**1st Banwell Scout Group**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**held on Tuesday 21June 2016 at 6.30pm**

**at 1st Banwell Scout Headquarters**

**Present**

Brian Redden (Chairman), Rachel Whydle(Treasurer), Siobhan Armstrong (Secretary), Beth Ball, Jeremy Birkett, Dennis Cruze, Kath Edwards, Lisa Griffiths, Tony Lyndon, Graham Meikle (District Commissioner), Ali Kattana (Deputy District Commissioner)

Fran Ford, Jane Gomm, Lisa Riddiough, Clare Sawyer, Gareth Thomas,

Michelle Thomas, Adam Whydle

**Welcome**

Brian Redden welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to support the scout group. [**Post Meeting Note**: There were 54 attendees including representatives from the Parish Council, Banwell/Potigny Town Twinning Association, The Kathleen Jones Trust, St. Andrew’s Church, The Royal British Union and Banwell in Bloom]

**Flag Break**

Gareth Thomas performed the flag break.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Claire Pocock (Head teacher, Banwell Primary), Sonia Mitchell from St Andrew’s church and Martin Hemmings (Banwell in Bloom)

**Minutes of the previous AGM and Matters Arising**

The minutes were approved as a true record: proposed by Michelle Thomas and seconded by Fran Ford. The group is still without a Group Scout Leader. Brian Redden announced that for anyone attending who might be interested there would be an opportunity to discuss this role during the refreshments at the end of the evening.

**Chairman’s Report**

*Brian Redden’s report recorded in full:*

“For those of you who don’t know me I’m Brian Redden, dad to Georgina who is a Scout. I have been the Chair of the Executive Committee for only a few months.

I am delighted to report that, thanks to the dedication of the Leaders, the number of young people enjoying scouting at 1st Banwell has reached over 70.

The group is in a very strong position this year and I think that this is mainly down to our strong and enthusiastic team of Leaders, Assistants and Helpers who offer a wide scope of fantastic activities. My sincere thanks and respect go to all our Leaders and Helpers. They are all unpaid volunteers, giving up their time to help and encourage our young people; without them there would be no Group!

I want to particularly thank a couple of people, firstly Michelle Thomas who has, in the absence of a Group Scout Leader, stepped up and has virtually taken on that role and she has kept us on an even keel, completing the tasks that the GSL would normally undertake. Secondly I’d like to thank Jeremy Birkett who is a mine of information and all things Scouting and he is a great asset to the Group and has been fantastically supportive of me personally as the new chair. I’d also like to recognise Siobhan Armstrong who works tirelessly as Secretary and does so much for the group. Before I became chair she stepped up for that and kept things going.

District Spartan Explorers still regularly use our headquarters & I would like to thank their Leader, Gareth Thomas, for his continued maintenance of our Hut Bookings; together with Angie and Mani (at Banwell Stores/Post Office) who are our key holders.

The young people have experienced fun, friendship and everyday adventure to help them reach their potential and to have a positive impact on their community in Banwell and more widely; and with the minibus they travelled even further to experience the great outdoors which brings me on to another debt of thanks that are due to the Kathleen Jones Family Trust who have been fantastically generous and replaced our minibus with a larger and newer bus so we now have 17 seats and we hope that this will last for many more years. In addition to the amazing donation of the new minibus you may have heard that we are currently working towards realising the Trust’s amazing offer to build a new Head Quarters. It was actually my first meeting as chair when I first met the trustees who came in to an Executive committee meeting and instead of talking about their kind offer of a new minibus told us that they wanted to offer the boys and girls of Banwell a new building! Obviously we are very grateful and also I think it’s fair to say that it’s not as simple as just saying thanks very much and start building but suffice to say we are getting there which brings me on to recognising the fantastic hard work that Brian Peat is doing as the chair of the New Hut sub-committee.

On the subject of thanks, I would like to thank our Group Executive for their wise counsel and also for their commitment to 1st Banwell, which has allowed the Group to fund the necessary resources and to maintain the HQ building so it is fit for purpose which has allowed the Leaders to focus their efforts on running the Sections. My thanks go to Steve Parkinson who has worked quietly in the background by maintaining our HQ. He is always there and is someone else who works tirelessly for the group.

If any young people, parents, friends or grandparents are interested in helping in our Group, please do speak to us. You will be surprised at how enjoyable and rewarding this can be! As you will hear in the financial reports the Group is in a healthy financial position but we mustn’t be too complacent but continue with our fundraising efforts to keep the Group strong for the future. Our thanks to Brian Peat for filling in many grant application forms on our behalf and to the kind people at Thatcher’s Cider who have just given us another grant towards the minibus and to the Parish Council for another kind donation from them.

My thanks also go to all our parents for their support, over the year, at our fundraising events and the trust you put in us when we are scouting with your youngsters. We couldn’t do it without you!

Finally, my thanks go to all our young people for their fantastic contribution during the year. You will hear more about their achievements in the Section Reviews. So, in conclusion from me, well done everybody and I look forward to the next year which promises to be extremely exciting and hopefully this time next year we’ll be sitting in a fantastic new headquarters.”

