

1ST STOKE GIFFORD SCOUTS - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 28 MAY 2012 AT WOODHOUSE

Those Present:

Ian Butcher (Chair)	Sue Gibbs (Treasurer)	Paul Smith (GSL)
Andy Phelps	Lyn Griffiths	Dave Edgecombe
Jan Porteous	Sue Baker	Vanessa Pritchard
Vanessa Bowyer	Lee Baker	Gillian Spicer
Marcus Booth	Michelle Grattidge	Julie Windows
Richard Moorhead	Nina Moorhead	Sharon Moffat
Jane Bridgeman	Mark Bridgeman	

Apologies

Chris Smith		
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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Ian welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for coming along. He introduced the Exec Committee members and explained the purpose of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF 2011 MEETING MINUTES: Proposed: Paul Smith, and agreed unanimously. There were no matters arising.

GROUP ANNUAL REPORT: Ian circulated the Group's Annual Report and briefly ran through the key points, emphasising that all sections are active, and with good programmes, but that there are concerns with the leadership team, which has become very fragile. He noted that Beaver parents have recently had letters which advise that the section will close this Autumn unless new leaders are found. This would not only be disastrous for Beavers, as the loss of flow through from that section would in time impact on Cubs and then Scouts, with the Group being undermined from the bottom. Whilst the Beaver unit is the biggest concern, Ian noted that many of our Leaders have been with the Group for many years, which is great in terms of experience and working together, but which can mean that energy levels are starting to flag. Ian asked Parents to come forward and join the Leadership Team.

Ian thanked everyone involved over the past year, the leaders, the parent helpers, the children for coming along, everyone involved in any way at all.

TREASURERS' REPORT: Sue ran through the financial summary which was included in the Annual report.

We ended the year with just over £13,000 in the bank, largely thanks to a windfall corporate donation of £8000 a year ago. This is set aside for a storage project, which aims to free the Group of the dependency on Geoff's garage, as we'd face huge storage problems if he moved (though there is no immediate threat). Over the past year, expenditure exceeded income by around £2000 which had been planned as reserves were a little high, but the pattern of income and expenditure wasn't quite what we'd expected. Group policy is to retain operating reserves of 1/3 of turnover (~£5000) and ignoring the storage project funds, our reserves are now roughly at that level. We must therefore set a balanced budget for this year

Turning to specific items, and comparing figures with the previous year, Sue noted the subs payments were down because of smaller numbers across the Group (particularly Beavers). We'd also not done so well with donations, but that the previous year's had been exceptional with the very generous donation from the Bank of Ireland. Gift Aid income was little changed, but will drop in the coming year given the decrease in Group membership. Sue explained that this is money we can claim back from the Government where subs has been paid by parents who pay tax. About 90% of our parents have signed the forms and we actively encourage others to do so - if you don't think you did when your child joined up please.

Overall running costs are slightly up. Rent was down because of the merger of sections, with capitation also down slightly (this is a payment to Scouts HQ which links directly to group numbers). Activity spend was significantly up, due partly to donations made towards costs of Scouts attending an International Jamboree, but mainly due to increased spending by sections. This has brought home the need for tighter spending controls this year. Spend on most of the other headings was broadly in line with previous year spend and expectations, though we spent around £600 on replacing the door to Geoff's garage (we've had sole use of it for ~20 years, so it was only fair that we paid when the door broke).

Ian noted that a financial plan for FY12/13 has been drafted, but details need more discussion before it is finalised. Some tightening of the belt is needed to help balance the budget, and offset higher costs in areas like rent where we face a significant increase in the OSR and need to check we can't get a better price elsewhere. An increase in subs is therefore likely, but the scale of subs increase and cuts to section budgets is heavily dependent upon how much we can raise via fundraising (Ian suggested we should look to raise at least £1000 extra this year). BBQs have been a good earner, but income depends upon how often suitable events are running in our area and is therefore hard to boost. We must therefore also think about other sorts of fundraising, and Ian hoped that parents would come forward and form a fundraising committee.

In discussion. Michelle asked why the storage project was considered necessary, and why it was taking us so long to get on with it, noting that we could use the donation to help cover normal running costs. Ian explained that initial investigations for the storage project started after the 2009 AGM, but at that stage money was as much an issue as the solution. Now we have the money, the main holding factor is securing a suitable location to build a garage-type building. Discussions have been held with the local Parish Council but have concluded that we should wait until the Autumn before making a move given sensitivities relating to the area we have in mind. Ian indicated that as windfall donations big enough to fund projects like this don't come along often, it would be irresponsible to use the large donation away on normal running costs.

Dave asked about the camp levy £2.00 per night per child that was introduced several years ago to offset wear and tear on camping equipment. Ian confirmed this we've not been good at including it in camp budgets, but that it is an important part of balancing the budget so we must be more disciplined in future.

GSL Report: Paul thanked the Exec for another year and huge thanks to all leaders for their week on week and year on year support. We are in a critical situation now, it is a real possibility Beavers will close. He referred to the written section reports contained in the Group Annual report.

NOMINATIONS:

<i>Role</i>	<i>Nominee</i>	<i>1st Proposer</i>	<i>Seconded</i>
<i>Chairman</i>	Ian Butcher	Paul Smith	Sue Baker
<i>Treasurer</i>	Sue Gibbs	Paul Smith	Lyn Griffiths
<i>Secretary</i>	Julie Windows	Paul Smith	Jane Bridgeman

COMMITTEE MEMBERS	
Richard Moorhead	Nina Moorhead
Vanessa Pritchard	Gillian Spicer
Vanessa	Sharon Moffat
	Jane Bridgeman (Beavers)

Paul reiterated the awareness of the need for Parent Fundraisers. We need parents involved as we cannot expect Leaders to also do fundraising. Leaders do not just turn up on the night, much planning and forethought needs to go into activities which is very time consuming. We need parents on board PLEASE.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Ian thanked everyone for coming along, noting that it had been the best attended AGM for years

Meeting closed at 19.45