

General Assembly Meeting Minutes

26th May 2015
Held at IHQ. Floriana.

Agenda

1. Opening of General Assembly
2. Three minutes presentation by each nominee
3. Questions from the floor
4. Commencement of Voting
5. Speech by the Chief Scout
6. Reading and approval of Minutes
7. Matter Arising
8. Approval of Financial Report
9. Approval of the Association's Auditor
10. Other Matters

1. Commencement of Meeting

1.1 At 18:20 The Chief Scout welcomed the members present and noted that and there were over 93 members present and thus proposed that the meeting commences at this point without waiting until 18:30.

The motion was approved unanimously.

1.2 The Chief Scout informed the members the Hon Secretary, Dr Abela Medici, due to health reasons, requested to be excused from his role on this occasion. The Chief Scout proposed Mr Joseph Borg to take up the role of Secretary for the duration of the General Assembly.

This motion was seconded by Mr Joseph Saliba.

This was unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

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1.3 The Chief Scout explained that the constitution stipulates that the receiving officer has to be a person outside the General Assembly. After the widening of the participation of the General Assembly such a person has become difficult to locate. The Chief Scout confirmed that that he will not be contesting the election and thus after the General Assembly is closed for voting he will no longer be part of it and thus he proposed himself as receiving officer.

The Chief Scout was unanimously approved as receiving officer.

1.4 To expedite the process the Chief Scout proposed that the voting can commence whilst General Assembly is ongoing, after the candidates make their respective presentation.

The motion was unanimously approved.

1.5 Mr Joseph Saliba noted that he was informed by the Chief Scout that on the closing date of the nominations for the election there were only seven nominations as opposed to what is being presented to the General Assembly.

The Chief Scout clarified that at the closing date of the nominations there were eleven nominations which have now been reduced to nine due to the withdrawal of the to nomination by Dr Saviour Formosa and himself.

1.6 The Chief Scout called for a vote on the proposed agenda as reproduced above.

The agenda was unanimously approved.

2. Presentation by each nominee/ 3. Questions from the floor

2.1 Each nominee for the National Scout Council Elections made a three-minute presentation on his nomination. The presentations commenced by Mr Joseph Abela Medici, Mr George Cassar, Mr Andre Cauchi, Mr David Darmanin, Mr Anthony Debono, Mr Mario Ellul, Mr Joseph Saliba.

Mr Josmar Azzopardi read out the message of Prof Joseph Cacciattolo who could not attend the General Assembly due to him being abroad.

The Chief Scout informed the members that Mr Evander Borg could not attend the Assembly due to work duties.

2.2 Each presentation was followed by questions from the floor to the respective nominee.

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4. Commencement of Voting

4.1 The Chief Scout explained the voting procedure. Members can vote for a maximum of eight of the nominees on the ballot sheet. Voting is valid only if marked by an 'X'. Dr Saviour Formosa has withdrawn his nomination after the ballot sheet had been printed and the box next to this name is not to be marked.

There are nine nominations for eight positions within the National Scout Council. The successful nominees will be the eight nominees which have most votes at the counting of the votes.

5. Speech by the Chief Scout

5.1 The Chief Scout presented his speech which focused on the participation in the General Assembly and the changes affected to the structure and procedures of the Association during the past three years. An accent was made on the need for unity within the Association.

6. Approval of Minutes

6.1 Minutes were taken as read.

The Chief Scout referred to the late circulation of the minutes for which he took full responsibility.

6.2 The Chief Scout called for amendments to the previous minutes.

Mr Timmy Cutugno referred to page seven of the minutes, specifically to the approval of the motion regarding the annual rally. The minutes clearly show that the motion approved was Mr Darmainin's motion and not the last motion proposed by the Chief Scout.

The Chief Scout stated that the motion approved was Mr Darmanin's as amended by himself and which in the minutes is reproduced just preceding the vote.

6.3 After discussion on the motion and its implications the Chief Scout proposed a vote on the approval of the minutes as presented with the exception of the vote referred to by Mr Cutugno.

The minutes were unanimously approved with the exception of the vote on the approved motion related to the participation of the annual rally.

7. Matters Arising

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7.1 The Chief Scout requested members to present any matters arising from minutes.

None were forthcoming.

8. Approval of Financial Report

8.1 Mr Mark Pizzuto presented the financial report.

8.2 On a query by the Chief Scout, Mr Pizzuto clarified that the accounts include around €100,000 of funds which were paid by the forthcoming Jamboree participants. Since the preparation of the report a considerable amount of these funds have been used up to pay for the Jamboree fees.

8.3 On a further query by the Chief Scout, Mr Pizzuto stated that the dumper, which was donated to the Association, has since last year's financial report been written off and thus has been removed from the accounts.

