

General Assembly Meeting

Minutes

Convened on 23rd June, 2016 at 6:00pm

Held at Main Hall, Floriana Primary School, St Thomas Street, Floriana

Chaired by Mr George Cassar – Chief Scout

Proposed Agenda

Welcome by Chief Scout and confirmation of quorum

1. Approval of the Agenda & Proposed amendment
2. Report of the Minutes and Approval
3. Presentation by Chief Scout on National Scout Council
4. Chief Commissioner's Annual Report and Approval
5. Annual Audited Financial Accounts and Approval
6. Budget Proposal and Approval
7. Vote of Confirmation : Andrew Cutugno
8. Motion 1: Election of Auditor
9. Discussion and voting on Motions
 - Motion 2: Mission of Scouting*
 - Motion 3: District Representations*
 - Motion 4: Groups in Districts*
10. Presentation by National Scout Youth Council
11. Presentation by TSAM Ltd.
12. Presentation by Leap (Scouts) Foundation
13. Presentation by Malta Scout Fellowship
14. Other matters

1. Commencement of Meeting

1.1 At 18:00 the Chief Scout welcomed the members present and advised that, out of the 309 eligible members less than half had registered their presence and therefore the quorum (155) had not been reached. As per Constitution, the meeting had to wait half an hour which would allow a reduced quorum of a third of eligible members (103).

1.2 At 18:50 the Chief Scout informed that 88 members had registered their presence and therefore the quorum had still not been reached. After referring to provisions in the Constitution and receiving legal advice, the Chief Scout said that with the members present the General Assembly could not take decisions. He therefore said that proposed agenda items would be presented however no voting or discussion on motions would take place.

1.3 The Chief Scout asked the Island Chaplain, Fr Anton Briffa to say a prayer before the presentations.

2. Amendments to previous General Assembly Minutes (part of proposed agenda)

2.1 The Chief Scout asked whether the Minutes of the General Assembly held on 26th May, 2015, which had been circulated to all eligible members and made available on Scout Keeper required any amendments. Mr Charles Bajada requested that for item '9. Approval of the Association's Auditor', his surname be adjusted to reflect correct spelling.

3. Presentation by Chief Scout on National Scout Council

3.1 Chief Scout thanked the Assembly members including the members of the National Scout Council and Executive Committee for their continued hard work for the benefit of the Association. He said that the Council had been very active and since forming had met 14 times including 2 whole day sessions.

3.2 He mentioned the GSAT audit exercise which the Association's national structures had undergone with the outcome being that certification was awarded. This review highlighted that the Association had achieved a good standard in governance when compared to best practice, however several recommendations had been taken on board and focus was required to continue on the right track. Chief Scout also mentioned satisfactorily that WOSM had taken specific 'best practice' elements from our Constitution for application in other NSOs in the European Scout Region.

3.3 Chief Scout was satisfied with the number of motions which had been proposed from the floor and said that this was the way forward so that all members would feel that their voice is being heard.

3.4 He further stressed that IHQ needs more people to come forward to help out with what requires to be done. Specific mention was made of the calls for Finance, Audit and Risk Committee members as well as Commissioner for Finance which unfortunately were not fulfilled.

3.5 Chief Scout also mentioned that that over recent past, pressures on voluntary organisations such as regulation and legislation were increasing and the National Scout Council required the participation of the whole Association to be able to continue to thrive.

3.6 Chief Scout then said that he wished to thank two individuals who had come forward and dedicated their efforts towards the Association.

- Dr Anthony Abela Medici (former Honorary Secretary, ex- National Scout Council member and current Director of TSAM Ltd.) was thanked and presented with a token of appreciation. Dr Abela Medici said that he was grateful for this gesture and stated that he had always strived to perform any role with dedication and in line with the Constitution. He mentioned that he would remain available to support the Association that was required.
- Mr Mark Pizzuto (outgoing Honorary Treasurer, ex-National Scout Council member, ex-Commissioner for Finance and ex-Commissioner for Training) was thanked and presented with a token of appreciation for his long service to the Association. Mr Pizzuto thanked the Chief Scout for

this unexpected gift and he echoed the call for persons to come forward to take on the required roles.

4. Chief Commissioner's Annual Report (part of proposed agenda)

4.1 The Chief Scout asked the Chief Commissioner, Mr Leslie Bonnici to present his annual report. Chief Commissioner stated that the report was provided to members over 6 weeks ago and asked whether there were any questions. No questions were forthcoming.

4.2 Chief Commissioner highlighted that the need to focus on the Association's way forward. He mentioned that GSAT had been made on an IHQ level and said that this needs to be cascaded to Group level and referred to the existing Group self-assessment which would be revised. The Groups would be audited and this so that they will be to increase their benefits to members.

4.3 Chief Commissioner mentioned the current call for Commissioner for Training & Programme. He thanked the outgoing incumbent, Mr Adrian Farrugia, and stressed the importance of the role within our Association.

5. Annual Audited Financial Accounts (part of proposed agenda)

5.1 Chief Scout asked Honorary Treasurer, Mr Mark Pizzuto to present the 2015 accounts. Honorary Treasurer made reference to the accounts found in the Annual Report which was previously distributed. He stated that 2015 was a normal financial year with no extraordinary items and referred to the surplus which resulted at the end of the year. He further stated that over the years the VAT Department as well as the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations had highlighted that the Association should not have that many economic activities and that is the reason by the company (TSAM Ltd.) was formed. Honorary Treasurer then invited questions from the floor.

5.2 Mr Edward Vella (GSL Mosta) asked about the drastic change in creditors for 2015 when compared to previous year. Honorary Treasurer clarified that the Association accounts for funds using a 'cash basis' system. He further stated that there is €17,000 in accruals with these invoices having been presented together in a short space of time before closing the accounts.

5.3 Mr Vella also asked for clarification on Mellieha Scout Group who are listed as debtors. Honorary Treasurer said that the group still has an amount pending which is still owed to the Association and there is an agreement on how this is to be settled.

5.4 Mr Gordon Bugeja (CSL St Michael School Scout Group) enquired about the drastic reduction in income from IHQ Car Park when compared to budget 2016. Honorary Treasurer referred to the budget and explained that the amount budgeted for is for the first six months of 2016 since the 6 months income is to be included in the accounts of TSAM Ltd.

5.5 Mr Charles Bajada (AGSL San Gwann) sought clarifications on the note relating to 'Contingent Liability' which listed a third party claiming damages. Honorary Secretary said that as of last year the agreement to operate a shop by Go Camping had expired and the outgoing operator is making a claim of

€37,009. The note in the 2015 accounts is recognising that this claim has been noted however it is being refuted. In the meantime continuous contact has been made with the operator with an aim to resolve the situation.

6. Budget Proposal (part of proposed agenda)

6.1 The Chief Scout invited the Honorary Treasurer to take questions with regards to the budget.

6.2 Mr Mario Micallef (SL Naxxar) enquired about the inclusion of the 'Sale of Scout Items' in the Budget. Honorary Treasurer said that income in this respect is forecasted for the next 6 months since badges and handbooks are being held by IHQ.

7. Vote of Confirmation : Andrew Cutugno

7.1 Chief Scout mentioned that the National Council had decided to propose the inclusion of this item on the agenda. He said that following the notification of the election of Mr Andrew Cutugno as National Scout Council member it had been pointed out that Mr Cutugno had served on two councils in 2010 to June 2012, and was then elected again up to his resignation in 2013.

7.2 The National Scout Council had received conflicting legal advice, were one lawyer had opined that Mr Cutugno's nomination was not valid if parliamentary procedure is observed he would have served 2 terms, while the other lawyer advised that Mr Cutugno had served a period of three years equivalent to one term. It was therefore recommended that this would be put to a vote by the General Assembly.

Dr Kevin Camilleri elected Chairman of the European Scout Region

The Chief Scout was happy to announce that Dr Kevin Camilleri had been elected as Chairman of the European Scout Region last week during the European Scout Conference. He wished him well and asked Dr Camilleri to make a short presentation of his experience.

Dr Camilleri thanked the meeting for the welcome and support received. He said that the European Scout Conference was extremely interesting and was extremely happy with the outcome of the election. Dr Camilleri stated that he was confident that the Regional team would get to enact the Region Scout Plan for the next 3 years and stressed that a crucial element of this is Youth Empowerment.

