

**1st EASINGWOLD (Forest of Galtres) SCOUT GROUP**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

28 September 2023 at 7.00pm

Easingwold Outdoor Centre “The Dawney”

**MINUTES (UNAPPROVED)**

**Present**

N. Higgins (Chair)

C. Bilson (Treasurer)

S. Scotter (Sec)

S. Bayne (Acting GSL)

P. Jackson (Explorer Leader)

K. Thorn (Trustee)

C. Procter (Trustee)

J. Ramsden (Trustee)

D. Waring (Training Officer & Trustee)

J. Cater (Scout Parent)

1. **Welcome, apologies & declarations**

Chair welcomed all to the meeting. No apologies or declarations.

1. **Minutes of AGM held on 19 July 2022**

Approved

1. **Governance** 
   1. Adopt the constitution of 1st Easingwold (Forest of Galtres) Scout Group (POR Rule 5.4)

Adopted

* 1. Note the dates of the charity’s financial year

1st April to 31st March

* 1. Agree the number of members that may be elected to the Trustee Board

Agreed 10 trustees

* 1. Agree the quorum for:
     1. *Meetings of the Group Scout Council:* Agreed 6
     2. *Meetings of the Trustee Board:* Agreed 5
     3. *Meetings of any sub-committees:*  Agreed 3

1. **Review**
   1. The Trustees’ Annual Report and Accounts 2022-23

Chair reported that the Trustees report was complete but, as yet, could not be lodged with Charity Commission due to the ongoing upgrade of their new website.

Full financial report, payments and receipts have been previously circulated to Trustees in advance of the AGM. Treasurer reported that FY 22/23 accounts had been independently audited and verified by Simon Le Gassicke. In summary, a £7000 loss was recorded for the Group. Accounts will be uploaded to CC website when possible.

* 1. The Group Scout Leader’s report 2022-23

Acting GSL report had been previously circulated to Trustees in advance of the AGM. GSL reported that despite the recent difficulties with leader/volunteer issues, the 3 sections of the group (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts) were still operational with healthy numbers of children and long waiting lists. However, the current position of acting GSL, in addition to his roles of supporting section leaders, District Chair, District Sec and District Commissioner is unsustainable, so recruitment and retention of volunteers and new leaders is still high priority.

Chair and Trustees sincerely thanked GSL for his mammoth efforts and for taking on the GSL role and all the additional roles, in order to keep the group functioning. Without his effort it would surely have folded.

GSL recorded a vote of thanks to former GSL Ian Jakulis and Beaver leader and quartermaster Rachel Jakulis for all their hard work and dedication to the Group and that they would be greatly missed.

GSL requested support for Remembrance Day parade as he was unable to attend. Dave Waring agreed to stand in.

1. **Appointments**
   1. Nomination of Chair, by the Group Scout Leader:

GSL nominated N. Higgins. Seconded Katie Thorn

* 1. Nomination of members of the Trustee Board, by the Group Scout Leader:

GSL nominated Pete Jackson and David Waring

* 1. Election of the Secretary

Sue Scotter agreed to continue for 1 more year and then is standing down at AGM 2024 due to a change in personal circumstances.

* 1. Election of the Treasurer

Carl Bilson agreed to continue as Treasurer.

* 1. Election of other members of the Trustee Board

Chair nominated Katie Thorn, Caroline Procter and Jacqui Ramsden, seconded by Dave Waring.

* 1. Appointment of the independent examiner

Treasurer reported that Simon Le Gassicke is happy to continue.

1. **Any other business**

None

1. **Closing remarks**

Due to the fact that the AGM had been delayed from July and had replaced a Trustee Board meeting, some Group issues were discussed further. See Appendix 1.

**APPENDIX 1**

**Group Trustees notes post-AGM 28th Sept 2023**

**Present (as for AGM)**

1. **Chase Garth Bookings**

CB reported that he and SS were now managing Chase Garth (CG) bookings and maintenance and that the system was working well so far. Currently, it was proving quite a lot of work due to the demand for the hire of the facility. Ideally, so that SS wasn’t managing both Dawney bookings and maintenance as well as CG, a new recruit to take over as bookings clerk for CG would be valuable. JR suggested that a leaflet-drop in and around Chase Garth Road, advertising the role, might be worthwhile. SS said, for the time being, she was not in any rush to hand over the bookings as the system was working well and proving lucrative for hire income for the Group. With this in mind, and due to comments received from multiple contacts that the hire fee was too cheap, we have increased it to £12 per hour whilst retaining it at £10 per hour for those who have already committed to long-term bookings.

1. **Recruitment Issues**

CB thought that the focus should, in fact, be on finding a new GSL as this was a priority. County Commissioner was still keen that parents should be the target for recruitment. It was agreed that there was a need for a new sub-committee to focus on adult volunteer recruitment. GSL, SS, JR and NH agreed to participate. Early ideas were to use the Firework Spectacular evening to encourage participation via leaflets at entry point, announcements on YO1 radio and banners. JR recalled the success of the 2015 outdoor event at the Galtres Centre where scouts displayed their skills. Although this yielded interest in scouting by the children, it did not result in any parents coming forward. There seemed to be a continued apathy by parents to get involved in volunteering in general.

It was also noted that former scouts would be a good target, however, there is no accessible database to identify them, so another way to reach out to them would be needed e.g. a specific event for ex-scouts.

Chair agreed to arrange a meeting of the recruitment sub-committee mid-October.

A scout parent who arrived towards the close of the meeting hoping to meet the Trustees and find out more about how things worked, suggested that more social events for parents might help recruit volunteers and short video-messaging had proved useful in her area of work as a school Governor and PTA member. She agreed to spread the word to colleagues and contacts that the Group still needed more volunteers and help.

1. **Date of Next Trustee Board**

Jan 2024, Monday evening at CG (tbc)