

**PAMBER HEATH SCOUT GROUP  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 2021**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 8:00pm via Zoom (joining details below)**

- **Attendees**

Graham Morrison, GSL  
Sarah Spencer, Secretary  
Dave Ranson, Treasurer  
Emma Wells, Beavers Leader  
Kirsty Butler, Beavers Assistant Leader  
Andrew Cobb, Exec Committee  
Aaron Tizick, Scout Assistant Leader  
Laura Pedley, Assistant Treasurer  
Hannah Monger, Scout Leader  
Mr and Mrs Wain, Beavers parents

- **Welcome and introduction**

GM welcomed all to the PHSG AGM

- **Apologies**

Peter Amblin, Beavers Section Assistant

- **Minutes for AGM 2020**

Reported as true by EW. SS seconded

- **Chairman's Report**

No chair for 12 month period therefore no report

- **Treasurer's Report**

DR explained the financial situation

- Current ac £22,408k increased by £17k over period
- Interest ac + 61p

Not charged subs in year, only annual levy in January of £60, gift aid and some grants. Some expenses expected: if proceed with disabled toilet facilities and electrics. £1,100 ring fenced to supporting disabled children.

- **Group Scout Leader's Report**

- What a year! Started in lockdown, ended in lockdown, no residential experiences, other groups closing with member drop out/financial issues but Pamber Heath remains strong.
- I have to congratulate our leaders and thank them for their dedication, that overnight they went from a hands-on program to a digital program using Zoom, they had to learn how to use Zoom and how to keep the members attention during that time. Some ideas were successful other ideas not so but we start the new year in a strong

position. It was great to have a couple of face-2-face meetings/events towards the end of the 2020 before lockdown was sprung on us again. I also want to thank the members for keeping the scouting spirit high during the last year and more importantly returning in April.

- Our leader numbers went down to only one leader in each section but since then have grown to 2 in beavers and scouts and one in cubs. Ideally, I would like 3 leaders per section to provide cover in the weeks there may be absences. Our membership in the annual census did drop as not all kids coped with the digital program but looking forward the numbers have increased overall.
- Financially we have benefited from multiple 'hospitality grants' from the council, see treasurer report but we are in the strongest position financially for many years!
- I would like to thank the Exec for their support and guidance over the year. We have struggled on this year without filling the Chair position and Sarah has continued to be our secretary even though she wanted to leave at the last AGM, so thank you all.
- Training, as required by the scouts training program, I am glad to report that all leaders and Exec members were compliant.
- I would like to thank 34SP.com for their support by providing free Web hosting services to the group.

### **Looking forward**

- All sections resumed face-2-face meeting by the end of April, boy how they have grown, seeing them on a screen did not prepare us for how they have shot up in the last year!
- Our beaver numbers have increased to such an extent that the colony is full, we currently have 5 over sixes on the waiting list, this has been seen across the district so we can not even suggest other groups for them to attend. The only other option would be to open a new colony.
- Cubs is currently run by myself as Steve took a step back in April. I have been pulling in other leaders from Tadley, Baughurst and District to help cover the ratio requirements but we desperately need a full-time cub leader! Thank you to those that helped. Cubs will be joining Baughurst in September for a weekend camp as currently allowed so fingers crossed for no increase in lockdown measures.
- Scout have return and immediately started a creative project of building two fire pits in the grounds!
- We have had the help of our county development officer to try and increase our volunteers, currently we have seen a few volunteers from the beaver parents. I thank Melissa for her efforts here.
- To comply with the scouts training requirement of 'Wood beads' within 3 years of appointment, our leaders are working with the training advisors to have their modules sign off, due to lack of face time the previous year was hard to achieve progress in this area but I'm seeing good strides from them now that we are back to face-2-face meetings.

- **Section Reports**

- **Beavers**

Leader: Emma Wells, Assistant: Kirsty Butler, Young Leader: Anna Soccard

Beaver Numbers are 21. We will not be taking any more Beavers until spaces are created by moving up to Cubs / leavers. Waiting List currently has 4.



## Review of Activities

- The group met over Zoom from September until the end of March 2021. Although we were unsure how this would go it was very successful and the cookery sessions were a big hit. We kept the sessions shorter to keep attention and did a wide variety of activities that contributed to badges. Sam Dray-Ford attended in October to run a Yoga session.
- Matt Savill has attended in support as uniformed leader, whilst Kirsty awaited appointment, and we are very lucky to still receive support from Matt who continues to attend weekly.
- We went on a Day Hike in December with Graham who took us on a fantastic route from Silchester, in great weather, and this was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.
- Anna continues to attend as often as possible and has led sessions covering Health and Fitness and International badges.
- We had sessions run by external providers Artforeveryone (clay modelling to make a Beaver in uniform) and The Coop (fairtrade).
- Face to face began again 1<sup>st</sup> April and we have had an active, outdoors programme since then - a particular highlight being the grass sledging!
- We helped with litter picking as part of the Keep Tadley Tidy campaign in conjunction with Tadley Council on a very sunny Saturday morning in June, amazing results with many bags of rubbish filled. Councillor Jo came to talk to the Beavers about litter and the problems it causes and lent us litter pickers to use.
- The group are generally very well behaved and extremely enthusiastic. It has been great to have a steady succession of new Beavers coming into the group as we said a fond farewell to those moving up to Cubs.

**Badges:** We have awarded 124 badges this year (not including the 7 new Beavers to be invested on 1<sup>st</sup> July). 2 Beavers are close to achieving their Bronze award, but the lack of camps/overnights has made it a little more challenging than usual to achieve everything. We are working towards our Hampshire Beavers 35<sup>th</sup> Challenge Badge and have completed just over half of the tasks required. All Beavers who were with us when it was launched were given the occasional 35<sup>th</sup> Birthday badge as well.

**Awards:** Spirit of Beavers (Thomas G), Beaver of the Year (Thomas S)

### ➤ Cubs

Cubs started this last year in lockdown, Zoom meetings were started by Helen and continued by Steve. We saw approximately 50-60% attendance at the zoom meetings on a weekly basis. We did lose a few members but ended the year with 12 cubs once Face-2-face started in April.

There was a few that completed some activity badges at home and attended virtual camps/campfire events, the best we could do given the circumstances.

Looking forward

We have said goodbye to Heath who decided not to progress to scouts. Jake left as they moved house and we had a new cub join, Austin.

There will be join weekend camp in September (10-12<sup>th</sup>) with Baughurst Cubs at Ferny Crofts our county scout camp site. The Basingstoke West orienteering competition will run again this year and I hope we can enter a team or two (dates to follow).

### ➤ Scouts

HM reported:

- Zoom didn't catch on with the scouts. Many were doing a lot online with school and were maxed out. We didn't push it and decided to carry on face2face as soon as were able. Started from April and brief 2 weeks in December (did Christmas things).
- This half term welcomed Aaron into the section - comes from a strong scouting background. Lots of ideas and very enthusiastic. Seems to be really enjoying himself. Very interested in orienteering and pioneering.
- The group should complete navigating badge (1-4) soon.
- Launched straight in for them to build fire pits in the garden - had great fun making and cooking flatbread pizza, smores and popcorn.
- Working on navigator activities using compasses. How many steps are there in 100m etc. The scouts have directed activities like going out for a hike.
- Hoping to start another badge soon.
- We will end the year with a fun games evening. All keen to do it.
- Scout numbers - currently six scouts. Gained one, one moved to young leader (helping with cubs). Ideally like some new scouts.
- Ideas welcome to fill time at ends of nights with small numbers.
- Awards: Awarded to whole group because of what gone through in the year. GM mentioned two joining at end of September.

### • Elections for Executive Committee roles for the period 2020/21

Chairman: non appointed

Treasurer: Laura Pedley - EW propose, AT second

Secretary: David Ranson - GM propose, AC second

Community representative: Andrew Cobb - GM propose, HM second

### • Awards 2020/21

Actioned above.

### • Any other business

- Looking to revamp toilets and disabled access to the den. EW working on prices for this. In good financial position to do this.
- Employed grounds person to cut grass on a regular basis. Using Baughurst person. HM asked does this include weeding around gates - should we do working party on this? Hut looks a little neglected. Could we use parent helpers with this. May need ramp - so perhaps wait till this is done. Then add matting and stones. Could you link to a badge?
- AC said congratulations to leaders for keeping show on the road for last 18mths. Reiterated by SS.
- HM asked: is anyone good on badges. In USA get a badge to do with family tree and documenting gravestones - i.e. future proof information. Could perhaps access scout blanket type badge v official by buying from USA.

### Date of Next AGM

This is to be confirmed at the next Executive meeting.