



1st Crownhill Scout Group

Annual General Meeting (AGM) 5th June 2017

These are the minutes from the latest AGM covering some of the key points of the meeting. This is a brief overview of what we covered, and there are more detailed reports with the details of what we have been up to from each section, our GSL and Chairman.

Give them a read to find out what everyone has been up to; check out the downloads page on our website or talk to a leader to read about the year's activities.

Last Year's AGM Notes

Thank you everyone for making it through the atrocious weather! Amend the minutes to update attendance for last year.

Report from our Chairman

The report has been given as part of the AGM hand-out notes. Paul has been delighted to take over such a great group, and is keen to start pushing activities we want to do and open the doors to new activities. He has a few ideas for new fundraising events and is happy to secure funding, but we do need to push to get parents involved as part of the fundraising activities. There is no reason we can't build on previous success and arrange more activity days.

Priority for fundraising should be to upkeep the exterior of the hut, including tidying the area and making the wooden ramp to the hut less slippery in wet weather. We managed to get a new boiler for the kitchen for free, which has been an amazing donation to the hut, and we are in a great place to move forward. Everyone looks up to our group, so we need to make sure we continue to improve and move forward, and Paul is keen that if anyone needs anything, he will do is level best to get it.

We have a new projector, again thanks to our Chairman, which we use for lots of things, and is

Attendees:

- GSL (Roo)
- Chairman (Paul)
- Treasurer (Heather)
- James Littlejohns (New DC)
- Adam Taylor (Deputy DC)
- Rob Forster
- Isobel Hope
- Will Bugden
- Gary Cummins
- Jason Rickard
- Amanda Anniss
- Rob Anniss
- Sally Walker
- Helen Parry
- Kiera Wilkins
- Heather Grant
- Cameron Livsey
- Ali Fuery
- Michelle Kerslake

Apologies:

- Steve Bull
- Jo Noden
- Angie Thorne
- Philippe Marr
- Lisa Samphier
- Cameron Walker
- Simon Holder

a great addition to the hut. Thank you to Paul for everything he has done so far, it has been great for the hut, and will benefit both the adults and children in 1st Crownhill.

Report from our Treasurer

One of the issues we have had is that we have not been chasing the Beaver parents for subs, however, we have ended up with a positive balance in the bank of £998.40. The subs ended up being down £1,000 from last year, but again this seemed to be mostly the Beaver section. The recent work we have done to the hut has increased our expenditure, but we have greatly increased our fundraising which has helped us.

This might highlight the need for a cardless payment system. OSM might not be a good option, instead Heather was looking at GoCardless. This helps, as the payments don't come in individually which can be tricky to manage. Another option could be Standing Order. Heather will look at the different options and talk to the bank about the different options, Izzy to send a survey out to parents to find out how people would feel about that.

Report from our GSL

Thank you to everyone for their hard work and dedication to the group. Jason has been up-keeping the hut and doing all sorts of jobs, however he now has a full-time job, so no more jobs mysteriously getting themselves done. Thank you to Izzy for the website and email system.

We need to encourage more parental support, and try not to rely on the same leaders each time. Welcome to Garry and Ali, our new adults, and Kiera and Heather our young adults. We now have Cameron Walker as our newest adult leader, thank you to all for your enthusiasm and dedication, and with over 120 on the books our group is making great progress.



Report from Beavers

The Beavers celebrated their 30 years this year, and are now working towards their personal challenge badge. The section is continuing to grow, which is wonderful, and the requests from parents have been to have more communication, with the program available in advance. The Beavers had a great sleepover, but it's important to start getting them out and about as much as possible. We also need to make sure that we support Ali in her role moving forward.

We will be working to support the Beaver leaders in planning and running nights, getting programs out to parents and using the new email system to send updates. We need to make sure that waiting lists are passed on, Izzy and Jason to chase.



