an assistant beaver leader.

Another change is Vicki, our group chairperson, who is stepping down but not leaving us. She is also taking up a role as assistant cub leader.

May I give my thanks to all the leaders, helpers and committee members for all the very hard work they do. Without them this group would not run as smoothly as it does.

Linda J McKay

GSL

Scout Troop Section Report

Membership Overview

We currently have 18 Scouts in the troop.

In the last year, 3 Scouts have left the section.

We've had 7 new Scouts join the section.

- 5 have moved up from Cubs
- 2 are completely new to Scouting

Report

As you have seen in the earlier presentation/As you will see in the presentation shortly, the Scout Troop have been incredibly busy over the last 12 months.

During our weekly meetings, our main focus for the Scouts has been in the way of completing elements of the Challenge Badges that make up the Chief Scout Gold Award. Badgework completed here over the last year includes Cooking, Pioneering, and First Aid. We've also looked back at the fundamental values of Scouting (and how the movement started) as well as looking at issues around the world and in our local community with visits from our local vicar and the PCSO.

Scouts have also taken part in some great Trips and Activities over the last year, these include a trip to 'Clip and Climb' at Christmas, a visit to 'Apple' at the Trafford Centre for a fun filled evening creating videos as well as more local visits to do some Orienteering at Delamere Forest and Geocaching in Norley.

Between Christmas and April, focus shifted slightly to prepare our Scouts for the Cheshire Hike. For those that don't know, the Cheshire Hike is an annual competition that is held over two days in the wonderful Cheshire Countryside. Scouts hike in teams of two at distances of up to 41km (although the distance does vary depending on several factors – age, route taken, etc).

To prepare our Scouts for the hike, we took on the challenge of completing the Sandstone Trail which is a 55km trail from Frodsham to Whitchurch. To make the trail manageable for the Scouts, we split it into 4 parts which we started on December. To date, 3 stages of the Sandstone Trail have been completed with the final stage which we aim to complete in the summer.

As well as the Sandstone Trail, our Scouts have taken part in several District-led Practice Hikes which are designed to operate in a similar way to the Cheshire Hike itself.

As for the Cheshire Hike itself, we entered 8 Scouts in to the competition which equates to 4 teams. Conditions on the hike itself were tough, especially on the intermediate route. Not helped by the Scouts effectively starting the Hike in the 'Winter' like weather conditions and finishing in the 'Summer'. Nonetheless, the Scouts who took part not only completed the hike, but they also did extremely well. They should all be immensely proud of their achievements over that weekend.

We've been a lot more active within the local community over the last year which has seen us involved with the Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday and St Georges' Day services at St James' Church in Ince. Although attendance to these services aren't mandatory, they do highlight our existence in the local community and are essential if Scouts want to achieve that Chief Scouts Gold award!

Elsewhere in the community, we've done some fundraising for Macmillan in the form of our Coffee Evening. We've also supported our own community events including the annual Bonfire and Fireworks event and the new Quiz and Curry Night. We've also done some community service in the form of helping Elton Primary School renovate their 'Community Garden', we've done work there over two days now (one as recent as Bank Holiday Monday!).

Looking forward, we have some great things planned over the coming weeks including our trip to Liverpool on this coming Sunday and our first ever troop visit to Cosford Air Show in June!

Cubs Report

This year has continued to be a fun and exciting time for the Cub Group, with a fully loaded programme over the year which has not only earned the Cubs various Badges, it has taught or improved skills and made us very tired leaders keeping us on our toes! Here's a few activities that we have taken part in since the last AGM.

Survival Skills at Delamere Forest to start, where they made their own shelters using their own ideas, we took a walk down the

canal from Chester to Ellesmere Port with various challenges along the way. In July we had a weekend away at QCW camping in the Big group Tents, luckily the weather was dry. We finished the term for summer like most brits do with a good BBQ and Activities for all the Kids and families we also had the climbing wall present.

We started the new term inside the hut, as the real British weather soon took control of the summer, this allowed us to take control of some nitty gritty badge work in the form of the home help/ home safety badges which also led them completing tasks at home. We took the chance to venture to the Ince reservoir looking at the tree and wildlife side of the nature badge. The Cubs have also been involved in blind tasting and backwoods cooking A great turn out Remembrance Sunday by all which saw us parade to Church for the service.

Towards the late end of the year we visited the Ellesmere Port Fire Station, special thanks to Stevie Rae, where they took part in using the hoses and got the chance to jump in the seats of the fire engines, to close the year we finished at Be Boulder just before Christmas and took them for a McDonalds, this was Callum's first proper drive in the district minibus and we all managed to get back alive!

Starting back in January we had a refresh on compass and map work including orientating the map and grid references, after all it does come in handy when the leaders get them lost! We have completed the Scientist badge, took part in the School Garden Project and entered the Cub District Swimming Gala, although we didn't win overall, we had some amazing results through the heats!

Lately we have had a visit from June and her Guide Dog to teach us about disability awareness and how the guide dog helps her to complete day to day jobs, we did an orienteering Easter egg hunt just before Easter I have to say it was very Egg-citing.

Coming up in the next couple of weeks we have the District Cub Camp which we are all looking forward too, and we continue to ensure our programme is as fun packed as possible for the remainder of this year.

We would like to Thank each one of the Cubs for their hard work and dedication to Cubs and a massive Thank you to the leaders who continue to make this happen! Even when they are ill! ...

