

Executive Committee
29th June 2021

Present: John Curtis (Skip), Abi CC, Pete Wilkinson (Pedro), Bev Jesse, Geoff Parnell, Naomi Booth, Toby Cullen, Andy Young, Nettie Toop, Jane Scott, Rob Easton, Ros Adams
Apologies: Donna Rendell, Duncan and Sarah Chandler, Lou Billington, Alix Fauvel, John CC

Item		Action
1	<p>PW confirmed that Duncan Chandler, Sarah Chandler and Lou Billington had all decided to step down from membership of the Executive Committee.</p> <p>Skip advised that Colin Taylor and Peter Goldstone had confirmed their willingness to join the Committee.</p> <p>Need another couple of members. Matthew Reeks would be a possibility.</p>	<p>Let Skip/Pedro know if you can think of anyone.</p>
2	<p>We have not produced a detailed annual trustees report to the Charity Commission in recent times; instead, the Chairman has completed an online proforma report using the Charity Commission website. Toby has now produced a comprehensive new report using the Scout Association website as a template. PW thanked Toby for preparing the report and asked for its approval by the Committee for submission to the AGM.</p> <p>Proposed: Skip Seconded: Bev Jesse All in favour.</p>	<p>Must be signed by PW and ACC</p>
3	<p>Accounts: In spite of the difficulties caused by the pandemic we have a healthy bank balance.</p> <p>We are also holding a restricted sum of £120K, donated by our President Mr Richard Adlem, who is content for us to hold it in reserve in the hope that we might be able to purchase the land adjacent to the HQ. It would make sense for this to be moved from our current account into a separate savings account with reasonably quick access.</p> <p>The Committee noted the excellent work by Rob to obtain a number of grants from central and local government to mitigate the lack of fundraising opportunities; also the very positive contribution of the highly successful pizza nights.</p> <p>The Committee had looked at the accounts before they went to the scrutineer, who had signed them off and returned them to the Treasurer without observation or reservation. The Chairman asked that the accounts be adopted and submitted to the AGM for approval.</p> <p>Proposed: Geoff Parnell Seconded: Andy Young All in favour.</p>	

**Annual General Meeting
First Woodcutts
29th June 2021**

Present: John Curtis (Skip), Abi CC, Pete Wilkinson (Pedro), Bev Jesse, Geoff Parnell, Naomi Booth, Toby Cullen, Andy Young, Nettie Toop, Jane Scott, Rob Easton Colin Taylor Peter Goldstone, Ros Adams, Anthony Brown, Alix Fauvel and District Commissioner Claire Mitchell

Apologies: Donna Rendell, Duncan and Sarah Chandler, Lou Billington,, Richard Adlem, John CC

Item		Action
1	<p>The Chairman welcomed all to the 2021 AGM and hoped that we would soon be back to face-to-face meetings. Skip expressed a special welcome to Peter Goldstone, Colin Taylor and District Commissioner Claire Mitchell. Our President Richard Adlem has sent apologies but asked for his ongoing support for the Group to be noted. Summer camp has now sadly been cancelled owing to the ongoing pandemic restrictions.</p>	
2	<p>The GSL assumed the chairmanship of the meeting in his capacity as Vice President of the Group. He noted that the minutes of the last AGM held on 3 November 2020 had been circulated and asked for their approval.</p> <p>Proposed: Bev Jesse Seconded: Naomi Booth All in favour.</p>	
3	<p>The GSL introduced the Group's Annual Report and Accounts and sought their approval by the AGM.</p> <p>Proposed: Ros Adams Seconded: Andy Young All in favour</p>	
4	<p>The GSL sought the approval of the AGM for his nomination of Pete Wilkinson as Chairman of the Group.</p> <p>Proposed: John Curtis Seconded: Rob Easton All in favour.</p> <p>The GSL then handed the chairmanship of the meeting back to Pedro.</p>	
5	<p>The Chairman sought the approval of the following nominations as Group office bearers:</p> <p>Deputy Chair: Toby Cullen Secretary: Abi CC Treasurer: Bev Jesse</p>	

