

## **Minutes of the Annual Review and AGM**

**Scout HQ, 8:00 pm, Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024**

20 people were in attendance, from the District and Group, including Trustees, Leaders, Executive Committee members and parents.

### **1. Welcome and Apologies:**

The Chair, Kevin Mead, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **2. Steve Barden, Secretary** noted that several apologies had been received from our volunteer Leaders.

### **3. The Minutes** of the 2023 meeting had been published in advance and were approved without amendment.

### **4. Governance Topics**

**a) Adopt the Group Constitution:** KM explained that our Constitution had been revised in the context of The Scout Association March 2024 Policy Organisation & Rules (POR) and had been available to the Scout Council members for review and inspection prior to this meeting. It had also been endorsed by the Executive Committee and the Group Trustees. It is based upon the model constitution documented in Section 5.4 of the POR, but with a number of local amendments:

- we are managed by a Group Executive Committee rather than a Trustee Board to more accurately reflect the constitution of our management body;
- Group Executive Committee members do not become de facto Trustees – we have a small number of defined Trustees. This avoids adding unnecessary legal responsibilities to our volunteer Section Leaders (and other members);
- we have defined what we consider to be more practicable quorums for both the Group Scout Council and Executive Committee Meetings;
- Trustees are not subject to a maximum of nine years in role given that they are all appointed or nominated – this prevents valuable volunteers being forced to step down from their roles.

**b) Our Group Trustees** are Simon Williams, Steve Barden, David Shickle, Leigh Hogarty and Kevin Mead.

**c) Our Group's financial year** is 1st April to 31st March.

## 5. Review of the Previous Year:

**Scouting:** KM noted that the year ending April 2024 saw a strong Scouting programme delivered and that the Group continued to thrive, albeit without a GSL in place. He thanked all the Leaders for their extra efforts in the circumstances.

He highlighted that individual Sections continued their rich offering of activities and badges as illustrated by the individual Section Reports in the **2023-24 Annual Report** (available online) and that Spring Bank Camp, ScoutAbout, Summer Camp and Water Weekend were all well attended.

He concluded by explaining that we remain without Parent Representatives in three Sections and are especially trying to recruit more leaders, highlighting that we would welcome interest from parents willing to join the Leader Team or to undertake a training course to become qualified to lead activities such as archery, shooting or climbing.

**Accounts:** Simon Williams, Treasurer referred to the Group's Income & Expenditure statements in the Annual Report; they showed that our finances remain healthy with £114k in the bank, supported by enhanced fundraising activities from the Community Christmas Post and a very well supported Quiz evening in early March.

He went on to explain that our HQ, built in 2012 and new Stores built in 2020 were recorded in the accounts as an asset that actually reflected our contribution to the EMC estate which, should it be disposed of, would be realised as value owned by the Group.

## 6. Group Executive Committee:

In the absence of a GSL, John Hughes, Deputy DC confirmed that he endorsed that **Kevin Mead** continued as **Chair**:

The Chair then proposed that:

- **Simon Williams** continued as **Treasurer**, and
- **Steve Barden** continued as **Secretary**.

In the absence of any additional nominations the existing Section Parent Representatives were re-elected unopposed.

A show of hands unanimously approved all of the above appointments.

**Appointment of Independent Auditor:** Simon Williams proposed that Andrew McDonald continue as Auditor for the forthcoming year. **Seconded: Kevin Mead**

## **7. Presentation of Awards:**

The Chair invited JH, as DDC. to present a number of Service Awards and Wood Badges to Leaders. Also, a Chief Scouts Commendation for Good Service to Clare Diplacito.

## **8. AOB:**

- **Gillian Mead** confirmed that she would attend the 'Updating Compass' webinar and cascade the salient information to the remaining Leaders and Executive members
- **Commemorative 'D'-Day badges** were distributed to all Uniformed Leaders.

## **9. There being no other business, the Chair brought the meeting to a close at 20:30 and invited attendees to continue discussions at a local hostelry.**