Report from Cubs

The Cubs year has been packed full of activities, from Cubs 100 to Christmas and Group Camp, watching the fireworks and St George's Day in Home Park. A note from the Treasurer to make it clear which camp money is going to or coming from to help with accounts. Thank you to everyone who supported our trips and has helped us throughout the year.



Report from Scouts

Scouts have gone from a group of 18 to 32, partially with Cubs moving up, but also with many sideways movements from other groups (many from 10th Devonport, but with Stonehouse's new Scout group this may go down). The Scouts have been doing plenty of camping, and lots of support from leaders has helped this to happen. All the Scouts loved the Group Camp and came back with positive reviews. St George's Day was well received, with a few comments suggesting that food might be a good idea next time.



Report from Explorers

As many of our Explorers are in year 11, we have had to nearly halve the number of Explorer meetings and cut subs to reflect this. The Explorers have had plenty of camps, including a camp to Thorpe Park. We were able to do this through the help of the county, and we are hoping to do it again next year. A welcome back to Cameron Livsey, it's great to see him back supporting the group after being an Explorer at 1st Crownhill. Current numbers are about 16, due to some turning 18 years old and a couple leaving the group and we will be losing more soon. We need to start looking at recruiting more Explorers, especially as many of the Scouts are still quite young. They also took part in a beach clean, which was a great success - something we should look at doing with the group.

The highlight of the year was the Christmas visit to watch La Navet Bete, and throughout the year the Explorers have been continuing to make progress on their DofE Awards. Thank you so much to Sally for being our treasurer, you have kept everything together!

Nominations

- Paul nominated as Chairman.
- Heather has graciously agreed to be our treasurer for another year.
- We desperately need a secretary for the group, as our fundraising and other projects are suffering when the information isn't being circulated.
- David Green had been nominated as Auditor, but this will change to Sally.

Ideas for the future

We need to continue to push fundraising and uniting the sections. We have been in talks in regards to looking for our own campsite to use throughout the year and rent out to earn some extra income for the group. We also need to look at fencing off our Scout Hut ground and clearing out things that don't belong to the group.

Fundraising Ideas

- To organise a night-hike, with the children being sponsored £1 each for the walk.
- Go Outdoors offer to work with Scout Leaders to organise fundraising events, with different facilities at their disposal.
- We should start looking at bag packing in supermarkets again, as this can raise up to £1,000 in a year for the group.
- Easy Fundraising - we already have an account with this, Heather can look at starting this again.
- Co-op are also doing a fundraising system, which Helen is happy to look at this in November when it comes around again.
- Group t-shirts selling through Tesco can raise extra money. Adam has a contact from Keyham, this is something we will need to look into in more detail.

Pick-up Cards

These have been received well, and it seems a good idea to roll this out to beavers as well now. It might be that we print the name of the adult and the relationship to child, we will work on the system and communicate with Cubs and Beavers to get a new system.

Children being dropped off

We need to put out something to ask parents not to drop their children off at the gate outside the hut before the night has begun. This is not safe, especially if there are not enough leaders for a child to be left at the hut on their own.

Can we remind all parents to drop off no more than 10 minutes before the start of the night, and to personally bring children into the hut before they leave.

Images for the group

Will is starting to pool different images together in an online repository for everyone to use, and to help us in creating our own media. We also have the Facebook pages which have helped us to safely share photos of the children with parents and guardians.

Re-brand

Everyone seems happy for Izzy to rebrand the group.

Report from our DC

"We are a movement, not an organisation, we change with the times". Scouting benefits people in so many ways, and we are seeing more Scout groups starting up in deprived areas. Young people are benefiting from the skills they learn at Scouts, including the new areas being explored in the digital world, how to be responsible with technology and how to combat cyber bullying.

Thank you to Paul and his team for supporting the group and Scouting in Plymouth. You are the second largest group in the district, and it is wonderful to see you at district events.

The AGM is for leaders, volunteers, parents and young people, and is a forum for discussion to get everyone's ideas for the year ahead. If you have ideas or issues we didn't cover, email us at info@1stcrownhill.com or contact us via our Facebook page.