1st Eaton Socon Scout Group
Board of Trustees

Minutes and Reports
of the

63rd Annual General Meeting

Date: Sunday 6th September 2026 @ 3.15pm

Venue: Eaton Socon Scout Hut

Chair: Sarah Deboys
Treasurer: Geoff Brim
Lead volunteer: Martin Dixon

AGENDA

1. **Introduction and welcome**
2. **Apologies for absence**
3. **Governance topics**
   a. Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 07/09/25
   b. Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR)
   c. Note the Group's financial year
   d. Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board
   e. Agree the quorum for future meetings of the Group Scout Council (excluding this AGM)
4. **Review of the previous year**
   a. The Group Lead Volunteer's review of Scouts in the 1ESSG
   b. Receive and consider the Annual Report of the Group Trustee Board, including the annual Statement of the Accounts
5. **Making appointments**
   a. Appoint the Group Chair, Treasurer and other members of the Group Trustee Board
   b. Appoint the Scrutineer / Independent Examiner / Auditor
6. **Look at the year ahead & closing remarks**

AGM MINUTES

1. **Intro and welcome** Sarah Deboys officially opened the AGM by welcoming everybody and thanking them for attending. There were 25 attendees including all six current trustees.

2. **Apologies for absence**
   Jan Kitt

3. **Governance topics**
   a. The minutes were reviewed, and all actions were completed - proposed by Geoff Brim, seconded by Martin Dixon
   b. The Group confirmed that they had adopted the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) - proposed by Martin Dixon, seconded by Emma Jones
   c. The Group's financial year was confirmed as 01.04.25 – 31.03.26
   d. The number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board was agreed as no fewer than 6.
   e. The quorum for future meetings of the Group Scout Council was agreed as 15.
4. **Review of the previous year**
   a. Martin Dixon shared a summary of the Lead Volunteer's review of 1ESSG (see attached – plus individual section reports submitted by Steve Rowsell, Martin Dixon and Jan Kitt)
   b. Geoff Brim took everyone through the finances of the 1ESSG (attached) - approved by Sarah Deboys, and seconded by Laura Thurbon.

5. **Making appointments**
   a. All current members of the 1ESSG board of trustees, put themselves forward for re-election and all were seconded from amongst the AGM attendees. Sarah Deboys is reelected as chair, Geoff Brim as treasurer, and then Chas Kilby, Emma Jones, Stuart Thomson and Anthony Kendrick were reelected as general trustees.
   b. Geoff Brim confirmed the re-appointment of our independent auditor, Anthony Pearce.

Additional matter arising suggested by Anne Littleford, Hinchingbrooke District Representative:
Any Health and Safety Issues:

- Martin Dixon reported that in the light of the Southport attacks, the Trustees were investigating replacing the hut front doors with emergency fire doors (operational from inside in need of exit or emergency) and that quotes for this work were being attained.

6. **Look at year ahead and closing remarks**
   The chair closed the AGM by giving thanks to Leaders, and Trustees as well as the support of the parents and the local community. She also thanked the outgoing chair, Reuben, for his support over the year. She talked about the many and varied camping and overnight adventures that the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have enjoyed, thanks to our volunteers giving their time so generously, including sleepovers in the hut, and the trip to the International Scout Centre in Kandersteg. She finished by encouraging parents and carers to get involved in volunteering to help the group continue to thrive, with trustee roles as well as leader roles available, to fit different levels of time commitment.

Lead Volunteer Report

A year of varied activities, strong participation and dedicated volunteer support

This has been another successful year for the group. Every section delivered a varied and exciting programme, from Scouts scuba diving and Beavers spending a night at the zoo to Cubs taking part in Zumba. Participation remains strong across all sections, supported by a healthy and committed team of leaders.

This year, we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of Beavers and the 110th anniversary of Cubs. To mark these milestones, the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts enjoyed a party at Extreme 360, where the young people had great fun bouncing before sharing food together afterwards.