Mr Joseph Saliba noted that he has other information which he will not share with the General Assembly at this point but which he will refer to the competent authorities. Writing the dumper off the accounts without showing any receipt for its disposal or scrapping amounts to negligence in the administration of funds of the Association.

Mr Pizzuto stated that allegations of negligence on his part cannot be accepted.

Mr Joseph Saliba sustained the allegations and retorted that the dumper was donated in good order and all of a sudden it disappeared.

The Chief Scout stated that the dumper was actually written off when the Treasurer was Mr Pierre Pace, who has since passed away.

The Chief Scout called for a vote on the Financial Report.

8.4 None abstained from the vote and one member voted against. The rest of the members voted in favour.

The Financial Report was approved.

9. Approval of the Association's Auditor

9.1 Mr Mark Pizzuto proposed Peter Degiorgio and Associates to act as auditors of the Association.

The motion was seconded by the Chief Scout and Mr Charles Bajjada.

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The Chief Scout called for a vote on the motion.

Peter Degiorgio and Associates were unanimously approved as auditors.

10. Other Matters

10.1 Amendments to the Constitution

10.1.1 Constitution Motion 1

To add the following- '21.1.9 - To represent the interest of The Scout Association of Malta in TSAM Limited.'

The motion was proposed by Mr Kevin Camilleri and seconded by Mr George Cassar.

10.1.2 Mr Cedric Salafia noted that the General Assembly should be informed of the details of the operations of the TSAM Limited.

The Chief Scout the setting up of a Limited Company was required by the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations was approved commercial arm.

Mr George Cassar referred to a presentation delivered to General Assembly on a previous occasion and it was agreed that this will be circulated again for information.

10.1.3 The Chief Scout called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

10.1.4 Constitution Motion 2

In conformity with WOSM's Constitution (Article VII.3.g), Article 38.4 to add the following- "This Constitution, and any amendments thereto, have to be approved by the relevant bodies of WOSM before entering into force".

Mr Kevin Camilleri stated that this amendment was a requirement by WOSM.

10.1.5 The Chief Scout called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

10.2 Vote on the participation in the Annual Rally

10.2.1 Mr Timmy Cutugno, seconded by Mr Samuel Cremona proposed the motion:

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The Annual Rally shall continue to be held as per past years through marching in uniform, Beavers will walk, with the participating Groups attending with all their members. Non participating groups may not organise any other activity in the location of the annual rally on the same day.

The Chief Scout called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was rejected with 29 in favour, 52 against and 0 abstentions.

10.2.2 The Chief Scout proposed a second motion which was seconded by Mr Josef Custo.:

Being a national event, Scout Groups are obliged to participate in full numbers and actively in the Annual Rally which shall continue to be held as per past years through marching in uniform. Beavers shall walk.

Mr Kyle Ferriggi enquired on the exact meaning of the word 'obliged'.

The Chief Scout clarified that the intention of the motion and the word 'obliged' is that all Groups attend with their full compliment; naturally members who cannot make for a justified reason such as being unwell or have exams will be excused. Groups should not attend the annual rally with just a small contingent to represent their members.

10.2.3 The Chief Scout called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was approved with 52 in favour, 28 against and 1 abstentions.

10.2.4 Mr Adrian Farrugia stated that in line with the motion just approved the General Assembly should agree that all national events are to be attended by all groups with all their members. There should not be any discrimination between different national events.

Mr Josef Camilleri and Mr Cedric Salafia agreed to Mr Farrugia and added that this should be the case for the sake of unity and in order to portray a better image of the Association.

Further discussion ensued on the number of national events and what these will consist of.

The Chief Commissioner stated that after a call for applications a National Events Committee has been set and meetings will commence shortly.

10.2.5 The Chief Scout proposed the following motion:

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All Scout Groups are obliged to attend all National Events which shall be set by the National Events Committee by the end of November of the preceding year.

The discussion on which on the number of national events and which events will be declared as national events continued.

The General Assembly agreed to the spirit of the motion, however the vote was postponed until the National Events Committee has commenced its meetings.

12. Election Results

12.1 123 votes were cast of which 120 votes were valid and 3 were declared invalid

Mr Joseph Abela Medici 64
Mr Evander Borg 38
Dr Joseph Cacciattolo 63
Mr George Cassar 51
Mr Andre Cauchi 44
Mr David Darmanin 65
Mr Anthony Debono 44
Mr Mario Ellul 94
Mr Joseph Saliba 40

13. Adjournment

13.1 The General Assembly was closed at 21.45 hours.

Dr Arthur Azzopardi
Chief Scout

Mr Joseph Borg
General Assembly Secretary

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