



THE TRAILBLAZERS



AGM Pack 2021



Charity Registration No 267534

Agenda for AGM 2021

Date: Saturday 10th July 2021

Venue: Virtually via Zoom @ 3pm

1. Welcome and Introductions.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Approval of the minutes of the last AGM.
4. Acceptance of annual report and statement of accounts.
5. Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination for Chairperson.
6. Nomination and election of officers and Executive Committee.
7. Appointment of Scrutineer.
8. Presentations.
- 9.** News from TSA

Minutes of previous AGM

MINUTES OF THE 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD VIA ZOOM ONLINE

5TH JULY 2020

Attendees:

Andy Wray; Nichola Jones; Liane Frydland; Naomi Treanor; Adam Frydland; Anthony Nash; Fiona Ward; Tim Ford; Yolanta Lewandowska; Clive Ayles; Dave Farthing; Donna Summers; Olly Nash; Daniel Treanor; Helen Jordan; Aaron Knoll; Roger Morgan; Karen Ford; Marie Banfield; Linda Knoll; Karen McCormick; Derek Lee; Manikumar Sunwar; Martin Grant; Mike Hughes; Emma Buckett; Dave Dewey; Paul Thompson.

1. Welcome and introductions

Tim Ford opened the meeting and went through the Zoom etiquette and the agenda of the meeting. Tim introduced the committee and leadership teams to the Group, as well as our District reps .

2. Apologies

Emma Griffen

3. Approval of previous minutes

The AGM pack had been circulated via email prior to the meeting.

Proposer: Tim Ford, Seconder: Dave Farthing

The previous minutes were accepted without correction.

4. Annual Reports and Statement of Accounts:

Trustee's report – Dave Farthing (DF), Chairman

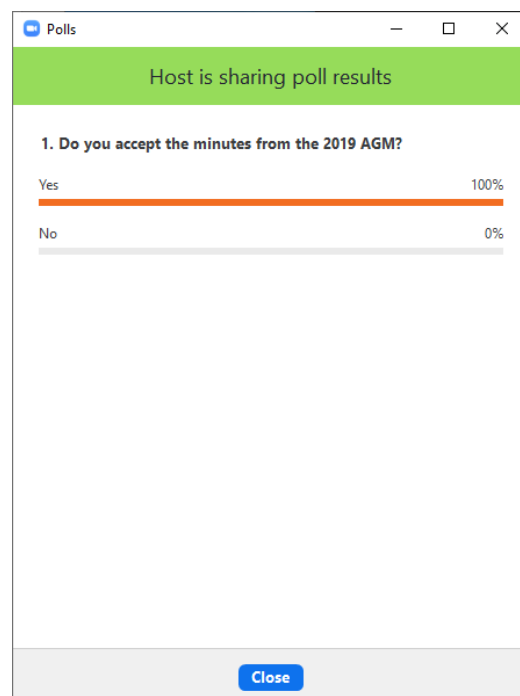
A statement is in the AGM pack as well, but DF went through his report:

Due to COVID-19 Scouting this year has been difficult. DF thanked all the volunteers and Scout Leaders for their work during this difficult time. Safety has been our priority, and we will not return to face-to-face Scouting until such time as we can do it safely and Scouting HQ allow us to.

Fundraising has been hit this year, but even during lockdown we have raised some funds through a "Wear your PJs to work" day by our secretary, and some grants.

There are a lovely group of people called the Monday Night Crew who are ex Scouts who have been working on the hut to put in storage and a new ceiling and lighting.

Our outdoor garage is in dire need of replacing. Blackwater Valley Scout District have given us £1,500 towards replacing it, and we now happy to report we have enough money to proceed with this project – which we'll do as soon as we are able to after lockdown.



Dave thanked Andy Wray who has kindly given us an extra year of his time in the Treasurer role. We now have a new Treasurer in the form of Ollie Nash. This is a key role and without them both we could not operate as a Group.

We still need committee members to support our Leaders in any role that is small to large. We are looking for people to help out with maintaining the hut, and fundraising.

For those that want to help a little more, we also need Leaders – training and support is provided and you will gain your own experiences as well as helping children gain theirs.