The Trustee Board also remains in a healthy position, despite two trustees leaving the group. Reuben stepped down as Chair, and Sarah, an existing trustee, kindly agreed to take on the role. I would like to thank Sarah for accepting this responsibility; she has made an excellent start.

Lesley, our hut hire organiser, has also stepped down as a trustee and left the group to be closer to her family in Ireland. She managed hut bookings superbly and made a demanding role look easy. Lesley will be greatly missed, and we wish her and her family every happiness for the future.

We are pleased to welcome Anthony to the Trustee Board. He has also offered to take over Lesley's responsibilities as hut hire organiser. I would like to thank Anthony for becoming a trustee and for taking on this important role.

The trustees play a vital part in the success of the group. Their work includes overseeing the group's resources and supporting fundraising so that we can continue to offer young people exciting and memorable activities. If you are interested in becoming a trustee, please speak to your leader or email Sarah at chair@1steatonsoconscouts.org.uk.

Finally, I would like to thank all our trustees and leaders for their dedication, enthusiasm and hard work. Their contribution makes the group's success possible and, most importantly, enables us to provide rewarding experiences for the young people at the heart of everything we do.

Martin Dixon

Group Lead Volunteer

1st Eaton Socon Scout Group

1st Eaton Socon Beavers- 2026 AGM report.

We have currently got 15 beaver scouts!! We had an amazing academic year here at Beavers.

We have talked a lot about safety especially when all the beavers equally shared several fire pits and tried to light the fire themselves, some successfully doing so with a special flint lighter with an adult, they all also learnt to gradually build it up with cotton wool and sawdust keeping it alight with small pieces of wood all keeping safe and the fun began when they were cooking marshmallows and then finally making smores for themselves !

We also learnt about the meaning of the poppies before all the beavers helped to make our poppy wreath to lay at the church on Remembrance day , and all attending the church service all looking very smart .

Then 2026 arrived and we have been celebrating “40 YEARS OF BEAVERS”! We bought our 40th year banner and started celebrating !!!

All of our weeks at beavers have been related to gaining a badge or part of a badge . So many badges have been awarded along the way: some Activity some Staged and some Challenge badges. All of these lead up to our very special badge, the highest award a beaver scout can get: “The Bronze Chief Scout Award. “ Throughout this last school year I have awarded 12 beavers this award. What an outstanding achievement, we are all extremely proud of them all, this shows such great commitment and team work.

Most of our beavers would say if they were asked Nights Away / Camping is their favourite thing to do at beavers. In March we had our traditional 1 night sleepover in the scout hut , fire pits , crafts and movie night with popcorn .. and enjoyed our ”40th beavers anniversary cake, “ kindly baked by Aspen.

Our Group Camp was in June at Boyd campsite in Henlow . It was a wonderful camp , weather was kind- great site and watching the beavers achieve the climbing wall caving and go carting etc was so good . It was HOT so of course water balloons came out !! So much fun !!

We also celebrated at XTREME 360 with the whole of the beavers cubs and scouts in July. It was just brilliant , such fun for the beavers 40th and Cubs 110th year.

Our great team here at beavers is just amazing , Adrian (ASH) Izzy (ASPEN) Adam (HEMLOCK) Tash (ACORN) and Martin (AKELA). Without you guys our colony wouldn’t be as good as it is ! Thanks to you all for your continued commitment. However sadly Acorn has left as she is off to University next month, and we wish her every happiness in the world . Also sadly Ash is leaving our Beavers section at Christmas.. but hey let’s enjoy this term Ash! And we are all very pleased that you are still staying on in another scouting roll within our group. Going to miss you both Lots!! However we have so many great things planned for this academic year and one of them being completing our TIME CAPSULE to be opened in 2036 !!

Also a BIG THANK YOU to Martin our GSL and of course our amazing Commitee , we all appreciate all your hard work that you do in the background!! We need you all so much !!

