

**5th Dartford Scout Group
Annual General Meeting
14:00 1st October 2022
(For the period from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022)**

Present

William Ward, District Chair.

Also present were Russ Ketley (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 and Chair's Report

Russ Ketley opened the meeting explaining how his connection with the group started in 2001 when his son started Beavers and progressed through Cubs and Scouts, achieving his Chief Scout Gold award. Russ himself growing up in Essex also attended Cubs, Scouts and Army cadets and incredibly believed the government provided that not realising his parents even paid subs, however knowing now that it only operates with a lot of people putting their own time, money and effort in to the place and the success of 5th Dartford is down to the success of everybody involved, the parents, the Executive Committee and especially the leaders. We've had some successful camps this year and with things getting back to normal hopefully next year's AGM will be a normal one with climbing wall and BBQ like we normally have. Russ welcomed Will Ward, representing Dartford District who gave apologies for absence from Shaun and Jacquie from Team DC

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Shaun Ford & Jacqui Wilkinson of Team DC

3 Adoption of Minutes of AGM (2021)

The minutes of the 2021 AGM were adopted by show of hands.

4 GSL Scouting Annual Report

Once again, I would like to say a big thank to both the executive and leadership for their commitment, time and effort over the past year, all of which are unpaid volunteer roles, who appreciate social impact that Scouting provides to the children and the local community. We are still looking to fill the role of Secretary a role which we believe needs to evolve to be IT orientated aligned to social media going forwards, so you don't need any qualifications to be a secretary, you just need to be able to use a keyboard and social media so we can communicate with people would be a great asset, instead of Jason, our Explorer leader making the fine notes with pen and paper that were currently using, so if anyone's got a bit of time, we only meet once a month or so as an Exec committee and it's very fulfilling.

Emerging from lockdowns restrictions we have looked to get ourselves back meeting face to face, we have joined the Town on remembrance parade, the District with Jamboree on

the Trail, celebrated our Groups 105th Birthday, and also I've realised, having gone through some paperwork, that we've been Scouting on this actual site since 30th December 1922, so coming up at the end of this year, we've been Scouting on this little patch of land in Dartford for 100 years, although original Scout meeting place was at the Methodist church at the bottom of the hill until Phillip 'Skipper' Leigh and three others put in £50 each to purchase this site for a pricey £200, so I think inflation has been kind to us, so that's 100 years on site, 105th birthday we celebrated last year and we camped at Easter and Summer at our local Camp Site Thriftwood, had four of our Older Scouts undertake their Expedition to complete their Chief Scout Gold Award, and today 19 of our Scouts and Explorers completed their NSRA YPS Target Shooting course, with us going on to compete in the Scouts National finals which is being held at Bisley in a few weeks' time.

As you can see from the cake sale, we are still supporting Danielle and Bianca our two Explorer Scouts going to the 2023 World Scout Jamboree in South Korea, wishing them well, so please feel free to buy as many cakes as you like today.

We are now starting to advertise ourselves to recruit new members both youth and leadership so please help by recommending us and what Scouting can offer the local community, so whether you're an eager beaver or an enthusiastic adult, we can accept new members.

With the passing of the Queen, the Patron of The Scout Association, that has enabled us to reflect on her personality, support and guidance that she provided to Scouting as well as many other charities that so integral to our country being building up from local community level. In the 5th Dartford Scout Property Trust which was drafted in December 1922 it recognises that we are governed by the 1912 Royal Charter, which has been modified with changes over time, but still in place today. With the proclamation of King Charles III changes to our awards and promise have been made, and I have been asked by a number of previous and current members when can we renew our Scouting promise to the King, hence I would like to take the opportunity now; so all Scouts please stand and make the Scout sign:

On my honour,

I promise that I will do my best

to do my duty to God and to The King,

to help other people

and to keep the Scout Law.

Paul then presented 20 years' adult service awards to Ashley Hurd & Maggie Lilleycrop and 30 years' service to Tim Roscoe.

Paul then went on to advise that at the District AGM the whole group was presented with a certificate of congratulations from Kent County Scouts for growing our section numbers after coming out of lockdown, which few other groups had managed to achieve. This news was met with applause from all at the meeting.

5 Treasurer Presentation and Approval of Accounts

Karen Hannah, introduced herself and advised that our accounts were thankfully in a better state than the current UK economy. Firstly, thanking Maggie, our assistant treasurer, who does a fantastic job in paying things in and doing so much running around behind the scenes and to Bev Panton, our auditor, who has been looking after us for a number of years, making sure we're doing everything we should be and in the right way.

So a little bit of background on myself, like Russ, my boys came through Scouting, now in their mid-20's learned some fantastic skills and it's brilliant to see that we're growing and I'm not surprised because these leaders are absolutely fantastic, when I come down and see David and Alice outside with all these fabulous things going on, and all the camps etc., which I've been lucky enough to go on and I've been trained by Maggie on how to make egg bread and to see what goes on at a camp, and Bisley is a great example, which some of the Scouts and Explorers are going on shortly. It's incredible, I went for the first time as a parent helper and there's a big spreadsheet detailing where everyone has to be and when, Bisley camp is enormous and it's incredible that everyone manages to do it, so the skills they get are second to none. I do want to say thanks to the leaders for a great job, for keeping within their budgets especially with rising costs and putting in their own time as well; like David, who was able to secure a grant of £1000, which is huge.

