



1st Swanley (Hextable) Scout Group

1st Swanley (Hextable) Scout Group Annual General Meeting

Meeting Minutes for Saturday 14th September 2024

Venue: Village Hall, College Road, Hextable, BR8 7LT

Time: 4.00pm

Attendees:

A List of attendees is available on request

1. Introduction and Welcome

Clive Taylor (CT) Acting Chair, introduced himself and gave thanks the Hextable Parish Council for the continued use of the hall

2. Apologies for Absence

Darren Kitchener

President Richard Abel – statement read out (Appendix A)

Valerie Page

3. Governance Topics:

a. Approval of 2023 Minutes

Minutes approved – Clive Taylor

Seconded – Frances Wallace

b. Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR)

(CW) In line with the recommendation from The Scout Association, the Group Trustee Board proposes we adopt the model constitution for a Scout Group from Chapter 5c of Policy, Organisation and Rules. A copy of this was available for review and inspection prior to this meeting, and copies are also available at this meeting.

Approved – Clive Taylor

Seconded – Chris Brown

- c. Note the Group's financial year

1st April to 31st March

- d. Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board

Jo Kirby

Jane Kinderman

Valerie Page

France (acting)

Clive (acting)

Approved – Clive Taylor

Seconded - Frances Wallace

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

Approved Clive Taylor

Seconded - Louise Delany and Jane Kinderman

4. Review of Last Year (Appendix B)

- a. Acting Group Chair's Report
- b. Acting Chairman's Report
- c. Squirrels Report
- d. Beavers Report
- e. Cubs Report
- f. Scouts Report

Applause given as thank you to all leaders.

5. Treasurer's Report (Appendix C)

Accounts Taken for consideration

6. Making Appointments

- a. Appointing the Chair - Clive Taylor (Acting)

Approved unanimously

- b. Appointing group Treasurer – Valerie Page

Approved – Jo Kirby

Seconded – Jane Kinderman

7. Reappoint Group President and Vice President

Richard Abel – President

Roger Davey - Vice President

Approved - unanimously

8. Presentation by Joe Gradley and Ben Kinderman

Chief Gold Scout Award Hike - Introduced 22.00 by Alex Pattullo

Presentations - Mike Banks from Swanley District

Chief Scout Silver (Cub) – Sophie Trump

Chief Scout Gold (Scout) – Ben Kinderman

World Badge (Scout) – Ben Kinderman

Thank you - Jane Kinderman (retiring secretary)

Thank you - Roger Davey.

Roger has been very involved in the group for many years and taken on many of the roles including Scout Leder, Group Scout Leader and Chairman. Roger was also involved in the building of the Scout Hall in the early 80's. He will now be our Vice President and will still be part of our group (no escaping that easily Roger!)

Thank you – Frances Wallace

Frances has put in so much time and dedication over the years and continues to do so year on year. None of us would be here without you!

Chrissy Hudson – Councillor

I would like to say how much we value the work of all the uniform groups in the village but particularly the Scouts and all the leaders and parents that are volunteers. We appreciate all of you and what you contribute in helping to bring up the next generation who are skilful, compassionate and community minded. If we can do anything to help as a Parish Council, do please let us know. Thank you.

Thanks to all from Clive Taylor

Meeting concluded at 17.15

Refreshments/BBQ/Magician.

Appendix A – A message from our President, Richard Abel

I am disappointed not to be able to be with you all today and I am proud to be part of such an active and progressive group which over the last, almost 40 years, I've seen go from strength to strength with a few ups and downs on the way. We are now seeing many former young members bring their own offspring and joining as leaders, helpers, and supporters. These persons are the future of our group.

I take pleasure in attending camp activities and meetings in all sections within the group and I'm always pleased to do so. I admire the way the young people are turned out along with their behaviour. None of this would be possible without the enthusiasm of the leaders and helpers, young and old, not forgetting the parents and carers. This was proven again this year by being awarded the St George's Day Smartest Group Challenge.

I wish the group every success now and in the future. I am proud to say I have been, and remain, part of the group.

Go forward with my very best wishes have a great afternoon.

Richard Abel, Group President.

Appendix B – GLV, Chair and Section Reports

Hextable Scout Group Annual GLV Report

Hextable Scout Group has had another successful year, as you will see from the section reports and have witnessed through your own family's participation. I am not going to repeat their many successes here, but the expanding section and waiting list are proof that the programme being delivered is exciting and interesting in all sections. If it were not, the sections would be empty.

