

1ST MARKFIELD SCOUT GROUP SCOUT COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 20th June 2024 from 7-8.30pm at Bowmar Scout Hut, Markfield

Acting Chair and Lead Volunteer: Alan Brine

1. Introduction & welcome

Opening remarks and welcome to Members of the Group Scout Council and guests.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from several parents and volunteers who had reached out on e-mail but were unable to attend the meeting.

3. Governance topics

3a. To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 06 July 2023

The minutes of the annual general meeting held 6th July 2023 were agreed as a true record of that meeting.

3b. To adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules

In line with the recommendation from The Scout Association (TSA). The Group Scout Council unanimously agreed to adopt the model constitution from Chapter 5 of the TSA Policy, Organisation and Rules.

3c. To note the Group's financial year

Following the agreed change last year to place the Group in line with other District Groups, the current financial year is set as 1st March 2024 to 28th February 2025.

4d. Approve appointed and community members of the Group Scout Council

No nominations were received.

4e. Agree the number of members that may be elected to the Trustee Board

Following good practice recommendations from the Charity Governance Code, POR states Trustee Boards should have a minimum of 5, and no more than 12, Trustees in total. This includes ex officio and co-opted Trustees. The Group Scout Council agreed to this.

4f. Agree the quorum for each of the Group Scout Council (excluding this AGM)

The Group Scout Council unanimously agreed the quorum (minimum number) of Group Scout Council members that must be present at a meeting of the Group Scout Council to be set as a minimum of all active trustees.

4. Review of the previous year

5a. Review of Scouting in the Group

Alan Brine invited members to review the Annual Report.

5b. To receive and consider the Annual Report of the Group Trustee Board including the annual Statement of Accounts

Confirmation was given that the Group Trustee Board had approved the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts and Accounts, and the report on the accounts has been received from the Scrutineer.

The Group Scout Council was provided the opportunity to ask questions of the Trustee Annual Report, and the Annual Accounts. No questions were received.

5. Appointments

As noted above, following good practice recommendations from the Charity Governance Code, POR now states Trustee Boards should have a minimum of 5, and no more than 12, Trustees in total. This includes ex officio and co-opted Trustees.

Liam & Lyn Mawhinney have recently stepped down from their roles as Trustees, Deputy Group Scout Leader and Section Leaders. This now leaves the Group with 2 current Trustees.

A plea was made the Scout Council and wider community to volunteer as Trustees. Without this support, the Group would have no choice but to close marking the end to 70 years of Scouting in Markfield.

The following questions were received:

- What would happen to the Scout Hut if the Group closed? – All assets, including the Hut, would be handed over to the District Scout Council to manage. The land is trusted in deed for scouting purposes alone.
- Could other local groups/community group use the hut if Markfield Scout Group closed? – this would depend upon agreement from the District, there are some groups in the District without a premises. But it is likely agreement would be given for local groups to use the hut.
- Clarification was given on the role of the Scrutineer rather than Independent Examiner or Auditor – As a charity we receive income less than £25,000, which means we may appoint an independent person who is reasonably believed by the Trustees to have the requisite knowledge and practical experience to carry out the work programme for Scrutineers.

The following individuals stepped forward and were agreed as Trustees (subject to further Charity/TSA declarations): Phil Jordan, Bethan Jordan, Alan Brine, Sue Wainwright and Joe Wells. It was agreed that specific roles and responsibilities will be agreed once the Trustee Board meets.

Margaret Beck was re-appointed as scrutineer.

6. Awards

Duncan Watts, District Commissioner, awarded Dylan & Toby with their Chief Scout Bronze Awards and Beaver of the Year 2024 was awarded to Harrison for his excellent attendance and always joining in with the fun and activities at Beavers.

Lily also received her wood beads for completion of her leader training, and Alan was awarded wood beads for his GSL training and 15 years in Scouting.

7. Closing Remarks

Thanks were given to all those who attended and have offered their support.

The Group, including Beavers, Cubs and Scouts present, presented Liam & Lyn with gifts celebrating their time as volunteers.

Further celebrations were held following the meeting including a BBQ provided by David Mawhinney.