

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 2nd Penparcau Scout Group

May 8th 2014

Present: Richard Morris (Chair), Mike Pitcher (Treasurer), Kathryn Dupont (Secretary), Keith Jones (GSL), Peter van Velzen, Anne MacDonald, Paolo Piana (Scout Association Development Officer), Paul Teakle, Tom Barron, Gary Kingsbury, Alex Harris, Glenda Jones, Catherine Griffiths, Carl Cruickshank, Clive Thomas, Debra Simpson Jones, John Glyn Evans (District Commissioner), Paul Williams

Apologies: Jill Bullen, Rebecca Rock, Eunice Carter, Julia Liebschultz, Ewan Davies, Tegwen Morris, Nia Manning, Cheryl Hain

Minutes of last AGM: agreed as correct – proposed by Gary, seconded by Mike

Chair's report. Richard: thanks to Paul for all his hard work over the past year – he has now stopped running scouts on a weekly basis and is instead assistant GSL mainly organising weekend activities. We are lucky to have Catherine and Alex now running the Scout section. Parents and members of the Executive committee were thanked, especially Mike and Kathryn who have agreed to stay on in the posts of treasurer and secretary. Executive meetings are held every couple of months and last an hour to an hour and a half. They are an important part of the Group as decisions are made at these meetings. Richard invited others to speak to any of the Committee if they wished to join. The log cabin site continues to develop – it has changed a lot during the last 4 to 5 months. Thanks to everyone involved in the hard work there especially John and Jarek. The Group is trying to secure a 20 year lease for the site. Thanks most of all to Keith who is the driving force behind the Group – we are all very grateful to him for all the time and effort he puts in.

Treasurer's Report. Mike: see summary sheets on next page. Accounts had been proposed by Paul and seconded by Peter at executive meeting prior to AGM. At 31/03/14 the balance was £6048.10. A true current balance is £2,427.89. There has been good record keeping all year by the leaders. The Group is living within its means but does not have much of a cushion to fall back on. Between 80% - 90% of families now pay by standing order which has really helped with budgeting. The camps are not subsidised from general funds, but paid for by the young people attending, with the exception of big camps such as the Ireland Jamboree which was subsidised by donations. Campsite costs include insurance and in this last year a one off payment to set up the lease. Work at the campsite is often done for free and there are many donations in kind of materials, etc. There has been discussion about renting the campsite to other groups to boost income, but there are issues re monitoring usage and insurance.

Summary table end of year 2013/14			
Opening Balance 01/04/13		£ 3,958.16	
Income		£ 19,057.72	
Expenditure		£ 16,967.78	
Closing balance 31/03/14		£ 6,048.10	
Breakdown of expenditure			
Expenditure 2013/14			
Expenditure			
Leaders' expenses		£ 4,946.06	
Capitation		£ 3,712.50	
CAMPS		£ 4,136.92	
Campsite maintenance		£ 1,883.34	
Equipment and other miscellaneous		£ 711.50	
Activities		£ 1,577.46	
Funded projects		£ -	
Unidentified		£ -	
Total		£ 16,967.78	
Large items still to clear			
		Approx Expenditure	True balance
Capitation	£ 4,414.50		£2,427.89
Holland	£ 500.00		

Income 2013/14	
Subs	£ 6,779.07
Capitation	£ 3,511.93
Grants / donations	£ 4,179.75
Camps	£ 4,119.04
Fund raising	£ 103.43
Miscellaneous	£ 364.50
Total Income	£ 19,057.72

Summary of position over time

	Total income	Total exp	Balance	Capitation income	Capitation exp
	£	£	£	£	£
2010/11	26,225	18,374	7,851	3,026	3,149
	£	£	-£	£	£
2011/12	17,764	22,652	4,888	3,564	3,676
	£	£	-£	£	£
2012/13	14,857	17,158	2,301	3,510	4,130
	£	£	£	£	£
2013/14	19,057	16,967	2,090	3,511	3,712

Beavers Report. Gary: The beavers have 20 listed to attend, 6 of whom are girls. The waiting list has 11 all are under the age of 6. Explorers Tess and Catrin continue to help out on a weekly basis and Catrin Skym has also started helping as well. We have also had a student (James) who has helped out for most of the 2nd half of the Spring term. Myself and Cheryl have continued to work as a good team. We have again taken part in a number of activities throughout the year. We have been up to the campsite a number of times , done part of the IT stage badge, had our annual xmas party, had a number of walks and lots of games. Our Easter egg hunt was enjoyed by all and planted some plants and had an experiments night and helped build a Bug Hotel at the Promise day recently.

