

Minutes of AGM 25th Feb 2021

1. Group Scout Leader Welcome

1.1. To all for our first 1st AGM on zoom, special welcome to our ADC Beavers, Cherry on the call

2. Re-election / Confirmation of officers

Position	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Chairperson	Sophia Roberts	Nick	Liz
Treasurer	Liz Quick	Nick	Becca
Secretary	Vacant		
Beaver Rep	Rowenna Barfield	Nick	Rachel
Cub Rep	Rachel White	Nick	Liz
Scout Rep	Jo or Jerry Hibberd	To be confirmed	
Youth Rep	Emily Lerwill	Nick	Alan

2.1. All re-elected unopposed

3. Chairperson Report 2021

- 3.1. This has been a very different year for the group. Over the past 12 months there were only 1-2 months where the groups have had 'business as usual'. The COVID pandemic has changed the way we all live at present and the affect it has had in our groups has been no exception. There has been a decimation of activities the young groups would normally have been able to enjoy, such as the love of the great outdoors- such as bike rides, climbing, orienteering, camp building and district camps to name a few!
- 3.2. We have also had extreme sadness of losing our dear friend and colleague Paul Phillips, in early January. We as a group would like to extend our sincerest condolences to his wife Lindsay and children (one of which is our dear Kitty who attends the cubs section) at losing such a lovely man at such a young age. We have lost a brilliant and committed leader. He will be always sorely missed.
- 3.3. Over the last 12months, we have seen activity from the Scouts and Cubs section- driven by the enthusiasm of Alan on zoom. There has been an immense amount of input and enthusiasm from our leaders who have continued to develop of our young people despite only having the opportunity to do this and mesh the group via zoom sessions. I would like to see further consolidation on the success of online Scouting and keep the conversations going through regular zoom sessions, interspersed with face to face sessions when we can. Alan will update us on the Beavers section separately and we encourage parents to review the information on the 1st Marwood website
- 3.4. Financially we are a lot more secure than many other groups, despite taking a loss in revenue this year. This is primarily because of the generosity of our supporters, easy fundraising online pages (easyfundraising.org.uk/1stMarwood) and the Fullabrook committee donations which part funded the container, and a further £600 (out of the Covid19 Relief Fund of £10 per head) towards loss of subscriptions/repayments already paid. Understandably with the current economic/pandemic climate causing the restricted ability to hold face to face sessions, we have seen a huge drop in the subscriptions from children to attend as would be expected. We are presently in a good position of not having too many overhead expenses such as hire of the hall. Vote of thanks should be shared with Liz for ongoing treasuring capacity and her clear report and Amy Houlford (Simpkins

Edwards) for her help with independent auditing of the accounts where she has donated her time for free.

- 3.5. As time moves on, and following Boris's announcement of restrictions being lifted over the next few months, we are hopeful we can return to face to face events, perhaps by end of summer. This may well be sooner if Scout UK and our parents and helpers are happy to go ahead. I fully endorse the engagement and growth plans for all sections as will be discussed, the Beavers return, Cub engagement and new Scout section plans.
- 3.6. As ever, we always had the wonderful capacity of parents helping the sections and we are truly grateful for this. We do, and will have, the continued need for additional help at section sessions and events and we would be grateful for any parents who could consider volunteering some of your time to the group to help out. Especially when we return to more face to face pursuits. Not only is this rewarding and fun, this would generate benefits for you, your children and the local community in general.
- 3.7. I would like to pass on my thanks to all those involved with the running of the group in a very difficult year, with particular reference to Alan (aka Buggy) for keeping the group motivated. He has driven the sessions on zoom, whilst continuing to keep the children motivated and interested! This is a tricky task for most even in the easiest times!!
- 3.8. Our sincerest thanks go to you Alan, alongside the support of Nick, Ben, Russell [White], Russell [Lee], Seema, Cathy, Rachel, Becca and all of our Executive team for their continuing support through this difficult period. Without your dedication and commitment, the group would not be able to operate as effectively as it has.