Dave officially steps down as Chairman.

Highlights of the year

- Funding has been enough we can now start the replacement of the garage
- Scouting continues despite COVID-19
- £4,600 spent of refurbishment of the hut, and new camping equipment

Treasurer's report – Andy Wray, Treasurer

Please see AGM pack for full report.

Total income was £14,100 and we spent £14,700 – we're left with £12,800 in the bank. We do have some costs which are allocated but not yet spent – so we have around £10,000 in the accounts.

We need at least £8,000 in the accounts to keep us running. Accounts are therefore in a healthy state.

We raised around £2,000 through fundraising and donations last year. Which was good – but is a figure we need to raise each year if we can. Due to the COVID our fundraising has been hit a bit. We have however received some government grants which are helping to keep us afloat.

This year we paid all our suppliers via online banking. And most of the subs and payments into the group were paid electronically. This allows us to manage the finances on a daily basis down to the penny! We were unable to claim gift aid due to lack of forms from parents. We need one form per child – so if you have two children – we need two forms.

Q: - If we are on benefits or under the tax threshold do we still need to do a gift aid form?

A: - No – in those circumstances we do not need one. TF asked for such people to let us know so we stop bothering you with requests for gift aid forms.

GSL and Section reports

Please see AGM pack for details.

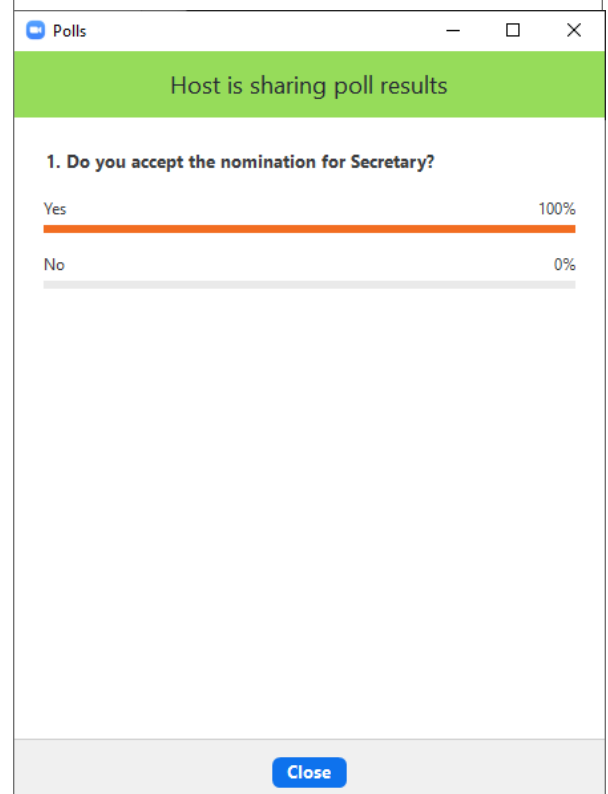
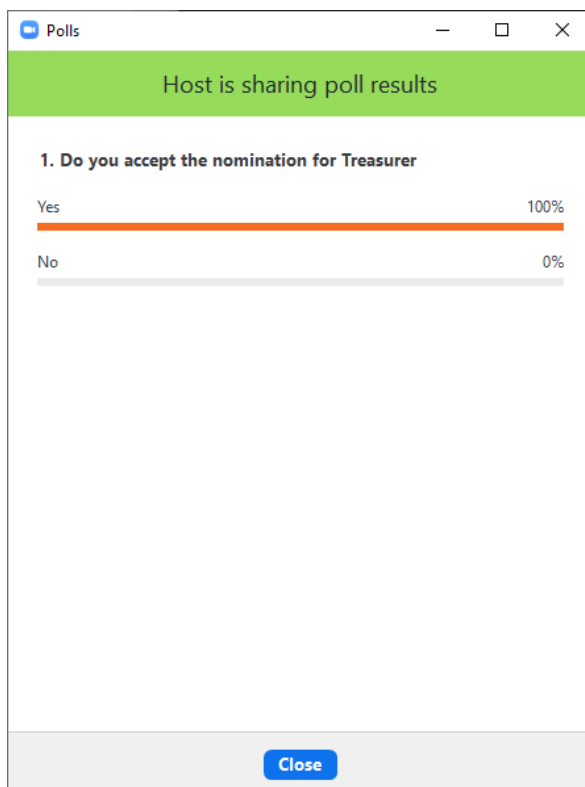
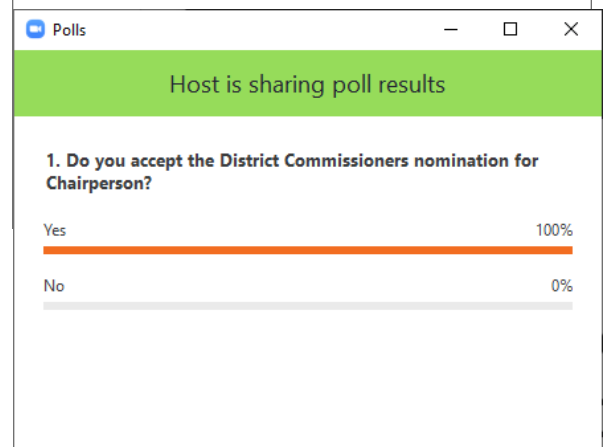
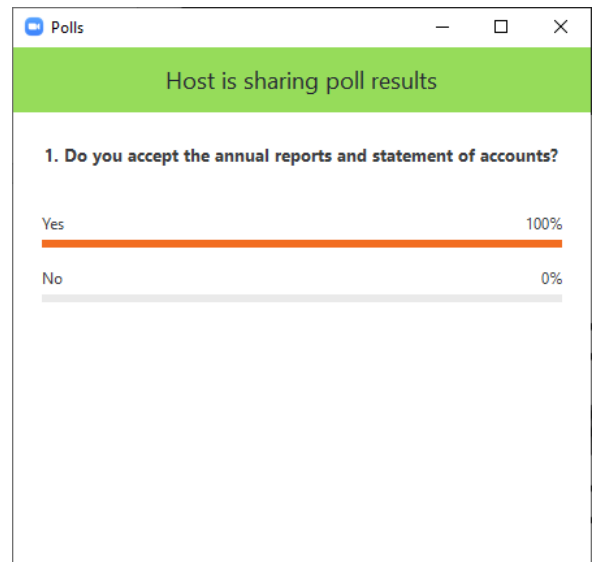
Do people accept the accounts and reports from the group?

