

Minutes of the 4th Stafford Scout Group Trustee Meeting

The Sun Inn, Stafford on 4th November 2024 @ 6.30pm

Present: Karl Hilton (Chairman), Cathy Hordern (GSL/BSL), Alex Windows (SL), Darren Hordern (ASL/Treasurer), Gemma Phillips (ABSL/Secretary), Andrew Bennett (ACSL), Luke Vernon (ASL), Ian Davis, Rhys Powell, Ali Hordern & George Gardner

Apologies: Lydia Hilton (CSL), Sarah Phillips (SSL), Adrian Dickson (ASL), Tracey Evans

Last Meeting:

Follow Ups:

- Check any unused Cub tents
 - There are no longer any cub tents in packaging unused. There is still a damaged tent in our stock but there is no shortage at present.
- Karl Hilton to contact the council with what can be done in the town centre
 - This has been rolled over again until the next meeting
 - **Follow-Up: Item rolled over**
- First Aid Kits
 - The kit in St Peters is yet to be signed as ok. Request that cubs help in checking this kit also due to logistical constraints. Noted: Any out of date items in the kits to be retained for training and first aid badges.
 - **Follow-Up: A.Bennett to check the outstanding First aid kit**
- Marquee:
 - The original buyer is no longer interested in the purchase. The marquee is back in the trailer to erect in the summer to take proper photos in order to enable online selling.
 - **Follow-Up: to continue**
- Fundraising:
 - A small discussion was had regarding fundraising opportunities. Cathy Hordern suggested clothes recycling and Lions tin collections. Darren Hordern suggested possible additional help at the County Showground events. Blue Tokens also rolled over.
 - **Follow-Up: to continue**
- The minutes were Motioned and Approved by Everyone.

Group Numbers:

Our current young person membership is:

Squirrels: 12

Beavers: 25

Cubs: 26

Scouts: 27

This is +10 on the last meeting record

	Joining List	Waiting List	Scout Helpers	Duke of Edinburgh Helpers	Young Leaders	Adult Helpers	Leaders
Squirrels	12	9	-	-	3	1	1
Beavers	-	8	-	-	4	-	2
Cubs	-	-	-	1	3	-	3
Scouts	-	-	-	-	2	-	5

Squirrels require another permanent leader to replace the parent rota. They are on Wednesdays 6-7pm. Advertised on the website also.

Treasurer's Report - Given by Darren Hordern

D.Hordern gave an updated forecast drawn up to visually see the projected outgoings and incomings of the group going forward. This is available on request.

Items to note:

- Capitation is the big ticket item going out alongside the minibus for summer camp
- Gift Aid and Easy Fundraising deposits are still to come in, this fluctuates.
- Maintenance - The trailer is currently up to date and requires no outgoings
- Sausage sizzle came in less than expected
- Leader Training - District have changed how they want permits to be used across the area. Extra costs of these may be needed over the coming year. They are ideal to keep activity costs low and to exemplify the experiences to the young people.

Follow-Up: Leaders to tell the Treasurer any updates to the forecasts

Follow-Up: L.Hilton to liaise with D.Hordern regarding Gift Aid

C. Hordern noted that last year's accounts have now been signed off

Subs

C.Hordern noted that the subs are currently £12 per person per month, do we want this revised? A.Windows researched that this was last increased in April 2020.

A discussion was had about raising the cost annually in a small amount rather than a larger jump (for those with multiple children in the group) and if it was needed. Other groups in the district have a cost between £12-£15 pm

I.Davis: The current cost is reasonable and a larger step would not be preferable over a smaller increase.

D.Hordern: As treasurer saying costs are increasing and wouldn't want to then provide cheaper activities as a result. Calculated a rise to £12.50 is 4%

R.Powell: As a parent, thought that the group was currently undercharging and was reasonable to increase by 50p - £1.

Conclusion: £13 increase from April 2025 with an annual review. Motion drawn and seconded across the meeting.

Follow-Up: Letter to be drawn up

Any Other Business

District Minibus

Update given from A.Windows.

District Minibus is soon to be unavailable and decommissioned

There are 2 alternative options:

1. Sea Cadets Minibus - This is a donation use but will need own insurance with quotes approximately £150 per day
2. Abbotts Bromley Minibus also available, again donation use

L. Vernon mentioned that there are 2x County minibuses, more information needed to be gained. The main concern is the 2025 Scout Summer Camp at this stage.

Follow-Up: Scout team to find further information on availability and costs

Squirrel Food Risk Assessments

Recent advisory information has been sent regarding the risk assessments for Squirrels surrounding food activities and consuming such items.

Follow-Up: A.Windows and S.Phillips to liaise to make sure our current risk assessments are updated.

Beaver Sleepover 2025

C.Hordern gave an update that for 2025 the Beavers will be having their sleepover at the Sealife Centre Birmingham followed by a day at the Legoland Discovery Centre in May 2025. To help spread costs the group is combining with 17th Gnosall Beavers. The cost is approx £2000 for the Sealife Sleepover. Beavers already have a £300 grant from the Council.

A request was made to the group for help with the train fare.

Conclusion: £400 was seconded & approved by the group towards this cost.

Scouts

A.Windows announced that the Scout Summer Camp 2025 was to be held in Dorset in July 2025. Previous years the group have helped to subsidise this and a request for £500 or similar amount be approved.

Conclusion: Agreement made but costs not needed until July 2025

A request was also made for longer solar panel wires at the cost between £40-£45

Conclusion: Agreement made but costs not needed until April 2025

Quartermaster

The event shelter has recently been slightly damaged. There are 3 options for replacement:

1. Replace like for like. A Colman shelter at a cost of approx £175
2. A longer-lasting shelter costing approx £380-£400
3. A 2nd Gazebo that's hardstanding like the one already owned. This is £480-£490. As one is already owned this could be connected to the existing and provide a more flexible option to the group.

D.Hordern announced an allowance of £200 of the 'Maintenance' budget could be used for this. This was agreed by A.Windows and L.Vernon.

Conclusion: Option 3 was nominated by L.Vernon. All was in agreement and it was also noted that L.Hilton had made a request in absence for this option.

Movement:

A. Bennett commented that space needs to be kept flowing between the sections in order for the young people to move through. C.Hordern replied that there are plans coming into place for more movements soon and that it was agreed for this to stay active. A.Windows stated that in previous meetings it was noted that the was worry that the numbers of young people was dropping off but this is now currently not the case.

Website:

A.Windows would like more information, photos and events to be on the website, to use this resource more and more to keep it fresh and updated.

D.Hordern said it would be nice to have a 'spotlight' on certain young people with badges, special mentions etc.

Follow-up: Squirrels contact to be updated

Closing Remarks

K.Hilton gave thanks to all in attendance.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 3rd February @ The Sun Inn @ 6.30pm

Meeting closed at 8pm

Minutes produced by G Phillips