**1 Lacock Scouts Group**

**AGM – 13th May 2016**

1. **Members present**

Parents: Rob Horton, Marguerite Hallett, Matthew Glover, Louise Gilmour, Peter Shewring, Tracey Shoemark, Cynthia Broderick, Sophie Warner, Sam Parkinson, Saffron Parkinson, Scott Cutler, Jamie Diggerson, Zoe Burke, Judi McKendrick, Sam Gaisford

Dave Stovell (DDC), Pam Bryant (ADC Beavers) Bob Christian – (ACC Special Needs)

Keith Holloway (GSL), Emma Parsons (Chair), Lisa Thornton (Secretary), Kevin Thornton (Treasurer), Tracey Bartels (Fundraising Leader) , Pete Fennell (Cub Parent Rep)

1. **Apologies**

There were no apologies.

1. **Minutes of the last meeting**

Minutes were approved

1. **Matters arising from last meeting**

There were no matters arising.

1. **Reports**

**Chair – Emma Parsons**

Emma welcomed all to the AGM

**Treasurer – Kevin Thornton** (an un-audited overview)

Financially the group has had another strong year, on a par with 2014/15. Membership has remained high and with reduced capitation costs this year net membership subscriptions, which are our main source of income, have increased by 33%.

Fundraising has again proved to be a strong source of income and although down slightly on 2014/15 the events in the village, particularly the Pop Up Café and the Fair in November proved popular and boosted funds significantly.

Likewise our payments and expenses during the financial year have remained in line with 2014/15. Rent shows as slightly reduced although the true cost remains the same as it can sometimes take a while for cheques to be presented. Camp and PGL costs were covered by the income from participants.

During the year we have been able to purchase some new camping equipment, branded hi-viz jackets as well as make a significant contribution to the London Trip keeping the cost per head down to just £25. Our overall balance at the end of the financial year was £3,403 which is an increase of £869 on 2014/15.

Looking ahead to 2016/17 we will continue to run with reserves in the region of £1,500 - £1,800 to cover any unforeseen circumstances. Spending goals for the year currently include:-

* Purchase of archery equipment (approx. £1,000).
* Provision of a Cub100 Necker & Badge for all who have been a cub during 2016 (approx. £300)
* Contributing towards the costs of a Cub100 Trip to London (approx. £250)
* Potential purchase of a braked box trailer for the transporting of equipment (approx. £2,000).

The final point to make is that I took on the role of Group Treasurer following the last AGM in June but it took some months for paperwork to go through with our bank, NatWest, and for me to become an authorised signatory. As a result we’ve struggled to get statements for the months prior to my being authorised and this has put the preparation of year end reporting back a little. Therefore, whilst I believe the accounts are accurate and complete they are still in ‘draft’, as they have yet to be submitted for independent scrutiny. We hope that we’ll be in a position to do this within the next fortnight.

Keith Holloway advised that he is currently taking advice on how to proceed with the auditing of the accounts.

**Group Scout Leader – Keith Holloway**

Our current count for Cubs is around 26 which is about the capacity we can manage, Beavers have some spaces available.

There is currently an issue regarding the pathway into Scouting once Cubs have finished with us. Sea Scouts in Corsham are full and don’t currently have space for our members. We have notified all the parents. However, we do have another route into Scouts through 10th Chippenham Air Scouts and have had a few transitions already although there are no guaranteed spaces. We are still looking at running our own Scout group but there are problems with both premises and leaders. Cub parents should speak to Jane if there are any concerns or for further details and Keith will continue with discussions with other groups in the area.

It was announced that Michele will be standing down from Beavers in July – a plea was made for some extra help to support Michele and Rosemary. It is very important that we have this and it does not necessarily need to be about coming into uniform and attending every week. Parents were also encouraged to spread the word if you know of any one that would like to get involved.

Pam Bryant advised that if anyone has any queries on how they can get involved, to come forward and speak with members of the district.

Keith Holloway advised both Beavers and Cubs have been active celebrating both the Cubs Centenary and 30 years of Beavers.

The Committee has worked this year, meeting regularly and with minutes being produced at each. The newest addition to the Committee – Tracey as Fundraiser, has been working hard with contacts in the village and running pop up café’s.

Pete Fennell has been involved as a parent helper – if anyone else would like to come along as a parent helper we would welcome these on to the committee in order to provide a source of feedback and opinion from parents about how things are running.

Thanks the leaders – for all their time and commitment. Thanks to those supporting the fundraising and to all those who have supported on camp

**Beaver Leader – Rosemary Hayden/Michele Hall-Barnett**

Since the last AGM we have had a busy time with the Beaver Scouts.

We have been to Sevington Victorian School – a wet and windy evening was spent taking a step back in time. The young people were amazed at how little the children of that era would have had, they were looking for the central heating!

When we have had nicer weather we have adapted our plans and spent time outside, sometimes doing the activity planned but in the fresh air. This allows the young people some more freedom as more space.

We remembered those who gave their lives for our freedom during the Remembrance Service in Lacock in November, it is always good to see a good turnout for this important event.

We have taken some time to focus on how our uniforms should look, having Necker folding lessons. This has been a good exercise as the Beavers have started to check each other’s Necker’s now.

We again made decorations for Lacock Abbey to decorate Christmas Trees, although this was a mad evening as we did the activity with the cubs, the end results were lovely and we hope as parents you will enjoy the decorations that young people have brought home from many years to come.

We had a lovely Christmas party, with a special guest appearance from Father Christmas.

Since Christmas we have been doing some badge work on the following badge’s:

Faith

Gardening

Global

Sports

We spent a very interesting evening sewing, to add some detail onto our camp blankets. As a terrible needlewoman myself, I found it quite nerve wracking, some of our boys amazed me and appeared to take to the new skills well.

We joined in with the Beavers 30th Birthday Party in Potterne on 1st April, a fun time was had by all who attended.

We have been to camp in the last month lovely weather by day and very cold at night. Everybody seemed to have a fantastic time and the old fashioned games went down really well, we really do have some champion skippers in our groups. Whilst on camp we celebrated the Queen’s birthday with a street party, with lots of sandwiches, cakes, jelly and ice cream. We also took part in the St Georges Day service.

In May a small group of Beavers attended the Beavers circus with Shere Khan, I have been told a lot about this event and it sounded brilliant. We are going to try some of the skills ourselves during the next few weeks.

Last week we did some pioneering.

At the end of May, we have a big fundraising weekend – I would urge you all to get involved as this fund raising helps to support the activities we do with the group.

**Cub Leader – Jane George**

We have asked the Cubs what sort of activities they would like to do, some of the main suggestions have been the cinema and beach – we will now look at this to try to see how it would work best. We have produced contour models, been pioneering and on challenge camp the Cubs learnt how to tie knots and giant catapults,

We took 9 more children to London where we visited the Science Museum and the London Eye all Cubs were really well behaved. We invested 3 cubs at the top of the eye. We went to PGL again in March. We currently find that there is around a 87% take up for those sorts of activities.

We have been on Cycle rides, taken part in 6 a side football competition, visited Sevington Victorian School (with a return visit booked for the 1st July). We completed the Farm to Fork with Tesco and we will be going back there around the 24th June. We have designed our own games, supported water aid, celebrated Chinese New Year, completed our science badge by growing beans and watching what they do in light and in dark, experimenting with bicarb and vinegar (explosions), and lots of other things.

Bob Christian thanked the pack on behalf of Sevington School for the singing of Christmas songs at their event in December. There were some small discussions around getting percussion instruments for the pack.

**Fundraising – Tracey Bartels**

Many thanks to parents for their help and support with the fundraising. We are slightly down on the figure for fundraising in accordance with this time last year. We have a very big fundraiser coming up in the next couple of weeks at the annual Scarecrow Trail. We have managed to get the village hall and a place in the playground – we would like as much help from the parents as possible. There is a sign-up sheet available in both Cubs and Beavers over the next few weeks. We are also looking for donations for tombola prizes.

1. **Election of Officers**

All members agreed to stand again.

Chair – Emma Parsons

Treasurer – Kevin Thornton

Secretary – Lisa Thornton

Parent Representative (Beavers) – Rob Horton & Tracey Shoemark

Parent Representative (Cubs) – Pete Fennell

Fundraising Co-ordinator – Tracey Bartels

All positions proposed by Pam Bryant and seconded by Dave Stovell

1. **Any Other Business**

Pam Bryant – thanked Keith and all the parents and all the committee and leaders on behalf of the district.

Keith Holloway reminded anyone who is interested in helping out with the pack to come and chat with him or to members of the district.

Tombola prizes needed prior to the 29th May 2016.