8. Motion 1 : Election of Auditor

This being a motion which requires a vote and is therefore left for when a properly constituted General Assembly is reconvened.

9. Discussion and voting on Motions

These being motions which each require a vote and are therefore left for when a properly constituted General Assembly is reconvened.

10. Presentation by National Scout Youth Council

10.1 Chief Scout invited Mr Josmar Azzopardi as Chair of the National Scout Youth Council to present the youth council's role. Mr Azzopardi made reference to the council's report in the Annual Report. He stated that the Association needs to focus on youth involvement and empowerment since his belief is that we have not yet understood these two concepts.

10.2 He further stated that youths are required in all the structures of the Association. Mr Azzopardi said that NSYC have been active in all areas of the Association. He had the opportunity to travel to various scout conferences and see the difference that youth empowerment can make within scouting. He therefore said that the Association needs to change and youths need to be more involved. As a youth council, he encouraged all members to give their voice to the Vision2020 initiative by providing personal opinions as well as collectively on behalf of their scout group. He hoped that there will be an action plan which will be implemented.

11. Presentation by TSAM Ltd.

11.1 Mr Anthony Rizzo (Chairman of TSAM Ltd.) was asked by the Chief Scout to present the company to the meeting. Mr Rizzo made reference to the brief which was included in the Annual Report. He said that the main scope of the company is to manage the economic activities and all company officers are there to serve the Association. He stated that the report did not give credit to the background work which was made behind the scenes to get the company set up and registered.

11.2 Mr Rizzo thanked the National Scout Council team who prepared the business plan and this is being used as a basis for the company to start operating in July, 2016. Mr Rizzo clarified that TSAM Ltd. is not running the badge shop since this is being operated directly by the Association. Mr Rizzo then invited questions relating to the company from the floor. No questions were forthcoming.

12. Presentation by LEAP (Scouts) Foundation

12.1 Chief Scout then invited Mr Adrian Farrugia (Chairman of LEAP (Scouts) Foundation to make a short presentation. Mr Farrugia said that the foundation has been formed and the name stands for 'Leadership Empowerment And Progression'. The aim of the foundation is to provide training through the use of the scout method to youths who are non-scouts for their benefit. In this way more youths will be able to taste scouting.

12.2 The Outdoors+ programme which is being run at Ghajn Tuffieha campsite in conjunction with the Ministry for Education is an initiative which the foundation is coordinating. Mr Farrugia invited questions from General Assembly members. No questions were forthcoming.

13. Presentation by Malta Scout Fellowship

13.1 Chief Scout invited Mr Harry Haig (Member – Malta Scout Fellowship) to give a presentation on behalf of the Chairman of the Scout Fellowship who was unable to attend the Assembly.

13.2 Mr Haig said that the fellowship had 60 members with an organising committee consisting of 7 members. Membership is open to former scout members over the age of 18. The fellowship organises various activities and meetings and this summer they will be going to visit the Scout Groups in Gozo. The committee takes care of IHQ and the events which happen there. Mr Haig said that IHQ is his second home and he is committed on a daily basis to support as required. Mr Haig appealed for ex-scouts to join the fellowship.

13.3 Chief Scout informed the meeting that the National Scout Council have formed a sub-committee with the aim to help strengthen the fellowship and bring it even closer to the Association.

14. Other matters

14.1 Mr David Darmanin (Chair – Vision2020) introduced the Vision2020 initiative and said that a team had been recently formed with a specific terms of reference to provide a three year plan from 2017 to 2020. He encouraged the members to provide their feedback with their opinions of how the Association should move forward and invited them to do so within the current consultation. Mr Darmanin also said that regular feedback from individual members and scout groups will be sought for different aspects and thanked all those who had already provided their opinions.

14.2 Mr Mario Micallef (SL Naxxar) enquired on when the new scout uniform will be available for purchase. Chief Commissioner replied that this will available later on this summer by August, 2016.

Adjournment

The Chief Scout thanked the present members for their participation and advised that information will be available shortly on when the General Assembly will reconvene to conclude business.

The meeting was closed at 20:35hrs.

Minutes approved on _____ .

George Cassar
Chief Scout
The Scout Association of Malta
VO-0311

David Darmanin
Honorary Secretary (Interim)
The Scout Association of Malta
VO-0311