

**5th Dartford Scout Group
Annual General Meeting
8 June 2014
(For the period from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014)**

Present

Distinguished guests included:

- Leader of Dartford Borough Council, Jeremy Kite;
- His Worship, the Mayor, Councillor Avtar Sandhu MBE;
- Adam Clarke of AKD Contracts;
- John and Marion White;
- Peter and Janis Humphreys

Also present were Neil Young (Chair of the 5th Dartford Scout Group), Paul Boreham (Group Scout Leader), Section Leaders, members, parents and supporters of the 5th Dartford Scout Group (the Scout Council).

1 Welcome

Neil Young opened the AGM by welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from past Mayor, Councillor Eddy Lampkin who is also Chair of Wilmington Scouts and who was present at the hall for the initial have-a-go session, but was unable to stay for the AGM), Lyn Medcalf, Bev Panton, Russ Ketley and James Pay.

3 Adoption of Minutes of AGM (2013)

The minutes of the 2013 AGM were adopted by show of hands.

4 Chair's Report

Neil Young explained briefly the role of the Chairman and reported on the non-Scouting highlights of the year.

He mentioned that we have been very successful in our fundraising efforts, with the New Hall Fund now standing at £120,000 (an increase of £40,000 over the last year).

Fundraising for the new hall has not been at the expense of Scouting – last year we organised more camps and activities than ever before and either improved or replaced a lot of our equipment – and we have managed to avoid increasing subs.

Neil reminded everyone that new volunteers are always welcome, even if you can only spare an hour or two occasionally, as every little counts.

Neil thanked the leaders and helpers, as well as the fundraising committee, on behalf of the young people and parents.

In particular, special thanks were given to:

- Chris Boyd and her team for their support as Sainsbury's Charity of the Year;
- Peter and Janis Humphreys for their very generous donation of £250 towards the New Hall Fund;
- Dartford Borough Council for its £10,000 donation, which will be spent on having formal plans drawn up for the new hall; and
- Kent County Council's "Salute to Youth" donation of £1,500 towards new climbing equipment.

5 GSL Scouting Annual Report

Paul thanked the leaders and instructors for running the AGM activities and outlined some of the Group's highlights of the last year, including:

- Cubs camping on HMS Belfast, visiting Disneyland Paris and the Group meeting Scouts from around the world during a visit to Gravelines in France;
- awarding badges and seeing the children receive their Chief Scout Awards;
- the Group winning national awards in both archery and target shooting; and
- the Explorers working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Awards, mountaineering in Wales and reaching (altogether) 1,000 nights away.

Paul also mentioned that four Dartford District Scouts are currently fundraising for their trip to Japan for the World Jamboree in 2015.

The following presentations were made:

- Del Hurd received a certificate in recognition of his 20 years service.
- Vicky Watts received her 'wood badge' (adult leadership award).

Full details are available, section by section, in the AGM activity report.

A vote was taken and carried to approve the annual report.

Proposed: Jim Lilleycrop

Seconded: Tracey Honey

6 Treasurer Presentation and Approval of Accounts

The Treasurer, John Chuter, provided a financial statement and explanation of income and expenditure. It was noted that the largest single item of expenditure each year is capitation, i.e. the money required to be paid to the Scout Association for their organisation of scouting in the UK and support of the Group and all its activities.

John reiterated that the Group had managed to keep subs at the same amount as last year and that the Group are fundraising for new equipment as well as the new hall.

It was noted that Beverley Panton, the Group's Auditor, had reviewed the accounts in advance of the AGM and John thanked Beverley for her efforts.

A vote was taken and carried to adopt the accounts

Proposed: Paul Boreham

Seconded: Derek Hurd

7 GSL Nomination of Group Chair (Neil Young)

Proposed: Paul Boreham

Seconded: Maggie Lilleycrop

A vote was taken and carried to re-elect Neil Young as Group Chair

8 Election of Group Secretary (Lesley Bauckham)

Proposed: Neil Young

Seconded: Jason O'Brien

A vote was taken and carried to re-elect Lesley Bauckham as Group Secretary

9 Election of Group Treasurer (John Chuter)

Proposed: Paul Boreham

Seconded: Tim Roscoe

A vote was taken and carried to re-elect John Chuter as Group Treasurer

10 Appointment of Group Auditor (Beverley Panton)

Proposed: Wendy Hurd

Seconded: Dave Monteith

A vote was taken and carried to re-elect Beverley Panton as Group Auditor

11 GSL to propose Nominated Members of Group Executive and Chair to propose election

Executive: Jim Lilleycrop, Derek Hurd, Karen Hannah, Sean Hodder, Phil Hannah, Pauline Butler, Paul Jarrett, Darren Enever, Russ Ketley, Phil Wells, Andy May and Martin Gubby

Proposed: Neil Young

Seconded: Tracy Gardner

A vote was taken and carried to elect the new nominated members and parent representatives to the Group Executive Committee (and re-elect those members who have agreed to stay on for another year).

12 Official Opening of the New Climbing Wall Staircase

The new climbing wall staircase was officially opened by the Mayor and Jeremy Kite in the presence of Adam Clarke of AKD Contracts.

Special thanks were given to:

- AKD Contracts for their very generous donation of the staircase (which ordinarily would have cost around £40,000 to buy and have installed);
- the staff at AKD Contracts who volunteered their time to install the staircase;
- Darren Enever whose efforts as a parent representative on the Executive Committee led him to make the initial approach to AKD Contracts and worked with Adam to make the donation possible; and
- Dave Monteith for all his hard work in organising the installation of the staircase and preparing the site.

Karen Hannah then gave a brief presentation on the many highlights of the year's fundraising activities.

Special thanks were given to:

- Sainsbury's for making up their Local Charity of the Year (and the many fundraising opportunities this has given us);
- Lesley and Lyn for their work on the fundraising committee;
- the leaders, parents and children who gave up their time to support fundraising events;
- the very generous donations received at the AGM/have-a-go session itself; and
- Dartford Borough Council, the Mayor and local MPs for their continued support.

Lastly, parents were asked to consider how they – and their family, friends and work colleagues – may be able to assist the Group's fundraising efforts, and were encouraged to ask their employers about matched giving. Karen said that any offers of help would be appreciated.

13 Dignitaries to speak on guest of the Guests

The Mayor, Avtar Sandhu MBE thanked the leaders, helpers and parents for making 5th Dartford Scouts the success it is, and thanked Jeremy Kite for his continued support of 5th Dartford.

Leader of Dartford Borough Council, Jeremy Kite said that Scouting is one of the Council's favourite organisations and, within Scouting, 5th Dartford is one of the Council's favourite Scout groups. He said that Scouting gives young people a spirit of adventure and 'characterful' personalities that stay with them for the rest of their lives.

Jeremy went on to say that Scouting makes a much better Dartford for everyone and, because of that, Dartford Council was committed to supporting 5th Dartford in its fundraising towards a new hall. Lastly, Jeremy thanked the 5th Dartford leaders and helpers, saying they displayed the "real spirit of our community" and that he was really proud of them and all their efforts.

14 Chair to close the meeting

In his closing remarks, Neil Young referred to the 5th Dartford “family” and indeed the many families (e.g. the Borehams, the Monteiths, the Hurds, the Medcalfs, the Missions, The Essex’s, the Lilleycrops and the Watts and many others) who have made the 5th the successful Scout group it is today.

He remarked that “children who were Scouts make better adults” and thanked the leaders, assistant leaders and helpers on behalf of the parents present for sharing the joys of Scouting with their children.

Finally, Neil thanked everyone for attending and invited them to stay and enjoy the afternoon’s have-a-go activities and declared the AGM formally closed.