

Minutes of 45th Cheltenham (Bethesda) Scout Group Annual General Meeting held on

Sunday 28th September 2025

Venue: Cowley Adventure site

Present: Chair Tom Harding, 5 Trustees, 8 leaders, 5 Visitors, 61 parents (plus 63 young people)

AGM OF THE GROUP SCOUT COUNCIL

Welcome: Steve Reis Group Lead Volunteer welcomed all to the event, then handed over to Tom. Tom introduced himself (Chair), Liz Harding and Chris Brewster District Lead Volunteer.

Apologies for absence: Noel Hopes Group President, Pat Hopes District Treasurer, Sarah Hick District Chair, Rev. Rachel Leather Bethesda Church Minister, Elaine Griffin, Adrian Cork, Keri McFarland, Bob Steel, Grainne Carpenter, Jonathan Cottey, Sean Marsh and Rachel Simpson.

Governance Topics

Tom explained that the following steps are necessary to record that the charity's foundations are in order.

Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29th September 2024

The Minutes of the 2024 AGM meeting were reviewed by the Trustees at their meeting held on 10th September.

Proposed by Tom Harding

Seconded by Kevin Jones

The Group Scout Council approved the minutes.

Tom duly signed these as a true record of the meeting.

To adopt the model constitution from Chapter 5 of Policy, Organisation and Rules of Scout Association.

Proposed by Tom Harding

Seconded by Tom Otter

Passed unanimously.

Members of the Group Scout Council were asked to note that our charity's financial year is 1st April to 31st March.

To agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board.

Following good practice recommendations from the Charity Governance Code, POR states Trustee Boards should have a minimum of 5 and no more than 12 Trustees in total. This includes ex officio and co-opted Trustees.

The outgoing Trustee Board recommends that 9 people are appointed.

Proposed by Tom Harding

Seconded by Tom Otter

Passed unanimously.

For information, the quorum has been set at 4.

To agree the quorum for each of the Group Scout Council meetings excluding this AGM

The recommendation from the outgoing Trustee Board is that the quorum should be set at 15 persons.

Tom proposed that the Group Scout Council approve this recommendation.

Seconded by Sam Coxson and approved by the Group Scout Council.

Review of the previous year.

Steve Reis, Group Lead Volunteer highlighted the centenary events held this year, namely the Sponsored Cycle Ride which raised over £3000, the BBQ in July and today's Activity Day. A time capsule and commemorative tree will now take place around April next year. The Scout section remained without a leader but a team from the group kept this section meeting. We now have two prospective new leaders in hand. All leadership teams have worked hard, however, parent rotas to help are still vital. He thanked the leaders for their dedicated time and support. Tom then thanked Steve.

Receive and consider the Annual Report of the Group Trustee Board including the annual Statement of Accounts.

The Group Trustee Board approved the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts and has received the report of the accounts from Scrutineer Lyn Sansom.

The Group Trustee Board has approved the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts and the Accounts at their meeting on 10th September.

Grainne, Group Treasurer was unable to attend this meeting, so Tom mentioned that we have received another generous donation of £500 from former cub Chris Read, which is funding our new neckerchiefs and the Centenary Badges. Gift Aid continues to provide welcome extra income. There will be no rise in our annual subscription from parents as the Group plan to absorb the increases of the Scout Association membership fees.

Appointments.

Appoint the Group Chair. Tom continues this appointment being the start of the 2nd year of his 2-year term.

Appointment of Group Treasurer following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the Trustee Board.

Grainne is standing down so we have a vacancy. The meeting was asked for any volunteers. Contact Tom if interested or know of anyone who might be interested.

Appointment of members to the Group Trustee Board following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the Group Trustee Board.

All 5 current Trustees have confirmed their willingness to continue for the coming year.

Liz Harding – 2 years

June Rhodes – 2 years

Keri McFarland -1 year

Kevin Jones – 2 years

Jane Cane - 2 years

The recommendation to the Group Scout Council is that the following should be appointed as a further member of the Group Trustee Board.

We have 1 new member – Charlotte Harber for a period of 3 years.

All appointments agreed unanimously.

Tom thanked the Trustees for their work during the year.

Also to note that Steve Reis is an ex-officio member in his role of Group Lead Volunteer.

To re-appoint Group President – Noel Hopes. Agreed unanimously with show of hands as approval.

Confirm the appointment of the Scrutineer.

It was proposed that Lyn Sansom continue as the Scrutineer of Accounts.

Lyn's appointment was unanimously agreed by the Group Scout Council for the financial year 2025/26.

Tom thanked both Lyn and Grainne for efficiently closing the 2024/25 accounts in a timely manner.

Tom closed the AGM. With thanks for everyone attending.

Presentations

Steve presented a certificate and the Centenary Badge to scout William Woods for his winning design of the badge.

Chris Brewster – DLV thanked all Leaders and emphasised how fortunate the Group is to have them. He then presented the following certificates:

Sam Coxson 10years service

Steve Reis 15years service (although now completed another 5 years)

Kevin Jones 20years.

Signed Chair:

Date: