

## 250<sup>th</sup> Manchester Scout Council

### AGM

30<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 19.30

Ellen Street Droylsden

### Minutes

#### 1. Introduction

Chris welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

#### 2. Apologies for Absence

None Received

#### 3. Governance Topics

- a. **Minutes of last AGM** – copies available on our website for people to read. Trustee Board are happy that the minutes are accurate, seconded by Andrew Morton.
- b. **Adopt POR constitution** – Chris Sampson explained to those present a brief definition of what the Policy Organisation rules is about and that copies of the constitution are available online, and we've been using this constitution for multiple years. Continuation with the constitution recommended by the Trustee Board, seconded by Margaret Sever.
- c. **Note the Group's financial year** – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027
- d. **Approve appointed community members of group scout council** – Chris Sampson explained what the Group Scout council is to those present at the meeting and other parents/carers and volunteers associated with the Group. Volunteers already asked prior to meeting and approved by show of hands from the room. Christine Withers remains our liaison with St. Mary's Church.
- e. **Agree the number of members to be appointed to the trustee board** – Trustee Board recommends no more than 12, seconded by Janet Higgins. Chris Sampson explained what the commitment looks like to those present and asked for volunteers for new members.
- f. **Agree the quorum for future meetings** – Trustee Board recommends over 50%, seconded by Julie Artingstall.

#### 4. Review of the previous year

Copies of GLV and Treasurer's reports given at the meeting to all.

**GLV report** – Group membership remains consistently strong at ~60 young members, with a similar number of adult volunteers. Squirrels and explorers now continue to run, with Squirrels having recently moved to Monday evenings before Beavers. This means we are one of the few groups in the area that caters for the full age range between 4 and 17 years old. Some Squirrels have successfully moved up to Beavers and Squirrels continues to be full.

Lots of exciting activities run by all sections with visits to and away from the hut, many badges completed and awarded to the young members throughout the year. Winter camp for the scouts and explorers was lots of fun, if cold and muddy.

Bedding Plants sale 2025 went well, although orders were down again, and so we are not making as much money as in previous years. We have been very fortunate with grants this year, receiving a significant amount from Better Youth Spaces to overhaul the heating system and install loft insulation. Other grant funding has helped pay for some utilities, continue kitchen renovation and help tidy up the back field and outdoor spaces.

Chris explained that the bedding plants sale helps us keep the subs down for our young people and so we are always looking for helpers to come and support on bedding plant weekend. We are hopeful that the new work done to the building will also mean some savings on utility bills going forward. Grants gained this year totalled ~£17.5K thanks largely due to the hard work from Julie Artingstall in securing these. We increased subs last year, however there are no plans to do that this year.

**Annual Accounts** – The Treasurer’s report was discussed (in absentia) and highlights from the annual accounts noted, including the overall deficit of nearly £700 due to reduced income. Parents/carers are encouraged to sign up for Gift Aid where they’re able – we have a £500 claim being processed with HMRC and there has continued to be a delay in getting this due to the change in treasurer last year and the a complicated process to make changes through HMRC, but Adam believes we are close to resolving the HMRC account.

**Land Lease (rent payment)** – Chris paid the annual land rent (5p) to Christine Withers as a representative of St. Mary’s Church.

## **5. Making appointments**

**Chair**- Sarah Bailey nominated and agreed to remain in post for another year (year 3 of 5) – seconded by Ken Sever.

**Treasurer** – Adam Hewitt nominated (year 2 of 5), seconded by Julie Artingstall.

### **Trustee members –**

Chris Sampson (ex-officio as GLV)

Margaret Sever (ex-officio as AGLV)

Janet Higgins (year 3 of 5), seconded by Nadine O’Shaughnessy.

Nicholas Curtis (year 3 of 5), seconded by Margaret Sever.

Julie Artingstall (year 2 of 5), seconded by Janet Higgins.

The group appointed Noreen Duncalf as the scrutineer for the account, she is the treasurer for the local scout district, proposed by the Trustee Board, seconded by Julie Artingstall.

## **6. Closing remarks**

**Anniversary** – the Scout Group will be 110 years old this year and is looking to plan various activities throughout the rest of 2026 to celebrate – more details will be forthcoming. This will likely include a Group camp in the summer, for which all Young Members will be encouraged to fundraise to help reduce costs and be active members of the local community and possibly a Garden party. Cubs will be 110 years old this year, Beavers will be 40 years old and Squirrels 5 years old to celebrate this the district is promoting a campaign to make knitted scouts for every member, and a great number have

been knitted already. Those that are keen on knitting can get involved and we can provide the patterns. The aim is that we can sell any leftover ones at one of our events.

**Badges & Investitures** – Cubs Albie, Grace, Amelia and Bobby spoke to the group about what they had been doing this year in cubs and explained what they have enjoyed doing. Several cubs and some Scouts were awarded activity badges by James and Pippa. Two young people were also invested into the group by Andrew Morton (District Lead Volunteer).

**Awards** – Jill Doyle was awarded her 5-year certificate for services to scouting and Nick Curtis and Sarah Bailey were awarded their 10-year certificates. Sophie Fynn was invested as a volunteer team member for Scouts.

Chris thanked everyone for attending, and the adult volunteers & trustees for their continued support and work in delivering an exciting and safe program of activities for the Young Members. Those present were encouraged to think about any volunteering support they could offer and reminded they could approach us at any time.

**Actions** – Adam Hewitt to email a copy of the accounts to Noreen Duncalf.