

	<h1>2nd Orpington Scout Group</h1>
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Annual General Meeting Minutes

Saturday 22 June 2019 12pm

Attendance

Fiona Wilson – Chair
Karen Smurthwaite - Group Scout Leader
Sean Gallagher – Treasurer
Alison Kavanagh - Secretary

Matt Million – Bears Scout leader
Mark Hudson – Panthers Cub Scout leader
Tara Mendez – Kiwi Beaver Scout leader
Tim Birse - Explorers

Christopher Litton
Kathryn Currie
Ella Golding Gallagher
Owen Golding Chambers
Amba Golding
Andrea McLean
Maria Stringer
Ian Stringer

Apologies:

James Polson – Disney Beavers Scout leader
Jason Price – Wolves Cub Scout leader
Graham Mackenzie – Ransoms Scout leader
Katie Mackenzie – Kiwi Beaver Scout Assistant leader

1. Welcome and introductions

Fiona Wilson welcomed everyone to the AGM and introduced the Executive Committee.

2. Review of previous minutes

Copies of the minutes from last AGM on 14 July 2018 were circulated and reviewed. One correction was received – Gloria Goswell was incorrectly recorded as having received flowers instead of Paula Goswell. Otherwise, the minutes were approved.

3. Section Reports

Brief reports were provided by:

Beavers - Disney

James Polsen provided a report that was read in his absence by Karen Smurthwaite.

There are currently 19 children on the books. There have been a number of trips undertaken, for example Diggerland last term, and another trip to the pantomime is planned for the winter term. The group took part in the District sleep over and have done joint nights with other Scout groups across the district (where the leaders have other roles). A recent task joined up with a community project looking to improve the environment and the Beavers have been working to clean up the local park - Priory Gardens. A big part of the planning for the programme comes from requests from the children themselves as they are always asked what they want to do.

Beavers - Kiwi

Tara Mendez read her report – The pack currently have 22 Beavers, 13 boys and 8 girls. Over the past year the group have visited the local Church and local Mosque and written prayers and reflections – which the Beavers read as part of the parade service. The group have also learnt about Emergency aid and crossing the road safely as well as growing plants, space and planets and experimenting. Special thanks go to Damien (Flash) our Young Leader who has worked very hard to help the children as well as planning and running a Disability Awareness night. In September two Beavers will be moving up to cubs – but there are only two children on the waiting list so we will be looking to recruit more children for the Winter term.

Cubs – Wolves

Jason Price provided a report that was read in his absence by Karen Smurthwaite.

The pack have a healthy number of 26 cubs and 3 girls. Over the past year they have run two more successful camps with the Panthers as well as other joint activities. Another shared camp is planned for September along with a joint night hike joint. There has been a large number of activity badges awarded and a number of cubs are close to their Chief Scout Award. Many thanks go to James, George and Brendan who help support the unit.

Cubs - Panthers

Mark Hudson advised that there were currently 25 members, of which 4 are girls. There are 5 members due to go up to Scouts in the next few months. Many thanks go to the leadership team which includes Nathan, Chris, James and Rebecca – the pack couldn't run without them. There have been two joint camps since the last AGM, although the September camp had to finish early as it was flooded out. Camps are already booked for September 2019 and January 2020 – although the location for the January camp may change as we are considering the options. Last year 3 cubs were issued their Chief Scout Silver Awards. A further 229 badges were issued last year (not including membership, GSLE and district badges). During this term we have worked on knots, the Leonardo de Vinci bridge and tried Taekwondo. Later this month the pack will be doing the ariel track at Downe and having a joint night hike with Wolves and Bears ending up with a sleepover at the hut.

Scouts - Ransoms

Graham Mackenzie provided a report that was read in his absence by Karen Smurthwaite.

There are currently 11 Scouts on the books. Activities this term have included hiking, swimming and backwoods cooking. The group are looking forward to attending Scarefest in October as usual.

Scouts - Bears

Max Million read his report. Having taken over from Alex last year I am enormously grateful to the team of Jo, Vincent and Mark who have helped to keep things going – as well as the generous help and support from the other leaders across the Group who have helped to answer questions or explain how to go about activities. The year has averaged 20 members a team, finishing with 21 members, of which 7 are girls. The group try to do a mix of challenge badges, activity badges along with other

skills, such as team work and joint nights with others. A recent visit to Clip N Climb in Tonbridge was very successful and we will be taking 18 Scouts to Downe for an activity day.

