

2nd Orpington Scout Group

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Sunday 8 November 2020 2pm (meeting held over Zoom)

Attendance

Karen Smurthwaite - Group Scout Leader (acting chair)
Sean Gallagher – Treasurer
Alison Kavanagh - Secretary

Tara Mendez – Kiwi Beaver Scout leader
James Polson – Disney Beaver Scout leader
Mark Hudson – Panthers Cub Scout leader
Jason Price – Wolves Cub Scout leader
Matt Million – Bear Scout leader
Tim Birse - Explorers

Gary Peppiatt – District Commissioner

George Roger – vicar at All Saints church, Orpington

Kathryn Bell
John Whitney

Apologies:

Graham Mackenzie – Ransoms Scout leader
Katie Mackenzie – Kiwi Beaver Scout Assistant leader



1. Welcome and introductions

Karen Smurthwaite welcomed everyone to the AGM and introduced the Executive Committee.

2. Review of previous minutes

Copies of the minutes from last AGM on June 2019 were circulated and approved.

3. Section Reports

Brief reports were provided by:

Beavers – Disney

James Polson

There are currently 13 members on the books with 11 who have moved up to cubs over the past 6 months. Currently running meetings via Zoom with a variety of topics and have issued 5 bronze awards. Thanks go to the other leaders who have helped support the troop during this time.

Beavers - Kiwi

Tara Mendez

Currently have 14 members, 11 boys and 3 girls. Since March we have only had 3 or 4 beavers that regularly participate in our weekly programme. We do not run zoom meetings at present but this maybe something we look at in the new term (2021). We have 3 new starters in January and hopefully a few come back from into Beavers that have left due to no face to face scouting. The Beavers have managed to earn a number of badges including The Great Indoors and 210 badges have been issued since last November, 5 of which were Bronze awards. 71 of these have been learnt during lockdown with some are still to be awarded.

Cubs – Wolves

Jason Price

Most meetings are taking part online. Only 7 or 8 cubs take part regularly but more badges are covered a lot as cubs can pick up the online badge programme on their own. Thanks go to James and George for their help this term.

Cubs - Panthers

Mark Hudson

I think we can all agree it's been a difficult and indifferent year. During the summer and now winter term we have not had any face to face scouting and therefore relied on various ways to run Cubs using both the badges at home and Zoom meetings. We have tried to ensure (with the odd exception) that Cubs can still be involved whether they choose to use Zoom or not.

In addition, we have had some special guests during this term. This included Professor Owen giving a presentation on space, which the Wolves joined us for, and a parent who run a Krypton factor style night of fun. A real-life scientist talking about immunology will also be running an evening after half term.

We have issued 202 badges since 8th November 2019 and I must also congratulate Emily Whitney, Henry Pink, Lily McLean and George Kavanagh for earning their Silver Awards. 75 of the 202 badges issues have been since lock down started.



We have lost numbers within the Panthers. Some of these are due to Cubs moving into Scouts and some are due to people leaving during these difficult times. Currently we have 27 cubs on the books and we regularly have between 9 and 10 attend the Zoom meetings.

Communications still are ongoing with the parents. Some parents have said that their child only want to participate in face to face. We were planning to do a face to face meeting at Frylands and orienteering and had 11 cubs say they wanted to attend however this now won't happen until next year at the earliest. Obviously Cub camp in September was cancelled and this has been rebooked for September 2021. Thanks go to Chris, James and Nathan for their hard work during this time.

Scouts - Ransoms

Karen Smurthwaite

Unfortunately Ransom scout troop has now closed. On the return to face-to-face scouting the group will look to re-establish this troop. Thanks go to Graeme and Kath for all their hard work over the years with this group. Both will remain within the group to as occasional leaders to provide support as needed to other groups.

Scouts - Bears

Matt Million

Thanks got to Mark and Vincent for their help during this time. The year started with about 18 scouts and there are currently about 18 on the books now. There are 8 to 10 who regularly take part in Zoom meetings. Most are the 5 new cubs that have recently come up. There has also been 4 Scouts who have left and joined Explorers. Approximately 78 badges were awarded over the year. There are a number of Scouts close to their gold award but need to get outdoors or group related awards which will pose a challenge over the next few months.

Explorers

Tim Birse

There are currently 12 Explorers - 7 girls and 5 boys (including the ones sent up from Scouts by Matt). The enthusiastic group is currently running with well attended virtual meetings.

4. Group Section Leader's Report

Karen Smurthwaite

This year Matt achieved his nights away permit although was unable to do his first camp. Currently there are approximately 100 young members - some currently active and some waiting for the return to face-to-face meetings. This is approximately 50 down on previous years but we expect this to return when more regular meetings start.

It has been announced that Downe Scout activity centre site has been put up for sale. There is a group organising to work together to see if it possible to save the site for scouting – with contributions from representatives across the districts.

There are also a number of national fundraising initiatives currently active to support the Scout Association.

Thanks go to all the leaders who are running Zoom meetings or other initiatives to ensure that scouting continues.

During the break from face-to-face meetings the Quartermasters have been hard at work improving the hut – including electrical work, hand dryers and heaters. Thank to the Quartermasters for all their work.



Gary Peppiatt

Thanks go to everyone during what has been a very difficult year. All of the group should be extremely proud of what you've done during lockdown to keep your members active and involved. This is exactly what we need right now to keep the organisation going. We will recover – no matter how much our members drop. At the core we need to ensure that we keep supporting the leaders who help keep the organisation running.

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 was not awarded this year

7. Chair's Report

No report as there is no Chair in position.

8. Treasurer's Report

[Signed transcript. Overall income £20k and expenditure of £25k including overpayment council tax. Overall spend compared to last year...]

Other expenditure remains on track

Looking across the sections, for the most part on a per member basis the amount being allocated out of the subs above fixed costs is being spent. Leaders have already received a copy of the accounts.

The Annual statement of accounts has been reviewed by an independent accountant and approved. The only item flagged in this review is to ensure that any income received not via OSM should be properly receipted by leaders using the appropriate receipts for any cash in hand payments.

9. Executive Committee Membership

Appointment of Treasurer, Secretary and Chair:

John Whitney was nominated and seconded by Karan Smurthwaite and Mark Hudson respectively to the position of Chair of the group.

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

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

10. Any other business

No other matters were raised.

Karen thanked everyone for coming and the meeting concluded at 2.30pm

