

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 6th Whitley Bay (St Mary's) Scout Group commencing at 6:15 pm on Tuesday 7th July 2020 using Zoom

Parents and guardians of the young people in the Group who wished to participate in the meeting were required to register beforehand and were asked to complete a short online poll indicating approval or disapproval of the various motions due to be considered at the Meeting. 40 people completed the poll and there were no disapprovals.

1. **Group Chair Clare Marriott** welcomed all those attending the meeting and introduced a short video showing highlights of the Group's activities over the last 12 months.
2. **Approval of the Proposal that this AGM may be conducted using Zoom** and that all those registering and logging into the Meeting represent the Scout Council. Proposed by Clare Marriott and seconded by Group Secretary Ian Lamont. The total attendance was 57 (71 had registered). The proposal was approved.
3. **Apologies for absence.** None
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 16th July 2019** which were posted on the Group web-site. Proposed by Ian Lamont and seconded by Clare Marriott. Approved
5. **Matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 16th July 2019.**
Clare confirmed that the Scout Section had been divided into a Tuesday meeting and a Wednesday meeting since January.
6. **Approval of the Treasurer's Annual Report and Accounts** which were posted on the Group website. Proposed by Group Treasurer Julie Stafford and seconded by Clare Marriott. Approved
7. **Nomination of the Group Chair** by Group Scout Leader Scott Blackett. Clare is standing down as chair and there are presently no volunteers to replace her. Scott asked anyone interested in the position to contact one of the Section Leaders or Group Secretary Ian S Lamont.
8. **Approval of the proposal that Group Executive Committee Meetings may be held using a suitable on-line platform.** Proposed by Clare Marriott and Ian Lamont. Approved.
9. **Approval of the proposal defining a quorum for the Group Scout Council and for the Group Executive Committee.**
The quorum for a Group Scout Council meeting shall be 30.
The quorum for a Group Executive Committee meeting shall be 6 including-
at least 2 from the Group Chair, Group Secretary and Group Treasurer and
at least 2 from the Group and Section Leaders and
at least 2 Elected Members.
Proposed by Ian Lamont, seconded by Clare Marriott. Approved.
10. **Election of Group Secretary.** Ian Lamont has been proposed by Clare Marriott and seconded by Julie Stafford. Approved.
11. **Election of Group Treasurer.** Julie Stafford has been proposed by Clare Marriott and seconded by Ian Lamont. Approved.
12. **Election of members of the Group Executive Committee**
 - a. There are to be up to 6 Elected Members. Proposed by Clare Marriott, seconded by Ian Lamont.
 - b. Andrew Cooper, Alastair Elliot and Sarah Weddle have all been proposed by Clare Marriott and seconded by Ian Lamont.
There were no other nominations from the meeting and all those proposed were elected
13. **Approval of the nomination to the Group Executive Committee** by Group Scout Leader Scott Blackett of Kate Stobart as St Mary's Representative. Approved.
14. **Appointment of an Independent Examiner of the Accounts.** Pauline Watson proposed by Clare Marriott, seconded by Ian Lamont. Approved

15. Report by St Mary's Church, the Sponsoring Authority. St Mary's was represented by Revd Canon Rachel Wood, Vicar of St Mary's and Revd Benjamin Jarvis, Assistant Curate. Rachel reported that she was impressed by the effort and work put in by the Group leaders and helpers and the fun everyone had. This was reflected in the growing Group numbers and establishment of an additional Scout meeting. She loved having the Group as part of St Mary's and particularly noted their attendance at the Harvest Festival and Remembrance services. She reported that the Church was progressing with the development of the Church grounds and welcomed any assistance, advice or suggestions regarding this.

16. Presentation of the Group Reports, which have been posted on the Group website, by Scott Blackett. Scott welcomed District Commissioner Charlie Ross and District Chair John Jeffs to the meeting. He acknowledged that this was a difficult time for Scouting but felt that the Group had responded well to the challenges posed by the lack of face-to-face Scouting activities. He praised the continuing enthusiasm of the all the adults and young people in the Group and thanked the Section Leaders and Assistants, the Young Leaders, Occasional Helpers and parents and the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts for their contribution to the Group throughout the year in and out of lockdown.

This was followed by a short break while the young people went to fetch their largest teddy bear and the adults completed a short questionnaire regarding the virtual Scouting activities and seeking volunteers to help with the Section meetings and/or join the Executive Committee. Contact any Section Leader or the Group Secretary for further information.

Questionnaire Results – 40 people responded to the questions. The results were as follows;

- 1 Once face to face Scouting returns, are you interested in becoming an occasional helper, pack assistant or warranted leader? Yes 13
- 2 Zoom sessions have been running in all three sections since March/April 2020, has your Beaver, Cub or Scout had a good experience and been part of these sessions? Unanimous Yes
- 3 If Scouting face to face doesn't resume in September, should we continue with our weekly Zoom meetings? Unanimous Yes
- 4 Would you be willing and able to join our Group Executive? Yes 5
- 5 Is there something more you think we should be doing during these challenging and difficult times? Yes 2
- 6 Do you have or know anyone that would be willing to be our Group Chair? Yes 2

17. Presentation of Awards Excellence awards for outstanding performance were announced for each Section. These went to Beaver Scout Tom Hale, Cub Scout William Phin and Scout Elliott Johnston. Anthea Livingston-Polley, Beaver Scout Leader announced that Noah Gell is to receive the Chief Scout's Bronze Award together with two other Beavers who were not present at the meeting. Anthea also invested two Beavers who joined after the start of lockdown – Isaac Stewart and George Hazell. As Clare is standing down as Chair at this Meeting, GSL Scott thanked her for her excellent service to the Group over the past three years and a suitable thank you gift was being emailed to her as he spoke.

18. Address by the District Commissioner Charlie Ross. Charlie thanked the Group for inviting him to join the AGM which he had very much enjoyed. He praised the efforts and achievements of the Group over the year and expressed the District's thanks and congratulations to all those involved.

19. Group Chair's closing remarks. Clare said she had enjoyed her time as Group Chair and had been impressed by the efforts and achievements of all those involved. She felt very fortunate to have had this opportunity and regretted that other work commitments prevented her from continuing in the post.

The meeting closed at 7:20pm.