4. Beaver Report 2021

- 4.1. Prior to the UK lockdowns we had a thriving Beaver colony of 24 Beavers its maximum number and many weeks Paul, Rachel, Ellen, Becca & I were stretched with so many attending. I was asked not to add any more new ones and had to develop a "Waiting to Join List" for the first time.
- 4.2. So it was a bitter decision to make to stop Beavers, but we had no choice, Scout UK took the decision, rightly to suspend all face to face scouting in the light of the science and knowledge of the scale and ferocity of Covid19 and therefore no Scouting has taken place between March 2020 and February 2021.
- 4.3. But following the successful restart of Cubs in September I decided to bring Beavers back online, after watching a video by Ed Jellard the owner of the OSM website who was in the same situation as me with a Scout Leader role and a Beaver section that needed a new leader. Online scouting has been a success in some groups and in others groups have had no traction whatsoever, at 1st Marwood we have had some small success with Beavers.
- 4.4. We have been very fortunate to get 1 new and 3 existing Beavers who have since returned to zoom scouting this February and we successfully recruited 2 new Adult Members, to help run Beavers with me. Russ Lee [scout name Chil] who joins us as an Assistant Beaver Scout Leader and Seema Shah [scout name Keega] as a Section Assistant.
- 4.5. At the start of the first lockdown we signed up to the "Badges at Home" feature on OSM for all sections, which has meant 8 Beavers could successfully complete their Chief Scouts Bronze Award.
- 4.6. 1st Marwood Beavers benefits from the close relationship to Marwood School and our connection to Shirwell School through our leadership team. Beavers is our engine for growth we get great feedback from parents on the school gate so recruitment has never

been a problem, once we are back to the new normal, I envisage a surge of interest in Scouts from all ages.

- 4.7. BUT and it's a BIG BUT, at the moment, given the Scout UK rules on lodge sizes we only have enough leaders for one lodge of 6 Beavers. So dust of the lederhosen, pick up your flugelhorn and give me a call I need your help once again.

5. Cub Report 2021

- 5.1. This has been an unprecedented year in Scouting, challenging us all in varying ways but Cubs and 1st Marwood in general, have survived the worst and in doing so, have gained valuable experience in many different areas. The necessity for conducting ourselves via Zoom gave us opportunities to learn and grow via technology and as time goes on, our online numbers are steadily increasing currently 17 Cubs, therefore 15 less than regular meetings – max of 32 children and, therefore, we all push ourselves to develop ideas to keep our young people engaged and excited to be involved at our joint, weekly Cub and Scout meets. For this, both Hazel and I are very proud and we wish to thank everyone for their continuing support.
- 5.2. Obviously, our Scouting year has been quiet but we have still managed to secure Chief Scout Silver awards for 8 of our Cubs – a huge Well Done to them for achieving the highest award that can be given in Cubs!
- 5.3. Before lockdown we did enjoy making Mother's Day gifts on ceramic, very individual and helping to support local business. As a Section we individually paid tribute for our patron, St. George, in April and at Remembrance in November and during our Zoom meets we learnt about First Aid, Navigation, Hiking, Den Building and Bonfire Safety, aided by Hazel's 'Kahoot' Quizzes and Buggy's online info. We also had some seasonal quizzes for Hallowe'en, Bonfire Night, Remembrance, Thanksgiving and Christmas and played online games to keep the program varied and enticing. We welcomed Bagheera, from 50th North Devon, to help us bake cookies – which everyone thoroughly enjoyed and we will welcome her back in the near future and I threw in a number of visual demonstrations to aid our learning online too.
- 5.4. Section subs, understandably, were suspended this year and thanks are extended to Liz for her dedication in ensuring all payments are up-to-date and fully prepared for our return. I feel that once the Section resumes, fundraising ideas should be included throughout the program so that definite goals can be agreed and worked towards. Fundraising provides great opportunities towards badgework and building confidence in young people and I would encourage it.
- 5.5. This year we will, hopefully, enjoy being together once again. Until then we will continue with our weekly Zoom meetings including more practical ideas: cooking, crafting etc. But with a target of the Summer in our minds we can now take full advantage of the Spring too to develop a fantastic program, full of outdoor activities and developing skills that the Marwood children may not have experienced yet: climbing, tunneling, kayaking, archery, geocaching and, of course, camps! Our amazing Scout Campsite at Snapper provides endless opportunities for young people and we will utilise it fully. We'll also celebrate seasonal events, possibly a Hallowe'en hike/sleepover, Bonfire Night, Christmas cake making and another Christmas Panto trip, supporting our local theatre. Hopefully Gang Show 2022 will go ahead and we will endeavor to have a Marwood contingent on stage, or behind the scenes, for their next show! We will practice our parading skills – Parades being

