



1st Newtown Group Scout Council (GSC) Annual General Meeting

7.00pm, Tuesday 11 August 2020 – Zoom Meeting

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

- The Group Chairperson, Alan Rugman, welcomed everyone to the meeting; and thanked all the parents, Explorer Scouts, the Montgomeryshire Area Commissioner (Pete Evans), the District Commissioner (Andrew Chick) and members of the last year's Group Executive Committee for attending the AGM which is being held via a Zoom meeting this year because of the Covid pandemic.

2. Apologies for Absence

- Christine Roberts, Roy Gardner, Paul Martin and Monika Dent.

3. Minutes of previous AGM

- No comments received regarding accuracy of 2019 AGM Minutes. Proposed as true record by Bill Jones and seconded by Neil Grant.

4. Approval of the Annual Report and Accounts – presented by the Group Chairperson and the Group Treasurer

Chairpersons' Report

- Alan Rugman presented a brief overview of the setup of the current Beavers, Cubs and Scout sections at 1st Newtown Scouts; and named the section leaders, who with the assistance of adult helpers and young leaders run the various sections.
- Examples of some of the varied activities and organised camps and events that the various sections had undertaken over the last 12 months were described, and it was indicated that 1st Newtown Scouts is actively looking to find and appoint a new leader for the Scouts section.
- The scout hall is also the base for the Newtown Explorer Scout Unit, where 4 of the 6 Explorers are young leaders assisting with the running of activities at Beavers, Cubs and Scouts section meetings, and 2 of these Explorers have recently been awarded the Young Leader's Award. DofE Silver award secured by 1 Explorer and DofE Gold award secured by 2 Explorer's since the last AGM meeting. Unfortunately, the planned 2020 summer Explorers expedition to Slovenia has had to be cancelled this year due to Covid.
- The commitment and efforts of the leaders to switch to online activities and maintain a degree of contact within the various scouting sections whilst Covid has prevented face to face scouting activities was praised. It was hoped that face to face activities would be able to recommence soon.
- It was explained that our normal income from attendance subscriptions from young persons and hall rental income had ceased as a result of Covid, but we were fortunate to have secured a one-time grant of £10,000 from the Welsh Government to offset the lack of this income which will permit 1st Newtown Scouts to retain and maintain its scout hall, and fund the ongoing annual running costs and insurance costs for the duration of Covid pandemic. It was further explained that this grant was secured purely as a consequence of the ownership of the scout hall by 1st Newtown Scouts, and was not

therefore available to be utilised to fund the normal annual membership fee that is collected by 1st Newtown Scouts from parents to pay to Scouts HQ, Scouts Cymru and Montgomeryshire Area Scouts to cover the running costs of those parts of the scouting organisation. It was noted that the current 2020/21 annual scouts membership fee of £51 was likely to be raised to approximately £60 for all young persons in Scouts in Montgomeryshire for the 2021/22 financial year, and that a third of the membership fee would need to be collected during each of the 3 scouting terms by 1st Newtown Scouts as normal during the Covid pandemic.

- The Executive Committee have overseen the installation of new electric wall heaters and an automatic roller shutter in front of the kitchen servery opening to make the hall more useable during the winter months and to comply with fire safety regulations.
- The Executive Committee are also in the process of having a disabled persons' ramp installed to the main hall entrance to make the building accessible by all users. The project is currently at the design stage, and 1st Newtown Scouts wish to thank Hughes Architects for kindly offering to produce the design drawings at no cost to the scout group.
- The Executive Committee is also proposing to replace the existing single glazed windows with double glazed laminated units to prevent heat loss from the scout hall.
- Whilst the wall heaters and the roller fire shutter were funded from existing funds, 1st Newtown Scouts will need to raise funds and/or secure grant funding to pay for the replacement windows and the disabled persons' ramp.
- These improvements will permit the hall space to be rented to other groups during those periods when scouting activities are not taking place, which in turn will enable 1st Newtown Scouts to demonstrate that the scout hall is available for use by community groups and therefore qualify for lottery funding.
- Grant funding from Newtown Town Council, Sport Wales and Newtown Flow have already been secured this year, and special thanks were given to Paul Martin, Aaron Eaton and David Checkley for making the video that secured the £730 funding from Flow Newtown.
- Donation pages have also been created on the 1st Newtown Scouts webpage for the widows and ramp projects.
- Thanks were also given to all others who have helped improve the scout hall over the last year, including David Checkley, Gareth Thomas, Rhodri Thomas, Eric Evans, Darren Lythe and Jo Sillitoe-Price.