5. Approval of Chairperson:

Tim Ford Nominated Dave Farthing for the position as Chairman, seconded by Nichola Jones. All attending voted in favour. The meeting was handed back to DF.

6. Election of Officers and Committee:

- Treasurer: Ollie Nash was nominated by Tim Ford, and seconded by Nichola Jones.
- Secretary: Liane Frydland was nominated by Tim Ford, seconded by Helen Jordan.



7. Appointment of Scrutineer:

We have found a new scrutineer for the accounts. His name is Robert Frood.

Emma Buckett, District Commissioner, then addressed the group. Gave a big thanks to all the Leaders for their work during these difficult times. We will return to face-to-face Scouting eventually.

Mike Hughes, District Chair, said that five-years ago we were contemplating closing this group as we only had one Scout in the Scouts section and he's very impressed with how we've managed to come back from the brink and actually grow the group.

8. Presentations and awards:

Most improved Pond Beaver : Stanley

Best Pond Beaver : Eleanor

Most improved River Beaver : Jamie

Best River Beaver : Elliot

Most improved Cub : Ben

Best Cub : Joseph

Most improved Cub : Eve

Best Scout Award : Adam

Trophies have been ordered for the above winners, but unfortunately they had not arrived in time for the AGM. These will be posted out to the winners as soon as we can after the AGM.

Chief Scout Bronze Award : Daisy

Chief Scout Silver Award : Martha, Joseph, and Jaylan

9. Celebrating our 50th anniversary

Tim Ford shared with the group two pieces of history we managed to get from the Scouting Archives – one showing that we went from a closed to an open group in 1932. We then closed for a bit, and we were re-constituted in 1970.