Cub Report. Keith: Currently have 36 on the books. I cannot manage this amount without the help and support of the cub leaders Graeme Summers, Carl Fitches, Graeme Kerr, Christina Bray, John Mousley and when home Daniel, Seren, Charlie and Matthew. For us to have an active programme we will need more adult support in the coming months e.g. the treasure hunt recently had to be cancelled as there were not enough adult helpers. Highlights from the last year were: Cub Fun Day, Cub Camp, Snow Globes, Russia , World War One evenings. Overall very happy with the way the section is running.

Scout Report. Catherine: We have had a busy year of activities with about twenty Scouts attending each week. At present we have twenty-six Scouts in total. In the Autumn Term activities included orienteering with the Mid Wales Orienteering Club, street dance, yoga, making woggles with paracord, building a catapult by pioneering and constructing willow lanterns for the Aberystwyth Lantern Parade. There were two camps, at October half term and in mid-December. The Scouts enjoyed chopping wood with axes, sharpening knives, carving spoons, pyrography and making dens. At Christmas we thanked Paul for his many years as Scout Leader and wished him well in his new role as Assistant Group Scout Leader and specialist at camp activities.

Last term, with Alex and Catherine as leaders, we learned about the local area for the Guide badge, practised compass skills, went on a night hike, visited the fire station for the Fire Safety badge, played team games based on the Winter Olympics, gave a show for the residents of Bodlondeb, went swimming, climbed at Box Rox and tested our stamina on the Her y Barcud incident hike. We were joined by Kingsley Botting as part of his Duke of Edinburgh award and thank him for his help with the Scouts. Also we have had help from Gareth, Jo and Kathy and we hope to see them again in Scouts when time permits.

In the Summer Term, we have already done archery, air rifle shooting and wide games at the log cabin. Next we are planning a cycling evening with the Explorers, learning about forestry at the log cabin, visiting the fire station again, doing activities on the beach, kayaking and fishing. The Annual Paddlers kayaking weekend is in the middle of May at Llandysul. Many thanks to all the Scouts and their families for their enthusiasm and support during the past year.

Explorers Report. Keith: Currently 23 on the register large group but thanks go to Tom Barron and Christina Bray and also our new recruit James Ruff. Highlights: Ireland Trip, Xmas Camp, Hammock Camp, Her Y Barcud, Promise Event, Ice Candles, Area Shooting. Duke of Edinburgh 4 silver has been awarded and one bronze expedition has been completed, Paul Teakle has offered help with the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. I am aware that it is really difficult to run explorers and maintain the levels needed to complete the award.

Group Scout Leader's Report. Keith: We have grown in the last 12 months with over 100 young people as members we are the largest in Ceredigion. But size is not everything, our regular leadership team meetings ensure Penparcau offers a joined up approach to quality scouting which provides a balanced programme across all sections. Thanks to all leaders for all the extra effort they put in across all sections.

Our leaders are committed to the group and will help out wherever needed. More adult volunteers would allow us to provide more and also gives adults a chance to learn new skills, scouting is all about flexible volunteering so even an hour a month would help the group.

Paul has stood down as Scout leader and is now the assistant Group Scout Leader, he has arranged several events already and more will be coming up in the next few weeks. Thanks to Catherine and Alex for sharing the scout leaders role.

Grant applications we were unsuccessful in applications to Sainsburys and the Postcode lottery. We were successful with the Aberystwyth War memorial Trust fund we bought new four dutch oven and skillet sets, CAVO grant of £1300 allowed us to purchase 4 new GPS units.

We have joined the Scout Wales Lottery not sure of number of people who have joined this will become clearer in the next few months.