such an important, and missed, part of Scouting – and encourage our children to embrace, and maintain, our uniform and what it stands for.

- 5.6. In closing, I feel Hazel and I have settled in well at 1st Marwood (thanks to everyone's and especially, Alan's, help and support) and we enjoy seeing our young people grow in confidence and numbers, moving into our growing individual Scout Section and onward, hopefully, to become our Young Leaders – an element that is, sadly, lacking at the moment and which make a huge difference in securing a healthy Group for the future – but all in good time!
 - 5.7. The loss of Paul this year was enormous – such a pro-active and energetic individual - but, in itself this was a learning experience for the children. Hazel and I were overwhelmed by Rachel's words to the Group at our Zoom meeting, spoken so sensitively for the children to understand and the Management Team will, this year, establish an annual competition for the children in his memory.
 - 5.8. Thank you for another year of Scouting! Remember - WE WERE BORN READY!
- 6. Scout Report 2021**
- 6.1. 2019 going into 2020 we planned to have a weekly / fortnightly meeting to plan for a monthly Scout led activity, whether that was a 1st Marwood, District or County planned event.
 - 6.2. However no Scouting took place between March 2020 and September 2020 because of the UK lockdown. So we went back to basics and re-started the integrated section for Cubs & Scouts we get 3 out of 7 Scouts attending the weekly zoom sessions.
 - 6.3. We have 11 Scout aged young people on the waiting to return list, hopefully once face to face opens back up they will return, if they do, that will be fantastic but inevitably some will have found other activities to engage them and they will leave, but the door will remain open until they decide one way or the other.
 - 6.4. I want to officially welcome a new adult member Russell White [scout name Shere Khan] is joining the Scout section as Assistant Scout Leader.
 - 6.5. We aim to meet weekly on zoom to plan and train for a monthly full day activity in an indoor, outdoor coastal or moorland setting. The activities will be very much Scout led and we hope to engage with District & County events alongside our own activities and Russell is very keen to go to International events where possible.
 - 6.6. But and it's a BIG BUT at the moment we have enough leaders for one patrol of 12 young people. So if you think you have what it takes to I challenge you to try scout volunteering for 6 weeks, what have you got to lose but a couple of hours of your time.
 - 6.7. As we emerge from lockdown everyone will have learnt a huge amount about themselves, I know I have, I believe people's attitude towards life and what it means to be human has taken an enormous shift – be part of something bigger than you, join 54 million people who Scout every week.
 - 6.8. 2021/2022 Plan: Russell and I want to create the new Scout section in 2022 and register it with North Devon District. This provides a route out of Cubs at 10½yrs into Scouts at 1st Marwood.
- 7. Group Scout Leader Report and GSL's Award**
- 7.1. Text to be provided for these minutes
 - 7.2. 21.6.21 unlikely indoor to go ahead until after this date.

7.3. GSL reported to HQ Alan to get outstanding achievement award, Sophia, Liz big thanks, all 19 members

8. Treasurers Report & Accounts in full at www.1stmarwoodscouts.com

8.1. Report & Accounts as presented.

8.2. £1836.28 small income due / outgoings = £1745.20 available to spend.

8.3. Next 12 months will be a challenge, but no doubt we will survive and thrive. Not looking to bad better than many others.

9. Paul Phillips Tribute/ Award

9.1. Paul Phillips Tribute & Award to be discussed, confirmed and agreed by Executive Committee and Lyndsey Phillips.

9.2. GSL Poem

10. AOB / Questions

10.1. Add ratios to the section reports

10.2. Advertise to parents re. more help and support