Treasurer's Report

- The Group Accounts, which had been audited by Morgan Griffiths LLP were presented by the Group Treasurer, Ian Hogg, with the following points being noted and raised by those attending the AGM.
 - The accounts to the financial year end 31st March 2020 show a deficit of roughly £7400 compared to a surplus of £6000 at the end of the previous year, due in part to the expenditure of £8500 on building improvements referred to in the chairpersons' report, the fact that the gift aid recovery in the previous year included a permitted backdated claim over the previous 4 years, and because this year's gift aid claim has yet to be finalised and submitted, and due to a reduction of approximately £1300 in hall rental income.
 - The remainder of the income/outcome activity and hall running cost expenditures for the 2019/20 year are similar to the previous year, with the exception of the account for the PGL activity camp which resulted in a £2764 expenditure and only a £2398 income.
 - There was a £7285 account balance at end of 2019/20 year. The £10000 Welsh Government Covid building grant, the £1255 gift aid recovery for the 2019/20 year,

and a Sport equipment grant of £400 has been paid into the account subsequent to 31st March 2020.

- Paul Martin has indicated that he will continue to administer the gift aid claim process on behalf of 1st Newtown Scouts.

- It was proposed by Charlotte Whitley that the accounts be approved; and seconded by Jenny Grant and Heather Simpson.

- Alan Rugman stepped down as chairperson and handed the meeting over to the Group Scout Leader, Bill Jones, to appoint the chairperson for the next year.

5. Group Scout Leader's nomination of the Group Chairperson

- The Group Scout Leader, Bill Jones, thanked Alan Rugman for being chairperson over the last 12 months and nominated Alan Rugman to retain the position of Group Chairperson – the proposal was seconded by Andrew Chick and no objections were received.
- Alan Rugman accepted the position and chaired the remainder of the meeting.

6. Election of the Group Secretary by GSC

- Chris Lloyd re-elected as Group Secretary – proposed by Bill Jones, no objections.

7. Election of the Group Treasurer by GSC

- Alan Rugman thanked Ian Hogg for carrying out role of treasurer for the last 5 years, and the thanks was supported by the GSC as Ian stepped down from the position.
- Adrian Leonard proposed as new Group Treasurer by Bill Jones. Position accepted by Adrian. No objections.

8. Resolution of GSC to set number of Elected members for Group Executive

- It was agreed that the number of elected members for the Group Executive should continue to be four. Proposed by Alan Rugman, seconded by Neil Grant.

9. Nomination and election of Elected Members, as proposed by the GSC

- It was agreed that the number of nominated members of the Group Executive would equal the number of elected members of the Group Executive. Monika Dent was proposed by Bill Jones, and seconded by Chris Lloyd.
- No other members were proposed and nobody else put their names forward for election at the meeting.

10. Nominated Members by the GSL

- There were no nominated members put forward by the GSL.

11. Approval by GSC for Group Executive to co-opt additional members and sub committees prior to the next AGM

- The GSC approved the co-option of 1 additional group executive member during the course of the year to match the number of elected members appointed at item 9.

- 12. Ex-Officio Members to declare interest in becoming members/trustees of the Scout Group Executive Committee**
- In accordance with POR rules, all leaders (2 Beavers Leaders, 1 Cubs Leader, 1 Scouts Leader and 1 affiliated Explorers Leader) have submitted written declarations to confirm their intention to act as ex-officio members of the executive committee for the next year and act as trustees for 1st Newtown Scouts.
- 13. Charity Commission Trustee Declaration**
- It was agreed that all trustees would complete a trustee declaration and return it to the treasurer for safe keeping.
- 14. Appointment of independent auditor by GSC**
- Morgan Griffiths, a local accountant firm, were appointed as the independent auditor.
- 15. Resolution of GSC to define quorum for GSC, Group Executive and its sub-Committees.**
- It was proposed that a Quorum would be achieved if the meeting comprised of the Chairperson or the Group Scout Leader, and the Secretary or the Treasurer, plus at least 2 other group exec members. Proposed by Neil Grant, seconded by Bill Jones.
 - POR indicates that the chairperson does not have a casting vote in the event that a motion is not carried by a majority vote.
- 16. Address by Area Commissioner**
- Pete Evans thanked leaders and exec members for the welcome that he has received from 1st Newtown Scouts, and to Andrew and Neil for the help he has received from the Montgomeryshire Area team. Credit was also given to 1st Newtown for achieving the training and compliance targets.
 - Pete talked about his fond memories of being in scouts, and why he has decided to come back to scouting as an adult.
 - Pete also outlined the way forward for scouting in Wales and Montgomeryshire and issues such as pressures on individuals and inclusiveness, and better communication that need to be addressed in the months to come.
 - Andrew Chick also thanked the efforts of 1st Newtown Scouts.
- 17. Presentations**
- Bill Jones expressed his thanks to Sue Jones, Neil and Jenny for helping 1st Newtown Scouts achieve 100% compliance.
 - Pete presented Roy Gardner with his 5 year service award. Neil read out thanks from Roy.
 - Pete presented a wood badge to Jenny Grant.
 - Pete presented Commissioner's Commendation Award to Ian Hogg for his work as Treasurer for 1st Newtown Scouts.
 - Alan thanked Pete for making presentations.

18. Close of meeting

- Meeting closed at 8:13pm.