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**1st Fressingfield Scout Group AGM**

**2nd September 2021 7.30 pm – via Zoom**

**Minutes**

**In Attendance**

Dawn Carman-Jones, Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne, Nathan Hunt, Julie Barry, Emma Petty, Alex Dinsdale, Pete Smith, Ciaran Carr, Gail Jerman, Karine Last, Robin Chew, Michael Knights, Teddy Chew, John Coop, Angie Ellis, Hannah Sutton

1. **Welcome**
2. **Apologies**

Steve Martin, Chris Carman-Jones

1. **Minutes of the last meeting**

AGM minutes of 20th July 2020 were approved.

1. **Matters arising**

None

1. **Chairman’s Welcome and Report**

DCJ thanked AAD and the Leadership Team for continuing to achieve scouting on-line and face to face over the last, difficult year. They have overcome multiple additional planning tasks and bureaucracy along the way.

The following Chair report was circulated prior to the AGM.

**Chair’s Report 2020/21**

At the AGM last year (2019/20), I reported on what had been a ‘spectacularly unusual year in scouting’ not expecting that I could use the same phrase twelve months on. But it does sum up the year we have just experienced. Covid has continued to disrupt our ability to provide a ‘normal’ scouting experience, but, despite that, the leaders have continued to provide a programme of online and, more recently, face to face activities that has engaged our young people. I can’t thank Andrew and the leadership team enough for the time, effort and energy that they have put into the Fressingfield Scout Group throughout the pandemic. They have had their own family and work challenges, worries and anxieties, just like every other member of society; but they have still been committed to a weekly meeting, additional paperwork in terms of risk assessments and programme changes, additional training requirements and a creative approach to delivering scouting in very difficult circumstances. The Executive too has adapted to an online world, and they have continued to be committed to ensuring that we can provide the resources that are needed for the Scout Group to continue growing and to be stronger as we start returning to some form of normality. So, on behalf of the young people and the parents and carers, the community and the wider Scout Association, can I please thank all of the leaders and the Executive for your work and efforts in the past year. I truly believe that we have all contributed above and beyond the expectations of the role and together we have achieved a huge amount in challenging times. One group of people who deserve particular thanks and recognition is the HQ Development team who have met almost weekly to drive the project forwards. This is on top of their day jobs and family commitments, their ‘normal’ scouting role and additional hours on site or working to ensure that building control, planning and funders et al are satisfied. At the last AGM we reported on our dealings with MRC. Unfortunately this building was withdrawn at the 11th hour and in February 2021 we found ourselves searching for a new modular building. Thankfully, this was achieved, in record time, and we are in a position to report that the delivery and installation of the Scout HQ is planned for late September – a matter of days away. The learning curve that we have been through in terms of building control, load points, disability access requirements and drainage provision has been huge and really doesn’t appear within any Scout leader role description or training package. After so many years of working together to achieve this goal of a new HQ for Fressingfield Scout Group, we really are on the brink of finally reaching that milestone. Andrew, John, Michael, Angie and Robin – These words really do seem inadequate for all that you have done, but THANK YOU! Fundraising and recruitment of young people and adults will be our top priorities for the forthcoming year. The loan for the building needs to be paid for over the next five years and we need to replenish our funds to enable the programme to develop further. Your help and support for that is sought and welcomed. We know that some of our Fressingfield family won’t return to scouting in 2021/22, and we wish them well and thank them for their contributions to the Scout Group. One member who has had a long history of involvement is Sue Webster, most recently an Executive Committee member, but previously a cub leader, stepped down during the year. I would like to formally record my personal thanks, and those of the Group to Sue, and hope that in the near future we are able to mark that appreciation and occasion appropriately. I would also like to record our sincere thanks to Matthew Burrell, our County Commissioner, who many of you will know as he has been a very visual presence at our events and activities. Matthew will be stepping down as County Commissioner shortly after 5 years in role, and will be greatly missed by many in our District and in our Group. And finally, I would like to acknowledge the resilience, camaraderie, humour and maturity that our young people have demonstrated over the past year. They too have overcome their own worries, anxieties and concerns; demonstrating on a day to day basis the true skills for life and values that underpin Scouting. They have been truly amazing and a credit to the Scout Group, their families and their communities. I truly hope that we are about to enter a year of more ‘normal’ scouting; seeing the return of overnight camps and the more adventurous activities that we know we pride ourselves on offering. Covid hasn’t gone away and none of us are complacent about the ongoing risks that this poses; but we do have opportunity to learn how to build this into our scouting and ensure that we continue to provide an enticing programme, that young people and adults want to participate in. Best wishes, thanks and good health to you all

