



26th Perthshire Scouts (Dunning)

Meeting: Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday 29th September 2020 at 8pm

Venue: On line via zoom

In Attendance: Rob Carr (Chair), Nathan Critchlow-Watton (Group Scout Leader), Pete Diver (Beaver Section Leader), Ruth Emond (Secretary), Kevin McKechnie, Sofie Wilkie-De Hertogh, Valle Ruiz (Treasurer), Sandy Hunter (Cub Section Leader), Sally Dawson, Scott and Catrina Hewitt, Susan Whyte, Anna Parks, Ewan Cameron, Stephen Broad, Paul Kimber, Callum Farquhar (East of Scotland Regional Commissioner), Hilary Kirk (Perth and Kinross District), Andy Paterson (Dunning Community Trust)

Apologies: Alison Cameron, Chris Kirk and Neil Ruse

1. Welcome

Rob welcomed parents, children and committee members and thanked them for their attendance.

Rob outlined the purpose of the AGM and where this is located within the wider Scouting organisation.

2. Financial Report

A written summary was provided which gave an overview of the group's finances since its inception in 2017. An income and expenditure summary was also presented (papers attached). Attention was drawn to the successful grant applications over the last year including an award from the Robertson Trust which will be used to purchase bush craft equipment.

Membership fees will be paid to Scouting UK on the 31st January. There has been no reduction in fees despite meetings being cancelled as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.

3. Executive Committee

Thanks were expressed on behalf of the Committee and the 26th Perthshire Group to Alison Cameron who is standing down from the Executive Committee. Alison has done a great job of securing grant funding for a number of camping and bushcraft resources.

Rob outlined the role of the Executive Committee and introduced current members using photographs and short biographies. The following committee members were nominated for re-election and were reappointed using electronic voting:

Rob Carr to remain as Chairperson.

Valle Ruiz to remain as Treasurer

Ruth Emond to remain as Secretary

Kevin McKechnie, Sally Dawson and Sofie Wilkie-De Hertogh to remain as committee members

Paul Kimber was nominated as a replacement for Alison Cameron. This was agreed.



The committee will also be attended by Pete Diver (as section leader of the Beavers) and Nathan Critchlow-Watton (as Group Scout leader). A representative from the leadership team of the Cubs will also attend.

Lorna Sharp was elected to act as independent examiner of the Group's accounts.

4. Annual Report

Rob presented the Annual report to the meeting. Highlights included reports of activities children had been involved in and that the 26th Perthshire (Dunning) Group has been awarded charitable status. Rob shared a fantastic video showing Scouting activities over the last year.

5. Plan for 2020-21

Rob outlined plans for a shelter which we hope to build in Kincladie Woods. Funding for this was secured from Perth and Kinross Council and a planning application has been submitted. A number of local business and community members have offered to help with the building of the shelter. It will be available for other community events (for example music in the woods).

Andy Paterson from the DCT confirmed the Trust's support for the plans as community participation and education, along with involving young people in the woods are key aspirations of the Trust. DCT are content that the benefits of the shelter outweigh any potential risks.

Rob thanked the members of the DCT for their support with this project.

Nathan is currently exploring indoor venues for over the winter months as the village hall has been closed as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions. The group also need to find secure storage for camping and bushcraft equipment.

6. Group Update

Beavers

Pete reported that the Beaver group is doing well and have enjoyed a number of great experiences this year. These have included a trip to Pitlochry, a sleepover, a spring hike, emergency first aid training and a superhero creative night. The Beavers were also pleased to be involved in the Dunning Remembrance Day parade and service. During the lockdown, the Beaver section held a virtual camp which many of the Beavers enjoyed. Pete expressed his thanks to the leaders, assistant leaders and parent helpers.

Cubs

Sandy reported that it was great to have the Cubs back after lockdown. Meetings have been restricted to fortnightly as a result of the large number of cubs (currently 29). Given the size of the current group Sandy asked for help from uniformed leaders at meetings. Sandy expressed thanks to Cat and Scott Hewitt who have organised a significant number of activities and events for the Cubs. He also thanked parent helpers, Nathan and the executive committee.

Group report

Nathan thanked the leaders and assistant leaders for their energy and enthusiasm. He recognised the work that goes on behind the scenes to make every meeting so interesting and worthwhile. He



stated that there is a great team building in Dunning and is hopeful that this will be further strengthened over the year ahead. Going forward, Nathan would like to:

- increase the range of activities available to children and young people,
- increase their self reliance
- increase the involvement of Scouts in the local community. During COVID-19 the 26th Perthshire were pivotal in arranging support for members of the community who were shielding or having to self isolate. Nathan would like to build on this over the coming year.

Nathan expressed his thanks to the Executive Committee, the District and to Rob.

7. A.O.B.

Callum Farquhar commended the 26th Perthshire for continuing to build the group and for using the outdoors as much as possible. Not only is this safer in current times but being in nature is central to Scouting. Callum offered his congratulations and thanks to the all the leaders who have facilitated such great experiences for the children and for undertaking all of the risk assessments required as a result of COVID-19.

Hilary Kirk reported that it was excellent to see the progress of the group over the last three years. She has seen great team work and said that it has been a pleasure to support leaders and assistant leaders through their training.

Rob thanked Callum and Hilary for their contribution and, more generally to the District leaders for their support over the year.

Rob then thanked everyone for attending.