

Minutes of 5th Littlehampton Sea Scouts Group AGM, held 13th October 2019

Welcome – Chairman, Jill Long welcomed everyone including invited District guests Mark Hewson, District Commissioner, Jill Gladman, Deputy District Commissioner, Prue Payne, District Secretary and in particular Cllr David Chace, Deputy Mayor of Littlehampton and Mewsbrook Park Café owner.

Apologies were received from: Jeremy Kett, District Treasurer; Julie Ferris, ADC Cub Scouts; Debbie Deacon, ADC Beaver Scouts; Jill Hart, District Executive Committee; Mary Harvey, District Executive Member; parents unable to attend.

To approve the Minutes of the Group AGM held on 7th September 2018 for which the relevant papers had been previously distributed to all parents prior to the meeting. One minor amendment requested (spelling of name Jill Gladman) and subsequently minutes were proposed, seconded and agreed by those present as being a correct record.

Jill Long, **Group Chairman**, reiterated her thanks to Mark Hewson and all the leaders and fellow Executive Members for their work during the past 12 months and drew attention to her written report which is contained in the AGM papers already circulated (Annual Report and Unaudited Accounts). Attention was drawn to: Chairman's report; Group Scout Leader report; section reports; Annual Report of the Trustees; Annual Accounts. The reports were proposed by Helen Polidano, seconded by Ali and formally approved by those present. These documents will be available on the Groups' website after the AGM.

The **Treasurer's Report** which detailed the income and expenditure and bank account balances, had been previously circulated in the AGM papers. It was noted that Mark Thatcher, of Thatcher Hobbs Langridge LLP, auditors for the Group Group's annual accounts has agreed to be appointed as the Group's annual accountant.

Kester Riley, **GSL**, formally **nominated** Jill Long to be the **Group's Chairman** from this date to which she agreed to. Jill Long then took 'the chair'.

Ratification of appointment of Group Secretary and Group Treasurer.

Jill was pleased to announce that Julia Flower was willing to carry on her duties as Group Treasurer; this was proposed by Prue Payne, seconded by Jill Gladman and formally agreed to by those present. Rebecca Newman-Smith stated she was willing to take on the role of Group Secretary for the next 12 months. This was proposed by Laura Stoddart and seconded by Sophie Dimmock, and formally agreed.

GSL nomination for 3 committee members and Nominations for 3 members of the Group Scout Council to the Group Executive – Gary Silverson was re-elected to the Group Executive; Laura Stoddart and Stuart Little were re-elected to the Group Executive for a further 12-month period. Amber Ollerenshaw was re-elected to the Group Executive.

This leaves vacancies on the Group Executive for other members of the Group Scout Council. Anyone who might be interested is invited to contact either Kester Riley or Jill Long for further information.

Jill explained that she had recently taken on the role of District Chairman, which meant that she would be standing down as Group chairman as soon as a new Chairman has been found. If anyone is interested in the role, they were invited to contact either Jill or Kester Riley for more information.

As Group Chairman, Jill closed the formal part of the AGM. She then introduced David Chace, who had been a major fundraiser for the Group during the past months, by running Fun Days in Mewsbrook Park in support of 5th Littlehampton and Arundel & Littlehampton District Guides. David was invited to say a few words.

Cllr David Chace gave his thanks for the opportunity to support 5th Littlehampton and the local youth membership. From May 2020, David will be Mayor of Littlehampton, and will be raising funds for his chosen charities with another programme of Fun Days in Mewsbrook Park. There might be opportunities for 5th Littlehampton to be involved again, this will be discussed by the Executive Committee.

Kester Riley then thanked all the leaders, members and helpers, and all parents, for their continued support for the Group. He also thanked the maintenance crew, who meet at the Hall each Wednesday morning, working to ensure the premises and grounds are maintained in good order.

Kester Riley went on to explain that prior to Easter 2020 a new Cub pack would need to be opened. At present there is not a sufficient number of volunteers to be able to form this new pack and invited those present to volunteer for the vacant positions.

Kester also invited those present to consider volunteering for the vacancies on the Executive Group and to join the fundraising team. Anyone interested was invited to add their names to the four poster sheets around the hall.

Kester Riley went on to list future events such as the swimming event on 2nd November, fundraising Christmas tree sale (07/12/2019) and plans for a family scout camp for 13/14th June 2020. DBS checks would be undertaken for all parents wishing to attend, to meet Scout Association requirements.

Kester also reminded parents about the importance of ensuring their children's subscriptions were paid promptly. A considerable amount remains outstanding, and is needed to ensure the Group continues to run.

Two new Group members were formally invested to the Group – Maz Chapman, and Simon Fielding. A third new member will be invested shortly. Maz described how she had decided to become a helper, and new member, to be part of the local community and that 5th Littlehampton felt like a second family to her.

Presentations

Mark Hewson, District Commissioner reiterated the need for more helpers and volunteers to support the Group and help it run and thrive and provide life skills for young members.

He then presented Kester Riley with a framed photograph of the old Littlehampton Harbour, in acknowledgement of the Groups' 90th anniversary in 2019. He also presented Ryan Carter with his 5-year service award; Ryan was unavailable to accept the certificate in person, it was accepted by Kester Riley on his behalf.

He also presented Laura Stoddart and Clare Frostick with the District Commissioners Commendation for support to the group.

Kester Riley then closed the meeting and invited all attendees to enjoy the barbecue food and refreshments.