Regards

Dawn Group Executive Chair

No questions regarding the Chair report were raised during the meeting.

1. **Treasurers Report**

* **Summary** (circulated prior to the meeting)

JC summarised the accounts to the end of July as;

Main account: **£3,109** (although we owe £4,300 for bikes)

Development account: **£8,785** (bills due include £7,800 for groundworks interim payments and specialist doors)

We therefore have a small deficit, however access to a £7,000 draw down on the loan.

The next phase of the development involves a £90,000 loan instalment and a £20,000 payment from the SLA (totalling **£110,00**). Portable Offices require payment of **£100,557** on 14th September, leaving us with a surplus of **£9,000** at that point**.**

The loan is over a 5 year repayment plan, with the SLA covering £100,000 and the balance to be met with grants and fundraising. It is therefore imperative that we engage the whole scouting family in fundraising efforts. This will be top of the agenda in the next Executive meeting and Leaders will be set fundraising targets for each section.

DCJ thanked JC for his immense support and management of the accounts, providing the group with a clear picture of our financial position.

* **Financial policy 2020** (circulated prior to the meeting)

AAD introduced the Financial Policy which is in place to meet grant funding criteria and incorporates the Social Fund.

A show of hands from the Executive (all of which were in attendance) approved the policy at this meeting.

1. **HQ Development Update**

AAD advised we are taking delivery of the new modular build scout building on 20th September, over 2 days. Following that, there will be a 2-3 week fit out on site before we take possession when help will be needed to complete tasks such as decorating.

There has been much work achieved prior to the delivery with groundworks, septic tank, electricity supply and finding a water connection of which MK and JC have spent many hours at site working and meeting contractors.

The new housing development adjacent to our site has begun and scheduled to be ready mid 2022, when we will be able to use the access road.

Scouting in the new building should be able to start mid October and the Trust accessing from early November.

Grant applications continue. We have recently been successful in securing a £2,500 Community Restart Covid Grant to equip the medical room and provide hand sanitisers & sinks, including an outside wash area.

AAD is meeting Mid Suffolk & Babergh Council on site in the morning to discuss funding for the Coach House.

DCJ has been looking into Government funding for modular scout huts and AAD has completed the application.

Gifts in kind received include;

BT – racking & storage units

IT – Clevertouch screen

SCC agreed for AAD to have a nearly new kitchen from a closing down school.

Adnams – hopefully the rest of the kitchen equipment

1. **Group Section Reports (included in GSL’s Report below)**
2. **GSL’s Report**

My report this year is short, this is not due to a lack of passion or commitment to scouting from our leaders or young people – but we, along with the world continue to be impacted by the global Covid19 pandemic beyond anything that we could have imagined! Key members of the leadership team and Executive have also been working tirelessly to secure the new HQ that we have all been dreaming of and working towards for almost a decade and within weeks we will have realised that goal. This has taken a huge amount of effort and a few sleepless nights and I would like to specifically thank the HQ Development Team for their commitment to this project. Thank you, Michael Knights, John Coop, Dawn Carman-Jones, Angie Ellis and Robin Chew.