We held a design a badge competition for the children and we received 40 entries. The committee chose a winner which was Zoë's design.

We also updated our Necker with a Purple border.

Parents then gave their children the badge and the new Necker which had been sent out to them prior to the meeting.



10. Investitures and moving on

Ericia Knoll was invested into Beavers by Raven.

Elliot and Daisy were "swum up" to Cubs, and Won Tolla invested them into Cubs.

Sarah and Joseph were then “leapt-up” to Scouts and invested into Scouts by Skip. They both said their promises.

11. Update from The Scouts Association (TSA)

Tim Ford told the group that TSA are putting up their fees next year by at least £6 (maybe £7.50) per year, per youth member. County and District will also be putting up their fees, and once we know what their increase will be, we will work out what we will need to put up our fees by.

We have received guidance on returning to face-to-face Scouting. All Scout groups are currently on Red in a traffic light system. We will move from Red to Amber, to Yellow, to Green. We need to provide a written risk assessment per Section to move from each colour in the traffic light system. This risk assessment has to be approved by District for each Section for each move between the colours.

12 Q&A

Q: Can I wear my Explorer necker at Scouts?

A: Yes – and you can wear your new red/purple Necker if you want to!

Q: Can I wear my old red necker to meetings?

A: No – this is now defunct. It can be sewn onto your cub blanket as a memento if you wish, but from now on only the new Red/Purple Necker will be worn.

The meeting closed.

Trustees Annual Report for Year Ending...31 March 2021

This time last year I remarked on the “unusual months” it had been for 6th Farnborough and Scouting in general ... yet here we are, a year on still adapting to life in a pandemic. Once again I offer our sympathy to all who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout the last year the volunteers at 6th Farnborough (leaders especially) have strived to deliver a program for all our members that they find enjoyable and rewarding. The leaders and helpers of all sections have worked exceptionally hard to run their programs both online and in-person, socially-distanced. On behalf of the committee and all of our members and parents I'd like to thank them all for their hard work, long nights and imagination that have kept all of the sections going.

It was an unusual year for the committee too. The committee would typically be busying themselves running fundraising activities, helping to organise community events and generally helping out with the running of the group. This year though has left little opportunity for that. We are exceptionally grateful to Rushmoor Borough Council for the financial support we have received throughout the pandemic. Without the normal fundraising opportunities, these grants have proven essential to keep the group running. I would like to also thank the committee members - all of whom volunteer their time and continue to support the group through these difficult times.



New cupboards in the hut have been completed

Rest assured that our plans are merely delayed and that we are still focused on improving the facilities and 6th Farnborough. Restrictions permitting we will be making big steps forward over the summer to tackle the ever-decrepit garage as well as investing in new equipment for those times when we are allowed to camp again. Fundraising will be firmly back on the calendar over the next year, so if you can spare a little time, we would be immensely grateful.

We are always glad for help whether it's ten minutes at the end of a section night, joining the committee or joining our amazing leaders. It really doesn't take much but does make all the difference to the young members of all sections. If you feel you can offer a little time (no matter how small) please get in touch: chairman@6thfarnboroughscouts.org.uk or speak to a section leader.

We've also launched a new look website for the group, which can be found at <https://www.6thfarnboroughscouts.org.uk/> and contains information about the group, as well as links to our policy documents etc. Please let us know what you think by emailing secretary@6thfarnboroughscouts.org.uk – suggestions for what you want to see on it are welcome.

Thankfully (and with fingers and toes tightly crossed) there are glimmers of normality appearing. Our leaders want nothing more than to return to normal programs and I know they have all been thrilled to get back into face-to-face meetings more recently.

My biggest hope is that when I pen this statement next year, it will not feature COVID-19 in any way. I'd encourage you all to offer your thanks to our leaders next time you see them. I really can't demonstrate to you all how very hard they have worked and remind you that they are not paid and give their time freely out of the goodness of their hearts.

Dave Farthing
Chairman



Our new look website

Treasurer's Report

[Full accounts are attached as Annex A]

I can't believe a full year has gone by since I took over as Treasurer! It's certainly been a strange one and yet amidst all the uncertainty we have come through the pandemic in a financially better position thanks to Government grants.

