

7th Swindon (Abbey Meads)

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 14th June 2025

St Francis C of E Primary School, Taw Hill, Swindon

Minutes

Alice started with a health & safety announcement; if the fire alarm sounds, please assemble on the playground.

1. Steve- Introduction and welcome

Steve welcomed everyone and thanked St Francis School for the use of their facilities.

Alice- apologies for absence of Thomas Jackson.

2. Governance topics

Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on (1/6/2024)

Steve: The Group Trustee Board have reviewed the minutes of last year's AGM at the meeting held on (1/6/2024). Steve proposed that these minutes are taken as read and asked the Group Scout Council to agree that they're a true record of that meeting.

Hands were raised to show approval. Firster- James Howard, Second Fiona McNeill

No objections and no abstentions

Group's financial year

Steve: Gave a summary of the financial year. Steve referenced the need to commit to the £6,000 reserve. Reference was made to increasing pricing and the need to continue to stay sustainable. Parents were informed that subs would increase by £5 from September- context and explanation behind the rationale for this decision was given. Steve talked about the opportunities to raise funds- welcoming anyone who knows of any grants or funds opportunities. The financial accounts have been reviewed by Markham, they have been emailed and shared- printed copies were also available to look at.

3. Review of the previous year

Steve explained that it has been a year of transformation, adopting new rules and practices, which has helped with the separation of the governance and the day-to-day activities. The group continues to make sure we are doing all of the right things to keep the group safe and

sustainable. It is a big group and the group continues to work hard to watch all of the controls. The group has worked to separate the trustees and leaders making sure that we have that right relationship; transparency and information. Steve thanked his fellow trustees.

Kelly (Group Lead) review of Scouts

Kelly encouraged the audience to read the sections report (which has been emailed out to all parents). Kelly highlighted some key points in the report; membership numbers continuing to increase, numbers have continued to stay high and that 3,413 badges have been awarded across the group during the year! 22 Beavers achieved Chief Scout Bronze Awards, 10 Cubs achieved Chief Scout Silver Award and 17 Scouts achieved Chief Scout Gold Award have been awarded across 7th Swindon. Kelly thanked her leadership team- highlighting that everyone is volunteers- no one gets paid. Kelly shared that the group has a couple of new leaders joining as well as some leaders moving on. Kelly encouraged any adults who felt they could help at 7th Swindon- in any way- to get in touch. Kelly thanked parents, leaders and all the children. She ended by encouraging parents to read the report as it offers a great insight into Scouting at 7th Swindon.

Steve thanked Kelly for her review.

The District Lead Volunteer's Remarks

Steve asked Kelvin the District Lead Volunteer for any remarks.

Kelvin (the district commissioner) Kelvin thanked the leaders, the trustees and Kelly - Kelvin acknowledged all that Kelly does managing a large group.

Kelvin presented one Chief Scout Silver Award to a Cub.

Sharron (Granny Beaver) presented two Chief Scout Beaver Awards.

Kelvin presented a Wood Badge certificate to leader Jo Bennet.

Ray (Awards Co-ordinator) presented a Years' service award to Julie King.

Steve thanked Kelvin, Ray and Sharron (Granny Beaver).

Receive and consider the Group Trustees' Annual Report including the annual Statement of Accounts

Steve noted the Group Trustee Board had prepared the Trustees' Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, and he has received and considered the report on the accounts from Markham-Independent Examiner. A printed copy of the independent report is here today and has been emailed to all parents.

Steve invited questions from the audience regarding the Trustees' Annual Report, and the Annual Accounts. No questions were asked.

Steve thanked Agnes for completing the Statement of Accounts and for all of her work during the year.

4. Making appointments

Steve shared that Alice Blackburn, Kerry Pfledger and Tim Howe are all stepping down as trustees. Steve thanked all three trustees for their support and help. Steve shared that the remaining seven trustees will continue their role on the trustee board.

Steve explained the open selection process agreed by the Trustee Board. Steve proposed that Rob Wheeler would join the Trustee Board. Steve explained that the Trustee Board had also voted in favour of appointing Rob Wheeler at the Trustee Board meeting on 12th June. There was a show of hands to approve Rob Wheeler. First- Jonathan Howard, second Jo Bennet. No objections and no abstentions.

Steve welcomed any other volunteers to get in touch- referencing that as a growing group, more volunteers is crucial.

5. Closing remarks

Steve closed the AGM by thanking everyone for attending.

Closed at 12:56pm.