Explorers

Tim Birse read his report. This year there are equal numbers boys and girls in the section but we would still like to grow the numbers further. Joint nights with Bears have helped increase the success of the transition from Scouts to Explorers. Last year a successful trip was spent on canals and narrow boats. This year the trip will be a fortnight in Canada with a group of 18, 5 of which are adults. In the Autumn, Martin will be taking over as Explorer leader as Tim steps down.

4. Group Section Leader's Report

Karen Smurthwaite read her report. The Group is still the largest group in the district, although there were 15 fewer members this year on the census, there were more adult helpers registered. This year has not seen as many general fundraising activities, but a particular mention should go to the fantastic quiz night which helped to fund the Canada trip. After the summer the Group will be looking at putting on a number of fundraising activities – potentially looking to fundraise to take a group to the Essex Jamboree in 2020.

The leaders have also managed to gain a number of awards this year:

Martin Howell has gained his wood beads.

Nathan Pearce, Mark Hudson and Jason Price have gained their 10 years' service award.

Nothing can happen for the young people without the leaders and we are delighted to see so many young leaders coming through such as Explorers doing their Young Leaders award. This is a very strong group for longevity of service.

Thanks to the many leaders, young leaders, volunteers and executive committee members who already do such much to help the group and the many fantastic activities they run but the group will always fully support any further volunteers who would like to join in.

5. Andrew Ballantyne Award

In memory of Andrew Ballantyne, a 2nd Orpington Scout who sadly passed away at a young age, money donated by his family to the Group in remembrance of him has been used to present an annual Friendship Award. This award is given to the Scout within each section who has followed the rules of Scouting and gone above and beyond what is been expected in showing kindness to others.

This year the winners from each section were:-

Daisy Kavanagh of Kiwi Beavers

Aiden De Souza of Wolves Cubs

Oliver Currie of Panthers Cubs

Kelsey Pink of Ransoms Scouts

The overall winner of the Andrew Ballantyne award was Oliver Currie

Awards

Owen Golding was awarded his Chief Scouts Gold Award.

Ian Stringer was presented with his 15 years' service award

7. Chair's Report

Fiona Wilson read her report. All parents should be made aware that a huge amount goes on behind the scenes by the leaders to support the children and their activities doing so many amazing things.

This is just the time at the event but also all the work in planning and organising ahead of this. A huge thank you is given to all the leaders and assistant leaders and all those who are in training for giving up your time and making such a big commitment for others. I'd like to say thank you very much to all of you on behalf of the parents.

As Chair of the Committee, I help the group make decisions on the running of the hall. This is a great resource for us to have and brings great freedom and opportunity as the groups do not have to pay rent for the use of the hall. But it does require general maintenance and upkeep and anything parents can do to support this is greatly appreciated and I really encourage parents to volunteer wherever possible.

The Group has really struggled with fundraising this year, with the leaders doing the bulk of organising and planning. This should really come from parents who want to raise funds for the children to do even more things than at the regular meetings. Again, I'd encourage everyone to get involved, even if you can only come along to help with one event it helps - takes the pressure off the leaders.

Overall this has been a fantastic year for the group and anything we can all do to keep it alive and thriving is appreciated – whether that's bring the children to activities, taking young leaders to help at groups or supporting the fundraising activities.

Finally, I'd like to thank the children for coming along every week and being so enthusiastic and committed in all the activities they do.

8. Treasurer's Report

Many thanks go to the previous treasurer who transferred the banking to Lloyds business accounts which has made organising the accounts so much easier.

The accounts for year end March are waiting to be signed off but the bigger uptake in parents and groups using OSM has made it easier to keep track of the accounts to ensure each group is funded correctly.

This year there has been a spend of £28k, of which £12k was spent just on camps. This year's income just over £27k, in part due to reduced fundraising than in previous years but it is supported by a healthy bank balance from previous year's efforts. As noted by others, it would be good to increase the fundraising efforts, for example hiring the hall out. Overall the accounts are healthy.

9. Executive Committee Membership

Appointment of Treasurer, Secretary and Chair:

Fiona Wilson announced she was stepping down after two and half years. Karen Smurthwaite thanked her on behalf of the Group for her service and presented Fiona with some flowers [and wine].

No nominations received from the meeting for the Chair position. In the absence of a chair the duty will fall to the Group Scout Leader, Karen Smurthwaite.

Alison Kavanagh was nominated and seconded by Karen Smurthwaite and Tara Mendez respectively to remain as Secretary to the Group.

Sean Gallagher was nominated and seconded by Karen Smurthwaite and Mark Hudson respectively to remain as Treasurer to the Group.

Section leader membership:

All section leaders were confirmed

10. Any other business

No other matters were raised.

Fiona Wilson thanked everyone for coming and the meeting concluded at 12.45pm