	<p>Proposed: Pete Wilkinson Seconded: John Curtis All in favour</p>	
6	<p>The Chairman sought the AGM's approval for the nomination of Mr Peter Goldstone and Mr Colin Taylor to become members of the Group Executive Committee.</p> <p>Proposed: Bev Jesse Seconded: Andy Young All in favour.</p>	
7	<p>The Chairman noted that the following elected members of the Executive Committee had agreed to stand for re-election and asked that their re-election be confirmed.</p> <p>Proposed: Pete Wilkinson Seconded: John Curtis All in favour</p>	
8	GSL's Report - see attached	
9	Beavers Report - see attached	
10	Cubs Report - see attached	
11	Scouts Report - see attached.	
12	Explorers Report - see attached	
13	ASU Report - see attached. The GSL expressed his and the Group's thanks to the ASU for its support for the pizza night fundraising programme.	
14	<p>The District Commissioner congratulated the Group for providing a really good scouting experience throughout a difficult year. In turn, the GSL wished the District Commissioner all the very best for her tour of duty. He noted that he and Rob Easton are on the District Executive and that the District AGM would take place on 21 July.</p>	
15	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <p>The GSL noted that he had received a letter from the Parish Council expressing</p> <p>The GSL noted that there would be a Leadership Team meeting in July to plan the celebratory event in September.</p> <p>The next Executive Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday 28 September in the Parish Office.</p> <p>It was agreed that the HQ should benefit from a deep clean at the end of the summer term.</p>	

	It was noted that the goats from the field next door have strayed onto the road and into the campsite on several occasions and that the general condition of the animals should be reported to the RSPCA	
16	The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking those present for attending the meeting and for their contribution to the activities and success of the Group during the past 12 months.	

GSLs REPORT

First Woodcutts, like all Scout Groups throughout the United Kingdom have never experienced such difficult times, this we all know is because of Covid 19, we have fared better than most, our numbers dropping by only a small percentage and thankfully coming back up since we have been able to meet face to face, financially we are in a good position, this is partly due in no small part to Parents continuing to pay their Childs membership fee in full, we are so grateful for their support and of course to the government grants that we were able to source through Dorset Council, we mustn't forget Pizza at the Hut, this has proved to be a good way of raising funds, it is however time consuming and a lot of hard work, to all of you who have contributed to this fund raising activity, we express our very grateful thanks.

Headquarters have experienced financial difficulties, this has resulted in our annual membership fee increasing by a substantial amount and I can only see that occurring again this year, they have also had to sell off various properties which include BP House, HQ rules and regulations' have also tightened, imposing stricter measure on training for Leaders, we are very fortunate in that all of our team have completed their Training which is in no small part due to Naomi running training courses throughout the winter months on most Sunday evenings the only exception being First Aid, some of which can be completed online (Module 10), only Rob, Nick Goulden and Andy whose current first aid certificates have recently run out are eligible to complete this module,(Andy has recently completed), when F to F resumes in earnest all three will have to attend a short course to complete, the remainder will have to wait for County to resume first aid training.

You must get fed up with me because every year I rave about the quality of our Leadership Team; they have been exceptional throughout this difficult period, the programmes that they came up with in each and every section was amazing, this was even more brilliant because most was done using Zoom, all of us including me and our young people staring at square boxes (I did try to show support by attending and in some cases joining in the activities,) from comments of appreciation made verbally and on our Face book page by parents, I know that they really do appreciate the effort put in by the Team, I must also thank the Officers, Pedro, Abi, Bev and Toby and members of the Executive for continuing in their roles, special thanks to Toby who has managed to unravel the complexities of Gift Aid claims, thanks too must go to two retiring members of the Executive, Sarah and Duncan Chandler who have decided to stand down.

Recently with Leaders from all sections in attendance, having decided to retire from scouting we gathered to say goodbye to Ruth (Rosebud) a Beaver Leader of exceptional quality, It was my privilege to present to her, her overdue Wood Beads and certificate, the Beavers and Leaders from both sections presented her with leaving gifts, a thanks badge from the Group, a very elegant scrapbook of memories of her time with the Beavers and Leadership Team and with personal gifts, ADC, Sheenagh Bradford presented Bronze awards to two of three Beavers, one was absent.

We have a New District Commissioner, Claire Mitchell who at the moment is only acting; we wish her well in her endeavours.

Skip.

BEAVERS REPORT

15 Members Rushmore and 15 Members in Garston which is the maximum for each Colony. Jane and Annie running Garston on Tuesday with Jake CC (Explorer), Nettie and Clair running Rushmore on Wednesday with Isaac CC (Explorer). The Explorers are exceptional and engage with the children at the different levels - a massive thank you to them both.

Both Colonies are working on the same schedules for activities and badges.