Beaver Section Report

We have had an eventful year where one of the highlights from what our beavers have told us was the Manley Mere trip where

Freya got invested in the deep muddy water! We all had a great time and Reece got a soaking from his beaver leader. We have gone on 3 hikes including a brilliant – but long walk through Ince Marshes from Helsby where the Red Arrows provided a fly- by and of course the hilarious hand stand challenge.

We have taken part in several community events including the plant sale, bonfire, Remembrance Sunday, McMillan coffee evening and the community garden.

Our camp in April was fantastic and ran by Vicki, who really got in touch with her creative side. The camp theme was “I’m a beaver get me out of here!”, the children ate some bugs and had the opportunity to hold some tropical animals.

In January, we joined 200 other Beavers from the district and went to the Rock and Roll Panto, think it’s safe to say we all thought the dame was the star of the show.

The Beavers have achieved several activity badges this year including:

- Air Activities
- Communicator
- Hobbies
- First Aid Level 1
- Healthy Eating
- Builder
- And Challenge Badges:
 - Personal
 - Adventure
 - Team work

We have had 10 beavers who have achieved the Chief Scout Bronze Award, which is the highest award given in Beavers.

We have had 13 Beavers who have moved up to Cubs and 6 new starters. We have a waiting list for September starts.

Treasurer’s Report **2017**

2017 has been a difficult year financially for the Scout Group.

Funding has been required to refurbish the Hut, and ensure that the Group can continue to use the Hut not just for this year, or the next year but for the foreseeable future.

Therefore we have seen a significant increase in terms of both income and expenditure in 2017 compared to previous years.

We also expect to see this trend continue in 2018 as the refurbishment is completed.

Income

Total income for 2017 was £21,600, with subscriptions contributing £5,200 to this total.

A magnificent £7,300 income (£3,300 net) was raised through fundraising, and £7,800 through donations (compared to £1,400 net and £1,500 in 2016).

The most successful fundraisers were (all net figures):

- Bonfire £1,400 (excluding donations of £1k)
- Plant Sale £1,100
- Xmas Party £400

All of the above generated more net income than in the previous year, and the Xmas Party was a new event, and was hopefully fun for all involved as well being a successful fundraiser.

Although there are too many to list individually, I would also like to thank all of those who have provided donations to the Group, of which some have accepted our invitation to our AGM this evening to view the end product that their generosity has helped to fund.

Expenditure

However, as I mentioned expenditure has also increased, to £24,800.

£12,500 of this expenditure was for refurbishment of the Hut, and £4,000 being fundraising costs (to generate the £7,300 income).

The Group also contributed 2 years of rent towards the Hut (due to no payment in 2016) at a total cost of £1,600.

There continues to have been significant cost in 2018 to complete the refurbishment, with over £14k already spent this year.

Although this has largely been funded with donations, funding has continued to be prioritised for the Hut.

Subscriptions

2017 has seen consolidation of the Bank Accounts which should mean it is easier for both parents in terms of managing their subscription payments (as they do not need to change the account they pay into when their children move sections) and the Executive Committee in terms of managing the account.

However due to rising costs, the Executive Committee has taken the necessary decision to increase subscriptions to £12 per month, effective from 1st September 2018. We have not taken this decision lightly, but after much deliberation, have agreed that this is required to ensure the Group can continue to run financially. An increase in subscriptions has not been made for many years, and indeed the last change at the end of 2013 was an equilibrium across sections (resulting in a reduction in some areas) rather than a wholesale increase.

Therefore please can parents ensure they amend their standing orders to £12 after they have made their August payment. We would also remind parents, that the monthly cost is calculated as the required amount for a whole year; therefore it is important that parents ensure they continue to pay their monthly subscription over the summer holidays.

To increase our income, we are also looking to reclaim gift aid on subscriptions. This will not cost you anything, and will only require you to sign a form. We would therefore urge you to do this, and will do the rest of the necessary steps to claim this amount that as a charity we should be entitled to claim.

Bank Accounts

Amounts held in Bank Accounts or cash as at 31st December 2017 were £8,079 (31st December 2016: £11,266).

A full set of the 2017 Annual Accounts are available on request.

- send out reminders to parents to change their standing orders for the increment due in September.
Gift aid letters given out to parents for signing and returning Presentation of flowers to VS for her hard work.
- All reports are attached.

4. Elections

Approve the GSL nomination of new Group Chairperson and any other nominated person.

Nat Tudor was nominated and accepted. Seconded by Ashley Proctor

Elect the Group Secretary and Treasurer (or re-elect)

Lynne Williams (Callum Linger seconded) and Mike Rhodes (Betty) to continue as Treasurer.

Section leaders to formally agree to be on the committee.

Graham Proctor
Sarah Adshead
Ashley Proctor co - opted as IT
Callum Linger

Elect members of the Exec Committee

Betty Newman (Linda McKay)
Jules Antrobus (Nat Tudor)
Linda Canham (Ashley Proctor)
Alex Weale (Linda McKay)

Election of members to join the HQ Committee

Nat Tudor
Graham Proctor
Paul Plumber

And the

Fund Raising Committee.

Natalie Wells
Jules Antrobus
Lynne Williams
Vicki Serna
Steve Spencer

Parent Volunteers List

5. **Awards and Celebrations**

Certificates for the Beaver Group were handed out.
4 Cubs were invested and received their badges.
3 Scouts received their badges for completing the Cheshire Hike.

6. **Any Speakers**

District Commissioner Oliver Chambers gave a few words to the Group.

7. **Date of first Exec Meeting.**

12th June 2018 - 8.00pm

8. **Close meeting** – (enjoy BBQ.)