** 1st Fressingfield Scout Group**

**1st Fressingfield Scout Group Executive Meeting**

**13th January 2022 7.15pm Virtual**

**Minutes**

1. Welcome
2. **Present;** Dawn Carman Jones**,** Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne, Angie Ellis, John Coop, Emma Petty, Michael Knights, Pete Smith, Ciaran Carr, Gail Jerman, Nathan Hunt, Julie Barry, Robin Chew, Karine Last; Teddy Chew
3. Apologies

None

1. Approval of Minutes

MK highlighted item 8, Mini Bus Future from November meeting minutes as incorrect. He felt that another Executive member had also raised concern around mini bus issues. Following discussion, it was agreed to update November minutes to reflect reservations from another member.

1. Matters arising from previous minutes not covered on the agenda

None

1. Treasurer’s report

JC gave a summary of accounts. Closing balance of the main account to the end of Dec 2021 was £12,094.34. Although it is reassuring that the SLA contract repays half of the loan, JC reminded that it is crucial to continue with active fundraising to pay back our loan and was concerned by the amount of fundraising needed.

An electricity bill has arrived totalling £950 for 2 months supply. JB asked how the energy use was shared with schools use. JC advised that this is subject to negotiation. At the moment FSG are liable for the bills, however this can be re visited once we have a clear breakdown of usage over time. The SLA covers “a fair proportion of utility costs”.

KL suggested a smart meter, MK advised this can be considered once we have access to wifi. MK was concerned around heating use and has scheduled a system on the heaters to provide a working temperature of 16o and a minimum temperature of 5o. Mk will monitor and has asked all sections/users to comply.

JC is developing a detailed budget & cash flow for the next 5 years.

* Grant and fundraising schedule

The schedule produced by AAD was updated and circulated prior to the meeting. 2 new grants have been successful to a total of £2,700. DCJ asked for volunteers to help build and submit grants. AD said he was happy to support bid writing for identified grants and will liaise with AAD.

The Santa Run, organised by AAD was a great success with funds raised totalling £1500. AAD is anxious that there are no fundraisers scheduled until Easter bag packing at Morrisons. We need to come up with higher value fundraisers to meet schedule targets.

Xmas Fair raised £400, thanks given to EP for organising and coordinating the event.

Quiz evenings were discussed, but not viable. Currently, since covid, capacity is down to half at Hoxne Village Hall, therefore half the profits. Maybe look into alternative larger venues in the locality (Stradbroke/Syleham).

JB has been approached to host a Bake & Make stall at the Laxfield Community Market in July. A chosen charity each month collects all of the funds raised. AE volunteered to support with baking and hopefully sections can produce some craft items to sell.

KL asked if FSG could run a cake stall at the Stradbroke Triathlon. DDT advised that the community would normally run the stall and collect proceeds. FSG already provide the BBQ from which we raise funds.

* Branded clothing

An order placed in Autumn last year with New World has been subject to delays including the printer contracting covid and the xmas period. New World also asked for an increase in product costs at £2.50 per item. It was felt that this was excessive and unfair on FSG members as the orders had already been placed in good faith and members had paid in advance. It was agreed that AE will contact New World and suggest a £1.25 per item increase for this order. Going forward we will investigate other printers. JB suggested a contact and will forward details to AE.

* Hoxne Produce Market

The last 3 cakes sales of 2021 accumulated a fundraising profit of £210.05. Unfortunately, the Market has now closed as the organiser has stepped down and a replacement has not been found.

* Recycled Clothing

AD informed that there was a recent collection from the HQ, the company were very responsive to the collection request. AD will request information on how much we raised and feedback at the next meeting. KL asked how aware the community & FSG members were that we had this facility on site. It was agreed that AD will promote by posting directly in the FSG Newsletter/FB page.

1. Asbestos Management

This area is minuted as “nil within the building”.

1. Master at Arms

AAD has reassured the Parish Council & residents following concerns raised around the shooting range by 2 near neighbours. He has provided a risk assessment, drawing of the range, legalities, parental consents and information around fencing & high nets. The Executive were satisfied that AAD has dealt with their concerns appropriately.

KL commented that as a parent, the experience is viewed as a positive experience for young people in a managed environment. AD added that FSG provided a positive foundation for the safe use of rifles. JC praised AAD for dealing with the situation competently and DCJ added her thanks for AAD’s responsiveness.

1. Covid 19 response – spring term

We are currently in Yellow status, secondary schools and above are to continue wearing masks inside and there are no activity restrictions.

1. Safeguarding and GDPR
* Nil reportable incidents since the last meeting. .
1. GSL report
* Mother’s Mercy Home, Kenya Annual Report

The Executive were in agreement to continue with the annual donation to MMH.

* Section updates

At the recent Section Leader meeting, Tiger Cubs & Beavers decided to continue with virtual meetings for the time being. This is a personal choice. JB added that Cubs have been given a to choice to attend either group’s virtual meetings.

* Growth

The new HQ is beyond amazing and we need to continue with recruitment over the next few months. There is a steady trickle of enquiries and leaders have been tasked to ensure sections are at full capacity (24 per section).

All sections are delivering great programmes

* Leadership development

Some expression of interest from new Leaders received. We need at least 2 further Squirrel leaders.

Leadership Development weekend is 26/27th February at the HQ. MK is looking into Woodbeads & First Aid.

1. Chair’s report

DCJ thanked the Leadership team for continued to support over the last 18 months, we are at last getting back to some sort of normality.

She asked the Executive for their support to the group and Leaders.

1. AOB

Queens Jubilee – MK fedback that Fressingfield PC have asked the Scouting group to be involved in some way with the Jubilee celebrations. They suggested we might like to facilitate the Jubilee Beacon. Executive members discussed concerns around the risks involved with the beacon and fires at height. It was decided that the beacon is not viable for us due to risks and costs. However, we will be happy to participate in another way such as their fete.

Hoxne have asked FSG to provide the BBQ at their Woodland event over the Jubilee weekend.

1. Date of Next Meeting

10th March 2021