It is great that leader numbers have grown, particularly in the re-launched Squirrel section, which is at capacity. This year we have welcomed Shan, Poongs, Craig, Caz, Eddie, Anton and Lyn. Bethany, Bobbie and Harriet have stepped back at the moment and we thank them for all that they have done for us.

Looking forwards, Scouting is going through changes that will introduce a new way of working and recording leader and helper training and progress. It should be more user-friendly and allow for flexible volunteering, which means that adults from outside Scouting can come in temporarily for specific tasks or leaders in one section can help in another as well.

To be resilient, we need to strengthen the leader team, particularly in the Scouts, where Alex does sterling work with Richard. How they manage to provide such a full programme on such small leader numbers is due to Alex's dedication, but he needs, and should have, help that he can rely on, whether this is others stepping up to offer help on the section leader team or more occasional help from people who will offer to run badges (there are 76 topics to choose from) or perform specific tasks. Please speak to Alex, if you can offer help.

I should like to re-open the Hextable Explorer (age 14-17) section. Losing the older Scouts to Explorers in other parts of the district leaves the group like a school without a sixth form. Explorers provide young leaders and are excellent role models. They have opportunities that can inspire our younger members and it is sad that this experience is lost to the group. Often the Scouts do not want to move on, or it is impossible logistically, and so we lose these wonderful young people. I am looking for people to join an Explorer Leader team, not asking for one or two people to do more than they feel they can, but for a team of people, who all do a bit. They can have no, little or a lot of experience of Scouting, as training and help are provided. The Explorers should do most of the planning and input for their meetings and

activities, with guidance from the Leaders. They have big adventures. There are opportunities for travel and interesting projects. They work towards the highest awards, culminating in the King's Scout Award. It can be a very exciting and rewarding section. They belong to the district unit and tap into the combined district Explorer unit's offer. The skills learnt are valued by employers. There is more information here <https://www.scouts.org.uk/explorers> or contact me on 07976 277906 frances@hextablescouts.org.uk

I am not going to list everyone that helps in any way, as I will inevitably miss someone out, but I am going to mention Jane Kinderman and Roger Davey. Both are stepping down from our trustee board. Jane has been our Secretary for over 6 years and has combined that role with the role of District Secretary. Roger has been involved with the group since before 1980, as Scout Leader, Group Scout Leader, Chairman and Group Executive Committee (now Trustee Board) member. He has been unswervingly dedicated to his roles and has performed many difficult duties on our behalf. Neither are planning to depart completely, and we are very grateful for all that they have done and wish them all the best.

Thank you to all our leaders and the many other helpers and supporters for all that they / you do and have done. We are enormously lucky to have you.

Frances Wallace, Acting Group Lead Volunteer, July 2024

Hextable Trustee Board - Chairmans Report

This is a fairly short report as I am only the acting chair, put in place by the Swanley District Trustee Board in April.

Hextable Scout Group is a very active group, the young people are kept occupied by the marvellous team of volunteers. A big thank you to all our volunteers who give up their time to look after all the young people in the group.

In the last few months, we have welcomed a new section, Squirrels, aged 4-6 yrs. Hopefully soon we will also see a return of Explorers, meaning we will cover young people from 4-18 yrs.

Over the last six months scouting has gone through some large changes. One of which is the Executive Committee, now called The Trustee Board. This board is responsible for the management of the group, including Compliance, Financial Management, and responsibility for the safety of all young people and volunteers.

The Trustee Board urgently needs its own chair. If you feel that you could be that person, please speak to me or Frances, the Acting Group Lead Volunteer.

Clive Taylor, Acting Chair Hextable Scout Group Trustee Board

1st Swanley (Hextable) Squirrels - Section Report, May - July 2024

Summary:

Our Squirrel drey section (after a brief hiatus) had a fresh start when we (Poongs and Shan) came on board to run it. Started with an open day on 9-May (extremely well received) and ran very well until the end of term (18-July).

Glad to share that we managed a good mix of indoor and outdoor activities where everyone of us (leaders, parent helpers) along with our Squirrels had loads of fun and frolics, with new things learnt along the way.

Credit goes to all the parent helpers. Some of them have joined our team as leaders and contributed immensely with their creative ideas.

Last but not least, huge thanks to Frances and Milly for all the support and guidance throughout.

Highlights:

- Houseful drey: 24 Squirrels. 19 attending, two awaiting to turn 4 and three more to join from waiting list in Sep2024.
- Investiture Completed: All 19 Squirrels invested.
- Badges: Almost all Squirrels earned two badges ('Time on Water', 'Hikes Away') in this short span.
- New Leaders: Encouraged parents to help and now four of them have joined us as Leaders.
- Fun & Frolic:
 - Pedalos in Swanley Park lake.
 - Joydens woodland hike / walk.
 - Built campfire and made s'mores.
 - Made leafy hedgehogs and squirrel nests.
 - Made play doughs, disc spinners.
 - Loads of games and stories.
 - Invited Cubs to talk about their activities to Squirrels.

Poongs and Shan, Squirrel Lead Volunteers

1st Swanley (Hextable) Beaver Colony, 2023/2024 AGM Summary

Over the past year the Beaver colony has had up to 20 members on the books with up to 15 members attending weekly on Monday evenings.

Fortunately, we currently have a strong leadership team with four full time leaders: Hugh, Tony, Sadie and Josh and we also have Joseph from Scouts continuing as a Young Leader who is enthusiastic and eager to plan and run meetings.

We are always open to anyone else who would like to join the leadership team. The more leaders and occasional helpers we have the more resilient the section will be and will help to provide an interesting and varied programme for our young people.

Programme Highlights:

Autumn 2023

Mostly indoor activities during the autumn period based in the scout hut including Roald Dahl evening, recycle week, navigator badge work, emergency aid and digital maker badge evenings. We did venture out one evening on a local hike though.

Winter/Spring 2023/24

Continued with indoor activities including remembrance craft evening, communicator badge, digital citizen badge, Christmas craft and activities, a puppet performance, global issues badge, mini pioneering, international badge and food tasting, an Easter activities evening and we also joined the Cubs for a presentation from Southern Water.

Away from the hut we went on a visit to Dartford Fire Station and did a torch walk one evening in the dark.

Some of our Beavers also attended a Christmas themed sleepover with 1st Crockenhill Beavers at their hall and the District Beaver sleepover at Hope Hill Campsite in Meopham.

Summer 2024

We had a busy summer trying to make use of the fine weather and late evenings by doing as much as possible away from the Scout Hut. Activities this summer included gardening badge, tracking and knots at Farningham Woods, hike around Swanley Village, experiment badge, den building at Farningham Woods, a hike around Shoreham with a visit to the White Cross war memorial and we rounded the summer term off with pond dipping at Foots Cray Meadows. We also had a visit from the RNLI to talk about water safety

Four of our Beavers attended the joint Cub and Beaver camp at Gilwell Park. They all really enjoyed it and would have stayed another night if allowed. It was beneficial for them to be included on the same camp as the older Cubs and they did lots of adventurous activities alongside the older children.

District/County Activities

We had a great attendance to the Remembrance Service and parade at Five Wents Hall and our Beavers attended the District St George's Day event at Parkwood Hall School.

Badges Awarded:

The following badges have been awarded over the past year:

- Adventure (Challenge Badge)
- Outdoors (Challenge Badge)
- Teamwork (Challenge Badge)
- World (Challenge Badge)
- Skills (Challenge Badge)
- Communicator
- Creative
- Experiment
- Explore

- Gardener
- Global Issues
- International
- Digital Citizen
- Digital Maker
- Emergency Aid - Level 2
- Hikes - Levels 1, 2 & 5
- Navigator - Level 1
- Nights Away - Levels 1 & 3

This is a great achievement and shows the varying activities that we do, the hard work of our Beavers and would not be achieved without the support from parents.

We are really pleased that over the last year Seven of our Beavers have completed the Chief Scouts Bronze Award, which is the top award that can be gained at Beavers. There are a number of Beavers who have almost completed all the Challenge Badges and will gain the Chief Scout's Bronze award in the coming months.

Summary

1st Swanley Hextable Beavers is a healthy colony going from strength to strength with a good number of Beavers regularly attending. Several of our Beavers have moved up to Cubs recently or will be shortly. All achieved their Chief Scouts Bronze Award which they should be very proud of. We wish them all well on the way and hope they enjoy their time at Cubs.

As leaders we will focus on planning varied activities throughout the next year to help enable our Beavers to gain confidence in activities they may not otherwise have access to and also to try and gain as many badges as possible with the sense of achievement that inherently brings. We plan our activities to allow all our Beavers the opportunity to gain all the Challenge Badges and the Chief Scouts Bronze Award without the need to do additional homework. However, there are additional activities our young people can do at home too and it is great to see.