I would like to stress that as we conclude this phase of the journey, we have a challenging time ahead of us. Including; to remain relevant to young people by providing quality activities and provision, remaining financially viable through a stepping up of our fundraising and increasing youth membership, overseeing the final stages of the HQ development project and not to mention ensuring that the new risk assessment requirements and Covid-secure scouting is embedded in our routines without destroying the fun of scouting. It is a true testament of the strength and effectiveness of the whole Group that we have and will continue to succeed and exceed expectations.

Highlights of 2021 into 2022 were:

• A return to face to face scouting, thanks to our uniformed leaders for their commitment and drive. Including several day camp and activity days.

• We launched of our online historical archive project, thanks to Ciaran Carr for all his efforts.

• We moved our HQ development to the pre-conclusion phase!

• The Risk Management Hub was launched, including advice on keeping safe and a suite of risk assessments, thanks to the ‘Risk Assessment Working Party’ for their support, Ciaran Carr, Tim Hurtley, Nicola Carr and Michael Knights.

Looking forward:

• We will celebrate the opening our new HQ in October.

• We will need to drive up our youth membership.

• We welcome the reopening of our Wolf Cub Pack and Warrior Beaver Colony in September.

• We extend our school-scout provision to include pupils at Middleton Primary from September. • We await permission to open ‘Squirrels’ a new 4-6 year old scout section provision

• We will need to redouble our fundraising efforts.

• We look forward to the reintroduction of overnight events, camping etc.

• We will need to grow our leadership team, to fill some vacancies and grow our Group.

As ever, I would like to pay a huge debt of thanks to all the leaders, executive members and young people for their efforts and support to keep scouting alive and vibrant at 1st Fressingfield. Also to all parents for continuing to support our Group financially.

As we move into the next scouting year we can look forward to an exceptional year.

Yours in Scouting

Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne Group Scout Leader

* **Organisational Plan 2020** (circulated prior to the meeting)

No further points raised.

1. **Election of the Executive Committee/Board of Trustees**

**Chairman**: Dawn Carman-Jones (appointed by the GSL)

**Executive Treasurer:** John Coop (P) JB (S) RC

**Executive Secretary:** Angie Ellis (P) JC (S) AAD

**Group Scout Leader:** Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne (appointed by the DC)

**Assistant GSL:** Peter Smith (appointed by the GSL)

**Assistant GSL** Michael Knight (appointed by the GSL)

**Network Representative:** Ciaran Carr (appointed by the GSL)

**Explorer Youth Rep:** Nathan Hunt (appointed by the GSL)

**Explorer Youth Rep:** Teddy Chew (appointed by the GSL)

**Y&P School Section Rep** Gail Jerman (appointed by the GSL)

**Beaver Rep:** Alex Dinasdale (P) MK (S) AE

**Wolf Cub Rep:** (P) (S)

**Tiger Cub Rep**: Emma Petty (P) AE (S)MK

**Adventurer Rep:** Robin Chew (P) MK (S) AE

**Pioneer Rep:** Karine Last (P) AAD (S) MK

**Explorer Rep:** Robin Chew (P) MK (S) AE

**Appointment of Leadership Team**

**Deputy Group Leaders:** Peter Smith and Michael Knights

**Network representative:** Ciaran Carr

**Explorer Scout Leader:** Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne

**Adventure Scout Leader:** Colin Clark

**Pioneer Scout Leader:** Michael Knights

**Tiger Cub Leader:** Julie Barry

**Wolf Cub Leader:** Ciaran Carr

**School Cub Leader:**  Cameron Hopkinson

**Ninja Beaver Leader:** Tim Hurtley

**Warrior Beaver Leader:** Lucy Benton

**School Beaver Leader:** Hannah Sutton

**Explorer (YP) reps:**  Nathan Hunt and Teddy Chew

1. **District Commissioner – Steve Martin**

Steve sent his apologies. DCJ thanked Steve for his constant support over the last year, he remains very interested in our group and its developments.

1. **AOB**

None

Meeting closed at 20.07