A varied programme was provided obtaining Disability Badge with Explorer Ben helping us with the sign language. Covering Scavenger Hunt to Harvest Festival and Diwali Lamps. Making Remembrance Stones was a great way to engage with the children regarding Poppies etc.

Zoom it was!!

We continued our programme ensuring that the children had resources bags each term so that nothing more was required from the parents. Making bird feeders and identifying the birds in the garden. We kept in touch with our Elderly in Whitecliff Mill House by making postcards in a scrap book and crackers. Great games were provided by Leaders and Explorers alike. We covered our International Badge with a visit to New Zealand, in which we learnt Maori Drawing, making Kiwi's and even learning some of the Haka. We then covered the Space Badge, making planets and constellation jars. Celebrating St David's day and making Mother's day cards.

The children also worked from home on their own obtaining gardeners, collectors, builders and photography badges.

We are looking forward to working with 6 or 7 Beavers to complete and award their 7 Bronze Awards in the summer term.

A huge thanks to all the Leaders, Parents and Group Executives for all the support and help which has made the two colonies work as one and for everyone who stepped up to the challenge or Zoom.

Ruth, now retired, helped until Christmas and made the scrapbook and delivered to the Home with the crackers the children made - 'Thank You'.

CUBS REPORT

Arctic Wolf Pack

Leaders	3	- Andy, Paul, Amber
Cubs	7	
Young Leaders	2	- Jules, Miriam

Timber Wolf Pack

Leaders	3	- Naomi, Jules, Donna
Additional support	1	- Andy
Parent Helper	1	- Karen
Cubs	16	
Young Leaders	2	- Finn, Josh

Totals

Leaders	6
Cubs	23

Whilst membership has remained consistently good over the past year despite the challenges of Covid, no face to face Scouting and online meetings. Current numbers are, however, slightly lower due mainly to the natural movement of older Cubs moving on to Scouts and the understandable delay of Beaver migration as they catch up on the completion of Bronze Awards prevented by lockdown restrictions. But we do note that a couple of members have decided to leave Scouting. I have spoken to the families and I am confident that these decisions have been based purely on external factors and do not reflect on the quality of either the leadership or the programme provided. The (non traditional) Monday night session continues to be the weakest with only 7 members. We have changed the programme delivery slightly for this group by focussing less on the more formal aspects of Scouting concentrating more on one to one development of skills and personal achievement. We also hold more forum type discussion groups where the Cubs have the chance to talk about any issues or personal challenges they face generally in Scouts, School or social situations. The idea being that the smaller group still feel that they are getting benefit from coming to Cubs.

As reported in previous meetings throughout the year, despite all of the challenges, I believe the Cub Team has excelled in putting together another excellent programme for the young people. As an example, I include below for you the programme for this Term only which I'm sure you will agree shows an excellent degree of versatility and interest and a high level of involvement and planning:

Programme		
Meetings	Badges Covered	Risk Assessment
The programme allows you to plan your regular meetings.		
Date	Name	
21/04/2021	Kite Making	
24/04/2021	Virtual Camp 2021	
28/04/2021	Co-ordinates and Map Reading	
05/05/2021	Martin Down AR	
12/05/2021	Adventurous - Spears and Butter and cheese making	
19/05/2021	Nettle soup & String, nettle pesto	
22/05/2021	Day Hike - Local History / Nature	
26/05/2021	Fire making - Back woods Cooking	
02/06/2021	HALF TERM	
09/06/2021	Martin Down - Flora & Fauna	
16/06/2021	Obstacle courses & Evie's Personal Challenge	
23/06/2021	Water games & intro SPLASH video	
30/06/2021	Axe Throwing & Bearings	
07/07/2021	Knots with Peter & Bows and Arrows	
14/07/2021	Pioneering & AONB Artist Silk Painting	
21/07/2021	Make Fire & Forum	

A couple of highlights have been the Day Hike and the Natural History visits to Martin Down. These were particularly successful due to the great work done by Naomi in establishing contacts with the Nature Reserve Manager for Martin Down and the local AONB who both supported us on the visits. The AONB also had some involvement with the Day Hike and we are looking forward to working with them on the silk flag painting project in the next couple of weeks. The involvement of these external organisations not only contributes to the success of individual events but also is an important relationship to develop for the group as a whole.