As a final note, our leaders would like to give a thanks to the many parents who regularly provide assistance on Monday evenings, and at events such as today. Your help is greatly appreciated. We have a dedicated and enthusiastic leadership team however if there are any parents who would like to get more involved, we will of course welcome more warranted leaders or occasional helpers which will provide more stability for the colony.

1st Swanley (Hextable) Cubs Section Report, 2023/2024

The past 12 months at 1st Swanley has certainly been a busy period with plenty of change.

The section has a new leadership structure and now consists of 5 uniformed volunteers and 3 administrative volunteers. We have had 5 Young Leaders volunteer over the course of the year.

The YP in our section have also achieved a great deal this year including: -

- Kent Cuboree
- Nights Away on the HMS Cavalier
- Nights Away at Farningham Woods
- Visit from Southern Water educational evening
- Working with the Swanley Wildlife Group to improve our area

- Bag packing at ASDA to raise funds and awareness of the section
- Representing the pack at Stanhill farm picking pumpkins
- Swanley District Funday
- Winning best dressed in the District at our St Georges Day Ceremony
- A visit from a local member of the Royal British Legion
- Representing the section on Remembrance Day at Five Wents Memorial Hall
- Nights Away at Gilwell Adventure Center.
- A District Time on the Water event at Leybourne lakes.
- A visit to the Copper Box arena to see the London Lions Basketball team play.
- Party at Tag Active in Swanley.
- Various local Village fairs.

Badges awarded.

Chief Scout's Silver	7
Adventure	13
Outdoors	13
Personal	11
Scout Mate	5
Skills	12
Team Leader	9
Teamwork	14
World	4
Kent Cub Pack Challenge 2023/24 2024	pack
Kent Invicta Challenge (Cubs)	pack
Kent Scouts May Madness -	2
Kent Scout Mate	2
Kent Scout Mate	8
Animal Carer	1
Artist Liam Sudell	6
Athletics	16
Chef	2
Cyclist	7
Entertainer	9
Equestrian	1
Fire Safety	9
International	18
Martial Arts	2
Personal Safety	19
Photographer	6
Road Safety	20
Skater	1
World Faiths	11
Backwoods Cooking Plus	1
Hikes	23
Nights Away	28
Paddle Sports	1
Sailing	1
Snowsports	2
Time on the Water Feist	30
Moving On 2023	4
Joining In	30
Total earned excluding pack badges	348

Christopher Brown, 1st Swanley (Hextable) Cubs section leader.

1st Swanley (Hextable) Scouts AGM report September 2024

It's been another eventful year for our Scout Group our numbers have been averaging 20 Scouts a session. The Scouts have been well behaved with only a few exceptions! Since my last report our scouts have enjoyed a productive program.

All Scouts are working towards their Gold Scouts award and I'm very proud to say that Ben Kinderman has achieved his.... Close behind him are a few who are nearly there (Joseph Spencer and Joseph Gradley) with only a few Badges to go. Our Older Scouts have been great at showing the younger Scouts the importance of sticking to the Scouts laws and promise.

We have had a number of new members this year. Not just from Cubs moving up but from Friends of Scouts joining in and they have integrated really well and I hope they will enjoy their scout journey with us.

2024 has been a big year Scouts worked towards their World challenge, Creative, Outdoors and Expedition badges taking part in various activities such as our group camp, hikes, knots, first aid, problem solving, Pancake making, woggle making and paracording, survival skills, sewing, Tomahawk throwing at West Kingsdown Scouts group with Timber and Neal, Water sports including Dragon boat racing, paddle boarding and kayaking at Mote park, a firm favourite of fire lighting skills, Knife craft skills. We continued to use the Swanley Scouts District campsite at Farningham woods, for evening activities.

Our Scouts and the whole group had another great turn out at the St Georges day parade which was held at Parkwood school Our Scouts won the Union Jack Flag for smartest Group.

For our Scout camp we went back to Broadstone Warren and had a wonderful 4 days of camping and only got washed out by the rain once. 3 Older Scouts and 3 younger ones took part and completed the Expedition badge. Ben and Joseph are going to tell you all about it very soon. This badge takes a lot of planning and organising not just by the Scouts, I'm very grateful to our Assistant Scouts leader Richard Kinderman, who has been in the role for over 5 years now, plus our Cub Leader Chris and Parent helpers Paul Sayers and Ruth Craib who gave up their time to come on camp as well and support us. The camp activities included Zip wire (from a very high and small ledge up in the trees!), water rockets, open fire cooking (in between the rail!!) 5+ mile hike, crate stacking and Pedal go carts.