See you all on the 8th September .

Jan Kitt (Cherry)

1st Eaton Socon Cubs - 2026 AGM report.

The Pack currently has 22 Cubs, supported by five Leaders and one Young Leader.

During the year, the Cubs took part in a District camp, where they enjoyed spending time outdoors and participating in a range of activities.

The Cubs also attended the Remembrance Day service, representing the Pack on this important occasion.

In 2026, Cub Scouts celebrated their 110th anniversary. We marked the occasion with an enjoyable party at Extreme 360 alongside the Beavers and Scouts, and the Cubs also contributed to a time capsule.

The Cubs attended the Group camp, where they took part in a wide variety of activities despite the hot weather. A particular highlight was singing together around the campfire.

Throughout the year, the Cubs worked towards the Chief Scout's Silver Award. Six Cubs successfully achieved the award and attended the TOP Awards ceremony, where they received a certificate and prize. Congratulations to them on this excellent achievement.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Cub Leaders, Young Leaders, volunteers and parents for their continued help and support. Without their contribution, it would not be possible to run the section successfully. I would also like to thank the Cubs themselves: they are the reason we give our time each week to provide the many activities they enjoy. Their energy and enthusiasm make Cubs what it should be—fun!

Martin Dixon

Cub Scout Leader

1st Eaton Socon Scouts- 2026 AGM report.

We currently have 16 Scouts.

Over the last year the Scouts have taken part in various activities.

We had a weekend camp at Bromham, Bedford where we cooked on open fires and went for a hike.

In the Summer 2025 we had a joint camp with 1st Cuffley to Eaton Vale Scouts Camp in Norwich. During the week we played crazy golf, had a trip on the broads, visited the seaside and made a splash in the sea. We climbed up a wall and went kayaking on a river. The Scouts also had to cook their own food every day and went shopping for a Patrol Cooking Competition.

We continue to work towards the Chief Scouts Award for all our members, with activities from making structures as high as possible to cooking and exploring the local area.

We have tested our cooking skills using gas fires and open fires, experimenting with different foods.

The Scouts have had an experience of Scuba Diving in a local pool.

We joined the RAF for a takeover day at Shuttleworth Museum, learning about various aspects of aircraft.

Many thanks to Doug, Damien and Martin for their support over the last year, and thank you to all the Parents and Relatives who allow the Scouts to take part in these activities.

Steve Rowsell, Scout Leader

Treasurer Report

1										
2	1st Eaton Socon Scout Group									
3	Interim Financial Report 2025/2026 - Statement as at			31-Mar-26						
4										
5	**Receipts**					**Payments**				
6										
7	Subscriptions			8,670.00		Membership			3,100.50	
8	Gift Aid			1,671.16		Insurance			1,450.93	
9	Contributions from other Hall Users			10,549.75		HDC Rates			199.60	
10	Deposits Held					Electricity			1,639.07	
11	Fund Raising	May Day	291.92			Water Rates			301.24	
12		Quiz Night	793.51			Unit Expenses			3,345.87	
13		Bingo	422.93			Scout & Guide Shop			593.92	
14		Xmas	818.56			Cleaner			1,512.00	
15				2,326.92		Grounds Maintenance			0.00	
16						Hall Maintenance			545.97	
17	Donations			2,086.38		Equipment			588.35	
18	CTT Charity Payments/ Amazon/Everyclick					Admin/Other			576.08	
19	Interest			492.92		Broadband			141.60	
20						Zoom			0.00	
21						Website			100.00	
22						Training/Uniform			525.15	
23						Badges			48.50	
24	Other			38.40		OSM			40.99	
25						G Cardless Fees			442.12	
26						Sum Up Fees			2.25	
27	Events	Camp	350.00			Events	Camp	100.00		
28		Group	300.00				Kandersteg	5,400.00		
29		Beavers	300.00				Camp	3,150.77		
30		Cub Camp	1,800.00				Sleepover	1,210.37		
31		Kandersteg	4,775.00				Social Eve/AGM	291.61		
32							Shepreth	720.00		
33							Brit Sub Aqua	105.00		
34							St Neots Museum	94.50		
35									11,072.25	
36				7,525.00		Bank Charges			25.00	
37										
38										26,251.39
39						Excess of Receipts over Expenses			7,109.14	
40										
41	Totals			33,360.53					33,360.53	0.00
42										
43										
44	Bank Account Current			2,992.72		Accumulated Fund B/Fwd			35,448.47	
45	Bank Accout Deposit			37,781.89	40,774.61	Excess of Receipts over Expenses			7,109.14	
46	Cash			283.00						
47	Equals Expense Cards - Float			1,500.00						
48										
49				42,557.61		Accumulated Fund C/Fwd			42,557.61	
50										
51										
52								Bank	40,774.61	
53								Floats	1,500.00	
54									0.00	
55						Note: Balance C/Fwd includes £10,000 for				
56						Dilapidation/Major Maintenance Reserve/ Reinstatment of site				
57										