Another particular highlight for me were the sessions on medieval Butter and Cheese making coupled with spear throwing and medieval knight's sword practice. Amazing to watch our young people in the hall, in formation, being drilled in the various sword defence and attack moves.... Priceless. We were one step away from having our own militia ☺. The activity was run by a young couple from Handley (have blanked on their names) who specialise in all things historical. They were amazing at leading the activities and I thoroughly recommend other sections using their skills when possible. We do have contact details which can be passed on.

Ok, there are many other highlights which could be included but none of this could be achieved without the tremendous commitment, effort and enthusiasm displayed by the whole Cub team, which continues to grow stronger every Term. A massive thanks to all for their time and company. We also want to single out our young leaders for special mention - Finn, Josh, Jules and Miriam - who have made an outstanding contribution to the running of the packs over this last year. Their level of enthusiasm, involvement, assistance, and general engagement with the both the Cubs and the Leaders has been a major factor in the success of all our activities this year. We also thank the other section leaders, the exec and committee for all of their continued support.

Looking forward to another exciting year of Scouting!

The Cub Team

SCOUTS REPORT

Total Scouts - 42

Leaders - 7

As we come out of what has been one of the most challenging years ever for Scouting, it is pleasing to report the Woodcutts Scout Troops are at their strongest ever.

At the onset of the pandemic and when it became clear that normal troop nights were not an option, the whole leadership team committed to doing their best for the young people and to provide Scouting in whatever form was possible. This positive approach was demonstrated throughout the year and saw Woodcutts being the first to run virtual camps in the District and the first to return to face to face scouting. There is no doubt that we are very fortunate to have a fantastic meeting space that makes this possible, but it only really happens because of the desire by the leaders and commitment from the young people.

When signing up for Scouting, neither the young people nor leaders anticipated that most of the last 12 months would be spent on zoom meetings and little chance to venture outdoors. It was remarkable how many joined each week for the online programme and did so with good cheer and enthusiasm. The use of zoom actually allowed badges to be completed that would ordinarily be a challenge to co-ordinate, one memorable evening being Scouts sharing the computer programmes they had written and their own youtube channels.

The Leadership Team also seized the opportunity, with all Scout Leaders now achieving their Wood Beads. During a recent County Training Team event it was noted that when others had rested during the pandemic, Woodcutts accelerated their training, and set ourselves up for future growth. A huge thanks to Naomi for leading the way on training and for Skip supporting all leaders in all sections.

A big part of the Scouting Year is the camps and it was with sadness that we had to cancel our much anticipated trip to Belgium and then our 2021 Summer Camp to Cornwall.

However, demonstrating the spirit that has been in abundance for the rest of the year, a

summer camp of sorts will be held in 2021 and we all look forward to enjoying the sense of friendship and fun once again.

Looking ahead, it is quite foreseeable that the Troop numbers will hit 48 in the autumn term. We have run with more than 24 in a Troop before, but know that the quality of Scouting depletes if the troop goes much beyond this size. This means that, almost unbelievably, we may have to start planning for a third troop.

Our thanks, as ever, for the support from the parents, committee and the ASU. Our thanks, more than ever, to the amazing young people that have kept going during the most challenging of times and remained in good cheer and committed to Scouting.

EXPLORERS REPORT

Total explorers 18 / 20

This has been a very unusual year with much of our scouting being virtual, we have however like the rest of the unit kept attendance high and have grown our section to the largest number of explorers we have had for some time.

During the pandemic we decided to continue with a new range of virtual activities, including yoga and palates sessions, a quiz, online scavenger hunts using what 3 words and google street view etc. We participated in virtual camp, with Ben and his Mum teaching sign language to the scouts and everyone taking up personal challenges for the weekend. As the situation continued, we decided to meet through the whole summer. The idea being to help maintain the support network we offer. For some the virtual scouting didn't cut it, however only one member hasn't returned to face to face.

Several of the explorers have been helping out with the beavers and cubs. I have had great feedback on their contributions. We are very lucky to have such a supportive group of young people at Woodcuts. Who clearly enjoy working with the rest of the section. Hopefully from this they can gain credit for this commitment through the awards scheme offered.

In the absence of the firework display, Explorers have taken an active part in fundraising with the ASU through the Pizza at the hut evenings manning front of house and making pizzas, giving them skills for life as they set up the kitchen, serve customers and prepare pizzas the role increasing as they gain in confidence. It's wonderful to be helping the rest of the group at the same time.

Going forward we are putting things in place to enhance our ability to deliver the explorer training programme with support from the John, Pedro. We also have guidance of Steve Molnar on D of E related issues.

Summer camp will be greatly missed, but we have something in the pipeline.