We also took part in the Hextable Fun day and also the Wilmington fair where our Scouts were asked to raise the flag.

Our Charity work continues with our sponsored sleep out for the Homeless charity Porchlight on 11th October and we hope to be back at ASDA at Christmas time for our bag packing, collecting for scouts. We have also been invited back to be chief donation collectors at this year's Hextable fireworks display and we are starting to plan for our big camp next year at KIJ. Kent International Jamboree.

Alex Pattullo 1st Swanley (Hextable) Scout Lead Volunteer

Appendix C – Treasurers Report

1st Hextable (Swanley) Scouts. Accounts 1st April 2023 - 31st March 2024

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Subscriptions	£8,907.55	Badges and Scarves	£786.46
Trips & Camps	£4,403.13	Beaver Exp	£247.11
Fundraising	£893.24	Cub Exp	£1,955.55
Donations	£0.00	Scout Exp	£761.52
Sundries	£3,120.14	Group Exp	£809.97
other	£30,289.88	Trips & Camp Exp	£2,655.91
		Leader Uniforms	£144.51
		Equipment purchased	£5,785.98
		Insurance	£540.77
		Membership fees	£4,032.50
		Sundries	£1,378.51
		Squirrels Expenses	£335.50
		Deposit Account	£31,000.00
	£47,613.94		£50,434.29
Balance B/Fwd	£4,452.12	Expenses	£50,434.29
Cash in Hand B/Fwd	£203.75	Cash in hand @ 31/1/23	£44.00
Income	£47,613.94	Balance	£1,791.52
	£52,269.81		£52,269.81
Deposit Account			
Balance @ 12/07/2023	£25,000.00	Balance @ 31/03/2024	£31,242.00
Interest 4/9/23	£42.33		
Interest 4/12/2023	£87.20		
interest 4/03/2024	£112.47		
Transfer from current account 20/12/2023	£6,000.00		
	£31,242.00		£31,242.00

1st Hextable (Swanley) Scout Group

Treasurer's Report year ending 31st March 2024

This report is for the financial year ending 31st March 2024. The accounts are set out above showing income and expenditure, and balances of the Scout Groups Business current account and Deposit account and held with Barclays Bank, as well as the small amount of petty cash.

The accounts have been independently verified

Summary

In the summer of 2023 the Scout Association made a decision to close all short term investment accounts they held for individual Scout Groups due to the continuing high interest rates being seen. The balance was returned and a new business Deposit account was opened with our main Bankers, Barclays.

10 Colman Octagon tents, glow pegs, an event shelter, a gazebo, a water boiler and a campingaz twister stove were purchased for use within the group and enjoyed at camp. The total cost was £5785.98. These purchases will be used for many years to come.

Monthly subscription fees paid monthly for youngsters attending meetings remained at the same amount as they have been for a number of years, although there was an increase in collected payments which totalled £8907.55, this is due to a further increase in the number of members.. This is reflected in the amount paid in January to Swanley District for annual membership/capitation of £4032.50

Gift aid for 2021 was received at £1083.89 and £1368.99 for 2022. We expect to receive c£1500 for 2023, but we can only claim gift aid if parents/guardians who pay subscriptions give consent. If you are a taxpayer and are happy for gift aid to be claimed and haven't given consent please do so on OSM.

There was an extraordinary expense of £860 returned to a parent who had continued to pay monthly subscriptions for her son who left Scouts in 2016. Contact details had been lost and we had to wait until the parent checked her bank statement and contacted us. The overpayment was returned in full.

Total income for the year was £47,613.94, or £17,324.06 after deducting the return of £30,289.88 in respect of the closed short term investment held with the Scout Association. Expenses (after £31,000 was transferred to the Barclays saving account) totalled £18434.29. Although expenses exceeded income this was the first year a significant amount had been spent on significant equipment purchases for several years.

The current and deposit account balances, plus the small amount of cash in hand totalled £33,077.52 as at 31st March 2024, a decrease from £34,704.87 held 12 months previously. This is a trend we have seen in the last few years and highlights the need for increased fundraising and application for relevant donations.

Valerie Page