

2nd Orpington Scout Group

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 1 December 7.45pm (meeting held over Zoom)

Attendance

Karen Smurthwaite - Group Scout Leader (acting chair)
Tim Birse – Treasurer
Alison Kavanagh - Secretary

Tara Mendez – Kiwi Beaver Scout leader
James Polson – Disney Beaver Scout leader
Mark Hudson – Panthers Cub Scout leader
Chris Litton - Panthers Cub Scout leader
Jason Price – Wolves Cub Scout leader
Becca Brooklyn – Bears Scout leader
Damian Hudson - Kiwi Beaver Scout Assistant leader
George Hudson -
Tim Birse – Explorers
Becca Brooklyn

Apologies:

John Whitney - Chair
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 November 2020 were circulated and approved.

3. Section Reports

Brief reports were provided by:

Beavers – Disney

James Polson

Currently have 16 Beavers but expecting to be reduce down to 13 by middle of next term. Sarah Stringer is coming up as a young leader from Explorers and is doing well. The group are running a lot of theme nights. Over the last year the group have given out 12 bronze awards and are working on filling the gaps for those next in line. Thanks go to the other leaders who have helped support the troop during this time.

Beavers - Kiwi

Tara Mendez

We currently have 16 beavers 11 boys and 5 girls and I have a 3 on the waiting list to start next Spring. I found this a very different and difficult year in scouting with no face to face meetings and then with a few months of zoom meetings in our Spring term that went very well and most of the Beavers took part in and this is down to the parents and I have to say a huge thank you to them for this. This was followed by a return to face-to-face scouting for our Summer term in April.

This coincided with our Younger Leader Damian taking on a Leader's role within our section as Assistant Beaver Scout Leader.

I also want to thank Damian and Katie for their continued support.

As for next year we have a Sleepover planned for January and we would like to be out of the ut a little more and maybe organise a day trip somewhere. We have planned another night where we finished off any badges that may be outstanding as this was a popular evening before. We continue to grow as a section and our Beavers are moving up into the Cubs packs.

Cubs – Wolves

Jason Price

The last year has been an effort and hard to get back to how it was. We currently have 16 cubs on the book, of which 5 are girls. The group are all quite young. A handful of the older cubs were held onto for a little longer than usual while waiting for the situation with the Scout group to be resolved. They have all gone up now this term. The group has a new leader, Adrian [?], and some good ideas for future meetings. To encourage the transition to the Scout group Becca has joined in with some of the cub nights. A joint summer camp was held with Panthers that went very well. A winter camp is booked (and is full) for February 2022. The group are trying to catch up on badges where opportunities have been missed in the last year. Many thanks go to George, Adrian and the team that support the group.

Cubs - Panthers

Mark Hudson

As Tara has already said this last year has been challenging for both leaders and cubs.

We currently have 25 members. 8 of these members are girls and 2 members are doing their link from Beavers.

Panthers did manage to give a full programme via zoom with the return of Face to Face at the start of the Summer term in April 2021. During the period of zoom we regularly had around 11 Cubs attend. Our numbers went back to around 30 Cubs once face to face scouting resume and we were lucky to have Cub camp in September with 30 Cubs which was Panthers and Wolves. Since September our numbers have gone down slightly with Cubs moving up into Scouts and a couple leaving that were Scout age.

We have our winter camp booked for 4th February 2022 which is fully booked and we have already booked our camp in September although this has not been made available for the Cubs yet.

Both camps we will be having the Wolves join us

Scouts - Bears

Becca Brooklyn

Becca introduced herself as the new leader for the Bear Scout troop.

Mark Hudson

Matt, the leader for the Bears stood down during half term in Spring 2021 so Vincent took over the helm until the end of the Summer term. Unfortunately both assistant leaders stated that they would be less involved in the Winter term due to work commitments. This has put pressure on the section to stay so the other section leaders committed to cover some night each so that the Scouts would continue to run. This was so important as the Ramsons closed due to lack of leaders during Covid and without the Bears there would be no feed from Cubs or into Explorers.

During this last term there has been a varied programme for the Scouts and behind the scenes we have been looking for a new leader, which we have found! The new leader from the Spring term 2022 is Becca. She will still need the help of the other leaders whilst she learns and grows into her Scout Leader role.

So again, if there are any adults that would like to be a part of something special then please let us know.

Explorers

Tim Birse

Meetings have gone well in the last year – with a wide range of activities. The leaders have supported parallel running of Scouts and Explorers. During the most recent half term the leaders took a group of 8 youngsters on a narrow boat trip for the week. Planning is in progress for summer camp 2022.

4. Group Section Leader's Report

Karen Smurthwaite

It has been a quiet year for the group as there has only been face-to-face scouting back since April. But the group have still achieved a lot, with a number of awards received:

- Jason Price - Merit award



- Karen Smurthwaite - 10 year service
- George Hudson - 5 year service
- Tara Mendez – Chef Scouts Commendation for Good Service Award

There have also been several new leaders recruited – Adrian Clarke for Wovles, Damian Hudson for Kiwis and Becca Brooklyn for Bears.

Thanks go to all the leaders who have been running Zoom meetings or other initiatives to ensure that Scouting continues over what has been a very difficult few years.

Karen announced that she will be stepping down as Group Scout Leader. Karen will stay on as District training advisor and to help provide general support to the 2nd Orpington groups.

Mark Hudson will now take on the Group Scout Leader role, although to do this he will step down as group administrator and Cub leader.

Maintenance work

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. Over the past year a lot of work has been done at the hut; improvements to electrics, tree trimming, fencing replacements, the annual hedge trim and sorting the waste pipe. A parent supported Saturday tidy team was very productive and cleaned moss and lichen off the car park in the front.

Thanks go to the Quartermasters for all their work.

For 2022 there are still a number of improvements to be looked at, in particular for the toilets, space for the childminder group, floor re-varnishing and a review of the roof status.

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

6. Chair's Report

No report as the Chair was unable to attend the meeting.

7. Treasurer's Report

A review of 2019/20 year was conducted which showed that expenditure for the year was £25k and income £20k – which was a cause for concern.

For 2020/21 expenditure was £12k and income £32k. The latter included £21k of covid support grants. Tim was also able to secure business rates refunds from previous years. The increase in income also reflects that the hall is now regularly rented during the day to the childminder group. Although a temporary measure started during the pandemic, this is expected to continue.

A more normal year is anticipated for 2021/22 – where the group should break even. In addition to expenditure on hut maintenance we have spent a small amount of the money from the covid support grants on a joint initiative with All Saints to support tree planting in early 2022.

There is no recommendation to increase subs currently.



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.

It was proposed and agreed that Mark Hudson should now become a signatory on all the group accounts.

Tim Birse had previously audited the accounts as an independent prior to appointment as the accountant for the group. There is a need to find a new independent reviewer for April 2022.

9. Executive Committee Membership

Appointment of Treasurer, Secretary and Chair:

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

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

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

Jason Price was nominated by Karen Smurthwaite and seconded by Alison Kavanagh to the become a member of the Executive Group.

10. Any other business

Tara Mendez was nominated by Mark Hudson and seconded by Alison Kavanagh as group administrator moving forward to fill Mark's previous position.

Mark flagged that there was some online training that would be circulated shortly for Executive members to complete.

It was the agreement for the group to pay the deposits of £10pp for the 15 leaders of the group going to the Christmas meal.

For 2022, Mark will book in leaders and Executive meetings in advance and will circulate the dates in advance.

Karen thanked everyone for coming and the meeting concluded at 8.35pm.