2024/25				
Equipment				
	9-Apr-24	Go Outdoors - 2 X 4 berth pop up Tents	8	71.40
	9-Apr-24	Projector Screen with Stand	8	69.99
	13-May-24	Electric Lights	34	22.29
	14-Jun-24	Sum Up Device	63	58.80
	23-Jun-24	Radar Key	67	6.95
	26-Jun-24	Tents	71	1,211.25
	4-Sep-24	Archery & Shooting Stands	114	143.95
	4-Sep-24	Keys to Storeroom	115	55.00
	22-Mar-25	A Ashpole - 2 pop up 4 man Tents		
		Total Equip		1,639.63
Maintenance				
	19-Apr-24	J Kitt - Dan Change of Lock		80.00
	28-May-24	Climatic Soloutions - Air Con Annual Maint		90.00
	4-Sep-24	Misc /hut Consummables		10.75
	7-Jan-25	ISE Fire Extinguishers		331.20
		Total Maintenance		511.95
Grounds Maintenance				
	1-Jun-24	Caroline-Ann Ready - Grounds Mtce		150.00
	24-Jun-24	Caroline-Ann Ready - Grounds Mtce		90.00
	4-Sep-24	Caroline-Ann Ready - Grounds Mtce		180.00
				420.00

Chair of Trustees closing remarks - Sarah Deboys

Many thanks to everyone who has supported me in my first year as the chair, including the outgoing chair, Reuben, the fantastic group of trustees and leaders, and parents too.

Highlights of the year have included:

- 40th Anniversary for Beavers, 110th Anniversary for Cubs - party at Xtreme 360
- Group camp in Henlow, Copley camp (St Ives), overnight stays in hut for Beavers
- The Big Summer Bash where the young people took part in rafting activities
- The Big Summer Splash where they took part in sailing activities

Fundraising activities, lead by Steve, with support from Sarah Clark and Stef Lait, have included a Bingo Night in October, a Christmas fundraiser event, a Quiz Night in February, and the annual May Day. Most of these funds went towards the scouts' adventure to the International Scout Centre in Kandersteg, Switzerland, which was enjoyed by seven scouts who had the most amazing experience! Many thanks to Steve, Adrian, Martin, Doug and Dave, who went with the scouts to support the activities and to cater for the entire district. Amazing work!

Thanks as ever to our amazing leaders - Jan, Adrian, Izzy, Adam and Tash with the Beavers, Martin, John, Sharanya, Gary and the young leaders with the Cubs, and Steve, Damien, Doug and Dave with the Scouts. We also welcome Luke who was a young leader and is now officially a leader.

Thanks too to our trustees, Geoff, Emma, Chas, Stuart and Anthony, as well as Jan, Steve and Martin who join meetings to represent the different sections.

Ongoing challenges - maintenance of hut, ensuring enough volunteers to support sections and trustees. Appeal for support if people can offer it., especially in building a database of skills from amid the adults in the Group.