The grants were fixed amounts based on our business rates and land lease.

This has been an absolute lifeline for the group and we are very fortunate to have been eligible for the grants as many other groups around the district wouldn't have been eligible for help.

This also allowed us to skip some of the subs that we would normally have collected even though the District fees were still payable in full.

With no AGM or race night there was no opportunity to complete the usual fund raising but we still have to pay annual insurance, service the fire extinguishers and all other host of bills so you can see it really did relieve the stress and worry of how we would get through the year.

Between lock downs we managed to have the old alarm system completely removed and upgraded. No more false alarm call outs due to mice eating the BT phone line! The new one is all singing & dancing and doesn't need a phone line so we took the opportunity to disconnect BT. That will save money. This also meant we could have smoke detectors built into the alarm system which is remotely monitored so it's an intruder and fire alarm system now.

The grant money also means we did not need to dip into the funds that had been saved for the new storage container. So although this has not been purchased yet we can still move forward with that plan. It will cost at least £1,300 to demolish and remove the old garage due to asbestos and then approx. £6,000 to buy a container so the account will soon start to reduce.

However, all leaders have been asked to make a wish list so we can upgrade old and damaged equipment. I'm sure the children will have plenty of ideas of what they would like to see in the cupboards in future too.

Will do still have £410 of previous camp deposits that are owed to some parents which elected to leave them in the account as credit.

It was great to see invoices for Badges that were being sent out and the creative ways leaders found companies to help make zoom meetings more fun.

As we head into a new world where face to face meetings are the norm again and camps can happen we will need to re-focus on how we can raise the extra funds it takes to run the group.

Please can we share and use the Amazon smile link, Rushmoor Community Lottery and Easy fundraising. If you hear of any community funds that we can apply for let us know, it's amazing how many big companies have annual funds to support groups like Scouts.

Oliver Nash

Group Treasurer



A sample of the badges earned over the last year – despite lockdown!

Group Scout Leader Report

Well, another year in and out of lock down and social distancing gave the group a real challenge. The group started the year conducting Zoom meetings and online scouting and then slowly back to very tightly controlled face to face meetings. I am proud to say that our members and leaders all rose to the challenge. Delivering and enjoying Scouting in many ways. I have been lucky enough to be able to drop in on all sections and see what they get up to.



Meeting via Zoom

All the fun I saw made me want to be a kid all over again.

Activities like fire lighting, emergency aid and navigation were of course on the programme and they were joined by egg hunts, international food tasting, digital skills, visits from the Guide dogs, bug hunts, hikes, virtual camps, rock painting, code creations and breaking, origami, equality diversity and inclusion amongst other things.

Sadly, we didn't really have any wider district events to take part in but the hope that these will return next year.

The restrictions that the pandemic put on us did however have an ongoing effect, membership numbers have gone down. A result of young people not enjoying Zoom meetings and not being able to play in the usual way. Fundraising was also something that we were not able to achieve as we would have wanted to although we have been fortunate enough to have received some local authority funding.

With all the issues that the last year has provided I can only shower praise on the leadership team and the committee.

Therefore, a huge thanks goes out to Clive, Marie, Fiona, Paul, Karen, Helen, Nichola, Tony and Linda. Plus, all the parents that regularly help out as sectional assistants too. Not to forget our young leaders too Dan, Lex, Ollie, Katy and our newest young leader Adam. They come and give their time and effort to not only help the leaders but learn new leadership skills and the sections really do value their input.



Bear giving out Wood badge beads and other awards to Leaders

For our committee Dave, Liane, Olly and Naomi another huge thanks for their continued support and effort. Meeting over zoom and making sure that the group carries on. Finally, a thank you to you for your support during this last year.



So here is to a new year in Scouting and hopes that we can get our members back outdoors and even carry out some nights away.

Tim Ford (Bear)

Group Scout Leader

Beavers Section Reports 2020-2021

Since our last AGM the two Beaver packs have merged into one pack and we have welcomed 3 new leaders – Liz, Dan and Louise. We have been on Zoom for most of the year like everyone else and have had some fun evenings along with making 'art packs' for the Beavers who wanted to be able to join in and have everything to hand that they needed.