**Treasurer’s Report**

Rachel Whydle confirmed the accounts had been scrutinized by David Jacobs. Rachel summarised the Financial Report that was circulated with the Agenda:

**Income**

Fundraising:

The fundraising team have raised a fabulous £1969 this year! Slightly down on last year – but still amazing, the Duck Race, Quizzes, Plant and Book Sales in the Village Hall. All raising much appreciated funds and also each time bringing the community together. Thank-you all so much!

Donations:

Lloyds Bank matched the Duck Race fundraising with £500 under the ‚Match Giving‘ scheme. There is further money in the bank from Lloyds this just arrived in April – just too late to be included in these accounts.

Minibus:

The minibus has needed more finicial support this year than it was able to generate. It has been agreed to increase the fundraising efforts particulary the scout group, and raise the suggested donation when groups use the minibus. As of 1 April 2016 the minibus is now using a separate account and will no longer be part of the main Exec Account.

Lettings:

The letting are still being booked through Gareth Thomas. anyone can see avialability through the booking page online which is working well. They can then be emailed an invoice, and then they can pick up a key from the post office. Lettings are up on last year - £1600 this year.

**Expenditure**

Utilities:

Cost similar to last year, £1784 in total.

Other cost:

Hut maintainance, £850, Other costs, £250 (including pest control)

Repairs/equipment/sundry, £405 – (this includes £350 coach for camp in July)

As of this year the leaders do not pay for their Capitation, - so it is no longer an expense in these accounts. We had an insurance claim for the flooding (hence the negaitive 'cost' figure).

* **The Expenditure this year exceeds the Income by £72,**
* **The total in the bank is £9906,**
  + - **£9906 Scout General Fund.**

The recommendation from the Scout Association is that 1.5 times the expenditure is kept in reserve. Our expenditure is £4578 (one and half times being approx £6867) – and there is £9906 in the general fund. So it is more than the recommended amount.

The accounts were accepted. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Clare Sawyer and seconded by Jeremy Birkett.

The proposal to re-appoint David Jacobs as this coming year’s Auditor of Accounts was proposed by Michelle Thomas and seconded by Jeremy Birkett.

The Chairman made a presentation to, and thanked, Rachel Whydle on behalf of the Executive Committee and the whole Scout Group for her invaluable work and tireless support over the past 5 years as she stepped down as Treasurer.

**Group Chair to be nominated by the Group Scout Leader**

In the absence of a Group Scout Leader this duty was performed by Graham Meikle the District Commissioner.

**Election of Executive Committee**

**Officers:**

Secretary – Siobhan Armstrong, proposed by Fran Ford, seconded by Clare Sawyer.

Treasurer – Lee Williamson, proposed by Gareth Thomas, seconded by Michelle Thomas.

**Elected Members:**

Beth Ball, Ann Bass, Dennis Cruze, Kath Edwards, Lisa Griffiths, Tony Lyndon, Brian Peat, proposed by Clare Sawyer, seconded by Adam Whydle.

**Section Leaders:**

Roger Houghton, Fran Ford, Lisa Riddiough proposed by Beth Ball, seconded by Dennis Cruze.

Brian also invited anyone present who was interested in becoming involved with the administration of the Scout Group, in any capacity, to please come forward at the end of the meeting.

**Guest Speaker**

Graham Meikle, District Commissioner, presented the message from Axe District. He explained that he had now been in post for 12 months and had used his time to settle in and reflect on the good things happening in the district. He announced that this year numbers of children in scouting was up 4%. The Scouts had entered into a three year partnership with the Pears Foundation (*The Pears Foundation has a long history of supporting young people to get involved in social action through partners such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award, Girl Guiding UK and the Scout Association. See pearsfoundation.org.uk*). Within Axe District the Scouts are exploring with Weston College, which has recently gained university status, how the college may be able to help to extend Scouting provision - particularly at the Explorer age range.

Graham also explained the need for a new ‘waiting list’ system to show the location of people on waiting lists so that scouting can be targeted to the areas that need it.

A new District Youth Commissioner is to be appointed to make sure that the adults listen to what the young people want to do and event planning isn’t just what the Leaders want to do. There is also work in progress to strengthen the District Team to support the groups. Graham thanked everyone for their commitment without which there would not be any scouting and he looked forward to hearing news on future plans for the new scout hut.

**Awards**

The Chairman made presentations of ‘Thanks’ to Steve Parkinson and Jeremy Birkett for their continued unwavering support and hard work behind the scenes.

Graham Meikle awarded the **Gold Chief Scouts Award** to Will Boulton, Euan Braidwood, Lucy Gomm and Katherine Whydle.

Brian explained the history behind the **Fred Meredith Awards** and the qualities looked for in the recipients. The awards were presented by the District Commissioner to: **Scout of the Year** – Eden Evans;

**Cub of the Year** – Billy Griffiths; **Beaver of the Year** – Sam Baker

The end of the formal part of the evening was followed by entertainment by each of the sections and refreshments.