Appendices:

Policy, Organisation and Rules - Group Trustee Board

5c.1.5.3
The Group Trustee Board must act in the charity's best interests, acting with reasonable care and skill and take steps to be confident that:

a. the Group is:
    a. well managed
    b. carrying out its purposes for the public benefit
    c. complying with the Group's governing document and the law
    d. managing the Group's resources responsibly
b. the Group is operating compliant with POR and the local charity regulator, including effective management of each of the Key Policies listed in POR Chapter 2a.
c. young people are meaningfully involved in decision making at all levels
d. the Group has sufficient resources (funds, people, property and equipment) available to meet the planned work of the Group including delivery of the high-quality programme and resource requirements of the training programme (POR 4b.7)

5c.1.5.4
The Group Trustee Board members must themselves collectively:

a. develop and maintain a risk register, including putting in place appropriate mitigations
b. ensure that the Group's finances are properly managed, including development and maintenance of appropriate budgets to support the work of the Group
c. ensure that where the Group is partnered with an Explorer Unit and the operational financing is undertaken by the Group, this arrangement must be documented in the Partnership Agreement, and the finance arrangements must follow this guidance.
d. maintain and manage:
    a. a reserves policy for the Group. This must address the minimum reserves that should be maintained to allow for difficult financial circumstances in the Group, and must also include a statement about how reserves outside that 'minimum' will be used for development of Scouts
    b. an investment policy for the Group
    c. a public benefit statement for the Group
e. ensure that people, property and equipment are appropriately insured, and that any property and equipment owned or used by the Group is properly protected and maintained
f. ensure the appointment and management and operation of any sub-team(s) created in line with POR 5c.1.5.5, including appointing a Chair to lead the sub-team(s). This should normally be one of the Group's Trustees. This sub-team Chair role title is Sub-Team Leader (see the Teams Table in POR Chapter 16).
g. ensure that effective administration is in place to support the work of the Group Trustee Board
h. appoint any co-opted members of the Group Trustee Board
i. ensure transparency of operation, including:
    a. prepare and approve the Annual Accounts and arrange their examination by an auditor or independent examiner (as appropriate) and as appointed by the Group Scout Council at their AGM

b. prepare and approve the Group Trustees' Annual Report (which must include the Annual Accounts and include the report from the auditor or independent examiner)
c. present the approved Group Trustees' Annual Report and Annual Accounts to the Group Scout Council for their consideration at the Group AGM
d. following the Group AGM, ensure that the Group Trustee Board administration:
    - files a copy of the Group Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts as described in POR 5e.2.1.2 and POR 5e.2.1.3.
    - records all Group Trustees on the membership system, and ensures that the necessary eligibility checks are promptly concluded (should be by no later than 30 days following the AGM)
    - if the Group is registered with their regulator, updates the Group's registration details to list all Group Trustees

j. take responsibility for the Group's adherence to Data Protection Legislation recognising that, dependent on circumstances, it may at different times act as a Data Controller and as a Data Processor, including the Trustee Board responsibilities listed at POR 2a.3.2.1.
k. individually and collectively maintain confidentiality regarding appropriate Group Trustee Board business
l. put in place annually an open and transparent selection process to recommend to the Group Scout Council appropriate members to be appointed members of the Group Trustee Board, including Chair and Treasurer. Vacancies for appointed Trustees only occur at the end of their period of appointment (for example, a Trustee may have been appointed for three years and so does not need to be re-appointed or re-selected after years 1 and 2).
m. where staff are employed:
    a. act as a responsible employer in accordance with Scouts' values and relevant legislation
    b. ensure that effective line management is in place for each employed staff member and that these are clearly established and communicated
    c. ensure that appropriate specific employee insurance is in place (POR 5g.4.1.2(j))

1st Eaton Socon Scout Group
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Receipts				**Payments**				
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