Since being back face to face we have welcomed and invested 5 new Beavers. We had a young leader, Katy, join us just before lockdown and they attended all the zoom meetings as well as coming back to face to face as well.

We have been working on some badge work while on zoom and will be putting more into the programme now we are back face-to-face. We had a few successful 'camp at home' weekends and as soon as restrictions allow, we will be planning a camp.

We currently have 13 Beavers attending every week, a leader team consisting of 8 leaders who take it in turn to attend weeks, having enough if someone can't attend. I want to extend my thanks to the leader team especially these last few weeks for when Austin was in hospital and stepping up and making things easy so I didn't have any worries.

Nichola (Deer)

Beaver Scout Leader



Beavers planted some daffodils at the Trailblazer's Den



Fireworks night crafting

Cubs Section Report 2020-2021

Cub section report 2020 -2021

2020 brought many challenges but thanks to the commitment of both the leaders and the Cubs, pack meetings continued weekly albeit in a different format. Zoom sessions became the new normal and rather than limiting the new and exciting things Cubs are involved in each week, it opened up a whole new world.

Guest speakers were invited to the Zoom calls and the Cubs learnt how to chop vegetables safely, they learnt about fire safety while having a virtual tour of Farnborough Airport fire services which included the water cannons being deployed and siren demonstrations. We also took part in Parliament Week and put on a fabulous nativity with many of the Cubs dressing up for the occasion.



Pirate camp fun

When restrictions were lifted we were able to have some meetings face to face including a hike round Southwood over two nights to enable social distancing. We even managed a pirate themed camp at home over a weekend with a virtual campfire, woggle making, cake making and boat building.

Many badges were awarded and as older Cubs leapt up to Scouts, new Cubs joined, some swam up from Beavers and others joined because their friends enjoyed Cubs so much they wanted to be a part of it. The pack has gone from strength to strength with meetings at maximum numbers almost every week, we have found new and inventive ways to learn and have fun socially distanced including human table football and creating the solar system out of cubs on the field.

We also welcomed Chil (Adam) to the pack as a young leader, he has already become part of the team and we are very pleased to have him with us.

The cubs have only done so much this year thanks to Kala (Karen) Badger (Helen) and Won-Tolla (Paul), due to personal commitments I had to step down as Cub leader at the last AGM which left them a leader short, their combined effort to supporting the cubs in providing a programme which takes the Cubs' ideas and turning them into an exciting varied programme makes me very proud to be part of such an amazing leaders team.

A special thank you to Zoë Ford who has helped set up and clear down each week. Because her parent is a leader she has no choice but to come early and stay late but she has decided that during that time she will help out rather than doing other, much more fun things.

Yours in Scouting

Fiona (Akela)

Cub Scout Leader



Cubs working towards their Naturalist badge

Scouts Section Report 2020-2021

Well! A year has passed and COVID has made a big impact on Scouting. On Zoom, not on Zoom, face-to-Face but not face-to-face due to social distancing. No District events or camps -how did we cope?

I must say we took it in our stride and adapted quite well. Zoom meetings where a challenge to keep it fresh and interesting. This involved evenings doing Escape Rooms, Scavenger Hunts, Cook a long with Bear. Among Us (still no idea how to play it must be getting old), Battle Ships, Bingo and an online play which has been recorded and hopefully Bear can play it back.

With restricted meetings we have played games, did fire lighting and cooking marshmallows, compass games on the field, bike maintenance, team building games. First Aid and a 12 and a half kilometre Chase the Sun hike around Beacon Hill and Ceaser's Camp.

Numbers have been up and down due to several reaching the upper age limit, others getting sick of Zoom and those coming up from Cubs. A special mention to Adam who has gone on to become a Young Leader at Cubs.

Lastly a BIG THANK YOU to Bear and Dragonfly for their hard work to make Scouting happen this year, and to Dan, Ollie and Lex for their ideas and support running events and games.

Clive (Skip)
Scout Leader



Scouts learning first aid



Our Young Leaders in Scouts

Annex A – Group Accounts