Work at the log cabin. Work has progressed on the container and is nearly complete it has been waterproofed, ventilated, lined with MDF and finally had racking added. This will allow us to store our equipment much more efficiently and allow us to remove equipment that is surplus to our requirements. We have bought more stone in front of the cabin, we have landscaped a new area for a round house and a new camping area. We have put new gated posts up to stop people driving to the top of the road. We have upgraded our planters. We have put in 4 semi flushable toilets and are planning phase 2 to make them flushable with water to sinks as well. We have fenced off the archery/shooting range thanks go to the Coleg Ceredigion Countryside management course members. Plan is to further enhance in the next few months by adding a sink in the cabin plus painting the whole cabin. Still waiting for the completion on the lease. Thanks to everyone who helps at the cabin especially John Evans, Jarek Kardask for all their work at the cabin they are up there week after week doing maintenance and improvement to the site.

Waiting Lists we have worked hard on reducing the waiting list measures have included taking explorers up at 13 not 14 and not adding any new names to the cub list currently we have a joining list for beavers with none on the waiting list, we have 3 on the cubs and 14 on the scouts. I have been working with the scout development officer to work on a way of getting more young people into scouting. The plan is to have a new group in Aberystwyth being supported by 3rd Aberystwyth and 2nd Penparcau.

Holland Trip we need to start thinking about some fundraising events. I would suggest that we make the Keith Jones Challenge on 7th September as a sponsored event. We have had suggestions to apply for grants from AWMTF, Aberystwyth Town Council, CAVO and Aberystwyth Lions. We need a couple more ideas so I am suggesting a fundraising sub group that reports to the Group Executive.

Thanks to everyone on the executive team, especially Kathryn, Mike and Richard, to John Evans for all his work as Deputy Area Commissioner and to all adults who have supported me either as occasional helpers or at events.

Election of Officers: Chair: Richard Morris (proposed by Keith, seconded by Kathryn), Treasurer: Mike Pitcher, Secretary: Kathryn Dupont. Executive Committee members: all leaders + Julia Liebschultz, Paul Williams, Peter van Velzen, Anne MacDonald, Ewan Davies.

Any other business:

Scout Association Development Officer: Paolo was introduced. Paolo will be working in Aberystwyth this term as 47 young people have been identified who wish to join scouting so it is proposed to start up a new Group (starting with cubs and scouts) with the support of 2nd Penparcau and 3rd Aber., looking at more collaborative working between Groups. The new Group will meet at the 3rd Aber hall. Paolo is looking at recruiting more adult help by emphasising roles not people as roles can be fulfilled by more than one person with each person having to give less of a time commitment. He suggested a skills audit of the adults already involved with the Groups. Clive suggested parents could send in ideas of activities they could run e.g. once a term, prior to a programme being developed for the autumn and a rota could be set up (the leaders would need to ask parents what they can do in advance of their planning meetings). John said a 'scout active support system' of volunteers for occasional events could be set up. Paolo said he would be talking to parents and managing expectations. Carl suggested explaining to parents what is expected of them. Anne suggested Keith asks for volunteers for specific jobs. Glenda volunteered her husband Hefin to do police dog handling activity and volunteered herself to be on a parent rota. Paolo thanked Keith, John and 3rd Aber leaders for their vision to grow scouting in the district.

Holland Fundraising Team: Richard suggested a sub-committee is formed of the parents of children going to the Holland Jamborette. 21 places have so far been taken – there are 4 spaces still available for young people. Peter volunteered to organise a meeting of parents. Keith to send contact details to Peter. Keith thanked Peter for having already raised £500. Other fundraising suggestions: Scout Lottery; bushcraft camp for parents; bag packing.

Compass database: a new scout database is coming in the autumn which will have all Groups' information in one place. Leaders will be able to input data. The database will tell leaders automatically when a young person has earned a badge, etc. It was suggested that Ewan and Peter could be involved in migrating the current 2nd Penparcau database over to the Compass database.

Forthcoming events:

Scout Shooting Event 8th/9th June

Beaver Fun Day in Cwmnewyddion June 14th

John thanked everyone on behalf of Ceredigion Scouting and thanked Paolo for attending.

Meeting closed at 9p.m.