

## Annual General Meeting



Minutes of a meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> Gillingham Scout Group AGM held on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at Headquarters.

started the meeting at

Present

Adelle King	Trustee (Chair)
Mick Watson	Group Scout Leader
Katie Gibbs	Group Secretary (Minutes)
Ralph Allison	Trustee
Katie Revell	Trustee
Tim Gale	Treasurer and Trustee
Natalie Gooders	Squirrels Leader
Chris Powell	Cub Leader
Tony Batten	Explorer Leader
David Ainsley	District Chairman
Logan Neale	Assistant Scout Leader
Tom Fish	Assistant Scout Leader
Eleanor Watson	Assistant Beaver Leader
Daryl Tudball	Scout Leader and Quartermaster

### 1. Introductions and Welcome:

AK welcomed everyone to the meeting. Trustee introductions took place.

### 2. Apologies for absence

Andrea Kemp	Parent Representative
Julie	District Lead Volunteer

### 3. St George's Day Promise

All Sections renewed their promises

### 4. Governance Topics

- Approval of the minutes of the previous AGM (held on 9th May 2025) these had been circulated prior to the meeting. They were agreed.
- Adopt the model constitution from Police, Organisation and Rules (POR). Agreed.
- Note the Group's financial year. Financial Year is 1/4/25 to 31/3/26 inclusive.
- Agree the maximum number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board. It was agreed that the maximum number of members would be 10.

- e) Agree the quorum for future meetings of the Group Scout Council (excluding this AGM). Quorum agreed as 4.

## 5. Review the Previous Year

- a) The Group Scout Lead Volunteer's review of Scouts during the past 12 months.

MW advised the group are short of Leaders, the group could do more if we had more Leaders. Some of our Volunteers have gone to University however they do support the group when they are home. Currently there are 4 Young Leaders supporting the Group. There have been visits to school fayres and an upcoming Twydall Church Summer Fayre. The changes which started 3 years ago remain in place and Volunteers continue to get to grips with these. We have support to help maintain the Headquarters and fund raise. The Headquarters is fully compliant with the current safety standards with thanks to RA. The external fencing has been replaced and the gate has been fixed. There is a work weekend at the beginning of May which everyone is welcome to join.

- b) DA thanked the Volunteers who give their time and energy to provide Scouting opportunities to our Young People. Apologies given for the other District Leads who have been unable to attend. The changes have made Lead Volunteers' jobs more challenging however they have to follow directions as they are given. This AGM has run this evening as per the rules laid out by The Charities Commission.

- c) Section Leaders' reviews of Scouts during the past 12 months

### i. Squirrels:

In the last year the Squirrels have been very busy with activities. We have explored the natural world, creating nature crowns, litter picking, themed activity nights such as T-shirt decorating, cooking, air-dry clay hedgehogs and potato printing. We have completed rocket building, hikes, first aid and a campfire. Squirrels have also completed a decoding activity which led to the discovery that the Easter Bunny would be coming to leave a treat. Squirrels enjoyed Bonfire night, attended the Remembrance Service and had a Christmas party with a visit from Santa. Around Chinese New Year we looked at associated traditions including problem solving with using chopsticks and some phrases. The Squirrels have made fantastic progress, and continue to develop new skills and confidence.

### ii. Beavers:

During the last year 96 badges award badges have been awarded including 3 Chief Scout Bronze Awards. Other badges include Emergency First Aid, Skills for Life and Builder. The Beavers have enjoyed a water fight, soft archery, Remembrance Service, fireworks night, a visit from Police and the Christmas party. Amari and Connie as Young Leaders have supported the section. We have introduced the Beavers to the origins of Scouting, flag, campfire and

smores. We currently have 16 active members. Thank you to the Beaver Leaders for all their support in encouraging and teaching others

### **iii. Cubs:**

Over the last year the Cubs have been awarded 84 badges including 1 Chief Scout Award, Team Leader, Pioneering, Emergency First Aid, photographer and Scientist to name but a few. At Christmas there was only 7 Cubs after some had moved Sections up to Scouts. 3 moved up from Beavers. We ran a bring a friend night and cooked some smores over burners due to the rain. We now have 17 Cubs in the pack. We are planning a hike and climbing session. Thank you to the other Cub Leaders for their support throughout the year.

### **iv. Scouts:**

The year started with 16 Scouts and we currently have 11. Throughout the year 45 badges have been awarded. KIJ was the highlight of the year with 1 Scout attending with the Explorers. We had a spring camp with 8 Scouts, as well as having planned and undertaken an expedition earlier this year. We undertook a hike from Motney Hill to HQ along part of the Saxon Shoreline. We have looked at being healthy and the impact of drugs and alcohol on our bodies and minds. We spent an evening at Soar and Chatham Ski centre. We have sent and received morse code messages. We are planning to make contact with a group in South Africa, eat their cuisine and learn more about their culture.

### **v. Explorers:**

The Unit has 13 members currently. Explorers have completed 8 activity awards including Platinum and Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Awards. We are hoping some more Explorers will go on to complete the King's Scout Award. We have 4 Explorers working as Young Leaders across the Sections. We are planning to build a pagoda for the younger Sections to enjoy as well as the wildlife. The Unit helped out at bonfire night and are planning a Christmas party in December. Explorers are always looking for fun activities and are always looking for support with these if you'd like to join us.

- d) Receive and consider the Annual Report of the Group Trustee Board, including the annual Statement
- e) Statement of the Accounts. Shared by Tim Gale – the perimeter fencing cost £7,500 to be replaced, we have raised money by renting out the hall, bonfire night and gift aid.

## **6. Making Appointments**

- a) Appoint members of the Group Trustee Board, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the Group Trustee Board. Keith Heddinburgh and Chris Powell for 1 year

## **7. Presentation of Awards:**

- Squirrels – Acorn Award x 3
- Beavers – Bronze Chief Scout Award x 3
- Scouts – Gold Chief Scout Award x 1
- Explorers – Chief Scout Platinum x 5
- Kent Scouts Volunteers Award – Bronze x 2
- Kent Scouts Volunteers Award – Bronze and Silver x 2

## **8. Closing Remarks**

AK thanked KG and TG for taking up additional roles within the Trustee Board.

The highest award in Scouting is the King's Scout Award, it has not been awarded here since 1967. MW has spoken with that person who was pleased to hear 11<sup>th</sup> Gillingham Scouts are still operating. EW then revealed the plaque commemorating her award which was celebrated at the previous AGM.

### **Date of next meeting:**

This will be arranged in due course.