To give an update on our accounts, which are now ready for Russ to upload to the Charity Commission; our income for the period 2021/22 was £12,537, our outgoings for the same period were £10,259 and our total funds which we hold are £193,804 excluding our lands and premises, which is a considerably valuable asset. Karen explained that much of our reserves were through fundraising and that opportunities to join the fundraising team were available should anyone wish to join.

Karen asked if there were any questions pertaining to the accounts and Russ mentioned that we were in the process of moving our banking over to CAF; Karen advised that we had been banking with NatWest for quite a few years, but it had been a challenge with being able to reimburse leaders expenses and parents payments with an antiquated banking system, but we are now fully online with our cashless 21st century banking.

Del Hurd asked if everyone knew what CAF was and Karen explained it was the Charities Aid Foundation, it's a government bank which looks after charities.

6 GSL Nomination of Group Chair (Russ Ketley)

As Group Scout Leader, Paul proposed we elect Russ Ketley as Group Chair and this was seconded by Tim Roscoe.

7 Chair's Nomination of Group Treasurer (Karen Hannah) & Auditor (Bev Panton)

Russ explained the position of Group Secretary was still vacant and thanked Jason for taking the notes of the meeting, but again asked for someone to take on the role on a permanent basis. Nobody volunteered their services.

Russ proposed that Karen Hannah continue in the role of Treasurer, seconded by Maggie Lilleycrop and Bev Panton as auditor, which was seconded by Karen Hannah.

8 Chair to Nominate Members of Group Executive.

Executive: Jim Lilleycrop, Derek Hurd, Paul Jarrett (Group Administrator), Darren Enever & Dave Monteith

Proposed: Russ Ketley

A show of hands confirmed nominated executive members duly elected.

9 Potential site development

Russ explained that we had been approached by the people with an interest in developing the Bates site next door, they want to build a Travelodge & possibly incorporate some apartments coming down the hill. We had some vague plans sent to us, which sort of incorporate a new Scout's Hall, but when we had a meeting with the developers it wasn't clear, as they mentioned to us that we had a project and some money, so it sounded like they wanted us to pay, and also Paul asked them three times if they had actually acquired the site, a yes or no closed question, but they would only say they had a contract on it, which implied it's all subject to planning and apartment sales then they would buy the site. They said they would send so 3D pictures, which have never materialised. In the meantime, Russ said he had bought a house in West Dartford in 1988 and it turns out that everything since 1956 has to be on registered land if you buy, sell or build anything. It now transpires that this area (5th Dartford), which was bought in 1920 is not on registered land, so it's not registered to 5th Dartford Scouts, so I've made a few enquiries with solicitors and it transpires that if we can find the original deeds or bill of sale it's a fairly straightforward process costing £650+ vat to register the land, but without that we cant build or do anything with this until it's registered to 5th Dartford, so if someone wins the lottery tonight and gives us a million pounds for a new hall, we cant do anything with it until it's registered. However, the solicitor did explain that if we cant find the originals, although we do have copies, we could go for something called adverse possession, which is 'Squatters Rights', so we have to prove that we have owned, occupied and controlled this land for the last 15 years, which I've given a witness statement to the fact for the last 21 years we've come down here and that access is controlled by 5th Dartford and anyone coming down here who isn't 5th Dartford is by our invitation only, so we own, control and maintain this land, so if we can gather as much evidence as we can. Jason noted that we have video evidence of this hall being built, but Russ said it doesn't really show that its on this site, it's just a hall being build. Russ also said he'd been through the photo archives, but nothing really useful for the land registry. William Ward asked whether the deeds could be registered with headquarters, and Russ responded that someone else had asked if we'd been in touch with Scout Legal at Gilwell, so he had done, but whilst they hold deeds for some 5,000 Scout properties, they have nothing for us. Tim Roscoe said that he could provide a statement that he had been coming here for 47 years and William said that we should get as many statements from members, leaders and parents as possible. Russ concluded that he would get all the paperwork together and give it to the solicitor to look through and get back to us, so that's the situation, we are currently squatters.

10 Any Other Business (AoB)

Paul asked William Ward, as District representative to say a few words.

Will thanked Paul for formally inviting him to the meeting and advised that as Dartford District Scouts' Chairman he oversees paperwork and finances for the district and that he has known Paul for some 25 years and in that time has seen 5th Dartford grow and develop, even though

lockdown as acknowledged by Kent County, so well done to Paul and his team. Will noted that with the end of the energy price cap, funds could be more stretched, so encouraged us if needed to contact Cllr Jeremy Kite, Leader of Dartford Council, for money, which would be available through his Salute to Youth financial support scheme, which Paul noted that we were very appreciative of that and had benefited from it in the past.

William also wished everyone attending Bisley the best of luck.

Paul reminded everyone that following the meeting there was an opportunity to take part in a target shooting competition.

11 Chair to close the meeting

Russ once again asked if there was anyone willing to take on the role of secretary, thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.