Enclosures:

1. Section Annual Reports

2. Financial Report 2016

**Section Annual Reports 2015 - 2016**

**Scouts Annual Report**

It has been another successful year for Banwell Scouts. We have been consistently running at 24 Scouts providing an exciting and varied programme. We have three adult leaders, Jane, Roger and Adam, one Young Leader, Luke, and we have also recruited a new leader, Paul Siaens, after last year’s AGM who is just going through the application process. Summer term 2015 saw the last few camping nights on our monthly camping Challenge, finishing on a summer weekend at Collard Bridge. Congratulations to Lucy and Jules who did all 11 nights under canvass! We also had a fantastic Gliding experience that over looked the Glastonbury Festival – an evening to remember!

The Autumn Term began with some more fun activities including Free Running, Sleep-over at the church, Bell ringing, Fitness Challenge, backwoods cooking and climbing at the Indoor Climbing wall in Bristol. We were also very proud of our turn out for the village Remembrance Day Parade with nearly 100% turnout. We have been Ice-Skating at Cribbs Causeway, had an Observation night where some old tramp (Stuart from cubs!) came stumbling into the hut and the scouts had to describe him which was interesting! We had a great Christmas Camp in South Wales where we visited the “Big Pit” and went deep underground for a tour. We cooked a Christmas dinner and went on the sites climbing wall.

After Christmas we visited the BBC studios, did Lazerquest and had a session at go-karting. This was a reward for those scouts that had attended the Remembrance Day Parade and St George’s Day parade. Paul organised a night of sausage making which conjured up some real taste sensations! We tried to do some signalling on Crook Peak with varying success. In March we had a joint camp with Burrington and Wrington Scouts at Nuns Cross farm. It is a disused farm in the middle of Dartmoor with no electricity / running water or Wi-Fi! We took 4 brave girls to this bunkhouse and had a great weekend – a real experience! Rog had to wear trousers rather than shorts! More recently we have made and raced go-karts on Uphill beach and had a great wild camp on Dartmoor with a Zip Wire trip. We have also had nights of wide games, camp cooking and pioneering to gain the 1st Banwell Scout passport.

Our ability to travel more and do more exciting things is because we have a minibus. This year we have been given a 17 seater bus which has meant that we can take more scouts out and about. (Banwell Scouts don’t like staying in the hut for too long!) Huge thanks to the Kathleen Jones Trust for this fantastic resource.

This year saw four scouts (plus Luke) complete the Ten Tors Challenge on Dartmoor. This is a difficult and committing event and they did us proud. It was a bumper year as Axe District entered 6 teams which is a huge achievement.

We are also very proud that Will, Katherine, Euan and Lucy have been awarded their Chief Scouts Challenge badge before they move up to Explorers. We are going to miss them as they have been fantastic scouts.

Lastly, thanks to all our leaders – Adam, Roger, Jane, Paul and Luke for the time and effort they put into organising this exciting programme of activities.

Also thanks to Jo Macleod who has carried on doing the finances since giving up her ASL warrant last year. Thank you Jo, and to the executive committee who support the whole group so well. Here’s to the next year of exciting activities!!!!

**Cubs Annual Report**

27 Cubs on the books currently with four due to move up after the summer holiday and another two shortly after that. With those due to move up from Beavers to Cubs we should be running roughly at our maximum agreed capacity of 24 for the Autumn term. We are in the middle of planning our summer camp to Botany Bay scout camp on the river Wye in mid July for 25 of our Cubs, where we are going canoeing and undertaking various Australian themed activities. Since the last meeting, amongst other activities we have participated in running a mile around the field, had a visit from the Police Cadets, took part in a 1916 Cubs evening (as part of the Cubs 100 year celebrations), and took part in the Love Banwell weekend with a litter pick and weeding around the hut/children's centre.

**Beavers Annual Report**

Our Beaver scouts have been space cadets and were busy making and launching rockets with the blast off box from S.S Great Britain. They achieved their cooking activity badge by making planet pizzas, Mars bar cakes, cosmic crunch and galaxy pinwheels. We had a fun visit from the space detective for a planet discovery evening.   
  
In the spring we were finding our way.....  
They have worked hard on their compass skills and knots and map reading. They faced their fears and scaled the climbing wall at Hans Price and had a torch walk around the village. They built dens in Kings Woods and had a very informative and interactive visit from the RNLI. They joined other colonies in the district for the pantomime, a hike around Crooks peak and for a 4th of July themed Beaver bash.   
They represented Banwell at the Remembrance Parade here in Banwell and at the St. George’s Day parade and service in Grove Park.   
This term they are Beaver Olympic Trainees (BOTs) and have been taking part in numerous sporting activities including disc golf.   
We would like to thank our young leaders Ed, Abi and Harley and for the support from their parents. A big thank you to Kelly and Dan Oxley-Reed and Sue Watts for their continued assistance. We also really appreciate the support of the exec members and other parent volunteers who are invaluable when we do activities away from the hut.  