



WARWICKSHIRE SCOUT COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual General Meeting
held on Thursday 26th September 2024
at Kenilworth Scout and Guide Centre

Attendees: Paul Blackmore, Dave Bramston, Jo-ann Bramston, Michelle Brierley, Katrina Collie, Tim Cox, Paul Dunkley, Dee Dunnigan, Natasha Dunnigan, Stuart Dunnigan, Mark Earles, Douglas Faulconbridge, Linda Feltham, Marc Gadsby, Tony Guy, Nigel Hailey, Kevin Haynes, Steven Haynes, Stuart Heaton, Owen Kelly, Dean Lobo, Sam Marshall, Jonathan Miller, Linda Revill, Phil Revill, Gerry Russell, Martin Russell, Toby Russell, Peter Schofield, Sue Scurrah, Ben Steele, Ian Ware, Paul Wakeley, Andy Walker, Mitch Ward, Andrew Wasley,

1. Welcome:

Andy Walker (AW) as Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting giving a particular welcome to Tim Cox, Lord Lieutenant, and Bridget Winstanley, our Vice President. He also thanked Kenilworth District for the use of their amazing new facilities.

2. Apologies for absence:

Stuart Beaver, Clive Dunn, Martyn Field, Dawn Grice, Richard Leader, Mike Pearson, Jenny Stockbridge, Wnedy Williams, Iain Williams.

3. Governance Topics

The Chair noted that this part of the meeting is a necessary part to make sure that the charity's foundations are in good order.

3a. Approve the minutes of previous AGM held 30th September 2023:

The County Trustee Board has reviewed the minutes of the previous AGM meeting held on 30th September 2023. The Chair put forward that the minutes be taken as read and asked the County Scout Council to agree that they are a true record of that meeting.

Seconded by Tony Guy and approved by the meeting with a show of hands.

3b. Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR)

In line with the recommendation from Scout Headquarters, the County Trustee Board proposes the adoption of the model constitution from Chapter 5 of POR. A copy of this was available for review and inspection prior to this meeting and copies were also available at this meeting.

The recommendation was seconded by Mark Earles and approved by the meeting with a show of hands.

3c. To note the County's financial year

The meeting was asked to note that the charity's financial year is 1st April to 31st March each year; no vote was required.

3d. Agree the number of members that may be elected to the Trustee Board

The Chair informed the meeting that, following good practice recommendations from the Charity Governance Code, POR states that Trustee Boards should have a minimum of 5 and no more than 12 Trustees in total. This includes ex officio and co-opted Trustees. The Chair advised that a total Trustee Board of 9 people was being recommended.

The County Scout Council must agree the number of people to be appointed to the Trustee Board. The outgoing Trustee Board recommends that **six** people are appointed and the Chair proposed that the County Scout Council approves that recommendation (2 ex officio, 1 co-opted and 6 appointed)

Seconded by Nigel Hailey and approved by the meeting with a show of hands.

3e. Agree the quorum for future meetings of the County Scout Council (excluding this AGM)

The Chair advised that the County Scout Council must agree its quorum – the minimum number of County Scout Council members that must be present at County

Scout Council meetings. The outgoing Trustee Board recommends the quorum should be set at **15** people and asked the meeting to approve that recommendation.

Seconded by Sam Marshall and approved by the meeting with a show of hands.

4. Review of the Previous year

4a. The County Lead Volunteer's Review of Scouts in Warwickshire

The Chair asked Paul Wakeley, the County Lead Volunteer (CLV) to present his annual review.

Paul took to the floor to review the year and began by showing a short video which had been shown at the National AGM, the aim of which was to reiterate that Scouting is fun and somewhere to learn skills.

He went on to cover Warwickshire's four objectives:

Growth - By 2026 there will be 701 Squirrels and 5741 6-18 year olds

Inclusivity - We will serve a larger number of diverse young people who represent the communities of Warwickshire including those in social need

Youth Led - embed youth involvement in everything we do as a County. We will see more young people achieving our top awards

Community Impact - We will engage more with our local community and partners
We will partner with other organisations to promote and develop scouting

We are limited by the lack of volunteers (there are 380 young people on the waiting list for one group in Warwick!) and also by the lack of volunteers to deliver more county-led activities.

Safer Scouting: There has been much improvement on keeping on top of mandatory training with non-compliance down to 0.2% against a target of 2%. The county funds First Aid training for all leaders and there are Safety and Safeguarding Officers in place. The County continues to work with Alfrey Activity Centre to ensure a consistently safe camp site.

Inclusive Growth: In January 2024 there were 5440 young people in Scouting, up 4.2% on 2023, supported by 1721 volunteers. Squirrel dreys have opened in 7 of our 8 districts and more are planned. All areas have plans to grow – there is never

a shortage of young people. We are one of the leading growth counties in the region.

Youth Shaped: our County Youth Commissioners have continued to make youth led scouting a priority. Many young people are enjoying the wider experiences of scouting such as WAGS and Nuneaton Gang shows and the National Scout and Guide Symphony Orchestra / Concert Band. Numerous awards are being achieved including the Kings Scout award and Douglas Faulconbridge will be our champion to support young people to achieve these top awards.

Transformation: it has been a difficult and complicated journey, but we are moving towards the end and the new digital tools that will be available are very good and brand new. Paul then called on Jo-ann Bramston, Transformation lead, to add her comments. Jo-ann stated that it had been purposely decided not to do roadshows as leaders are capable of finding information for themselves. As we are moving towards the end of the process, it is imperative that data on Compass is correct. There will be a Compass freeze for three weeks, during which time Atlantic is not being switched off but the results will not be uploaded to Compass. Volunteers are being sought for a 'go-live' support team – District Commissioners have been asked to be part of this team. There will be a Transformation email address for support queries. Transformation is going to happen, let's Be Prepared!

Jo-ann added that training is now on-line to support Welcome Conversations and handed back to Paul.

Paul then thanked all the Trustees who are standing down:
Andy Walker, Andy Slater, Brian Friar, Michelle Brierley, Mike Dean, Paul Skipper, Sam Marshall and Tony Guy

Paul ended his review by reminding everyone that the County is here to help and support volunteers and thanked everyone for the work they are doing.

4b. To receive and consider the Annual Report of the County Trustee Board including the annual Statement of Accounts

The Chair noted that the County Trustee Board has approved the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts and has received the report on the accounts from the Independent Examiner.

The Chair then handed over to Phil Revill to give an explanation of the accounts to year ending 31/03/2024.

Gross income was £553k – this was higher due to £222k income for the World Scout Jamboree. Net income was £13k. Regular expenditure continues to be made to provide OSM, training for leaders etc.

WAGS and Alfrey both had small surpluses of £5k and £4k respectively.

Total reserves were £324k. Designated reserves totalled £123k. General reserves of £201k are being held (primarily relating to the renewal of the Alfrey lease). Phil commented that general reserves are under greater control as there is now a specific reason for them.

There were no questions on the County report.

5. Making appointments

The Chair advised those present that this part of the meeting is used to organise the set-up of the charity until the next AGM. The County Scout Council will appoint a Trustee Board to ensure good governance for the charity over the coming year.

5a. To appoint the County Chair, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the County Trustee Board

The Chair handed the chairmanship of the meeting over to the County Lead Volunteer.

The CLV explained the open selection process agreed by the Trustee Board. Paul stated that he was pleased, on behalf of the Trustee Board, to recommend to the County Scout Council that Rob Marshall should be appointed as County Chair. Rob Marshall is a friend of scouting, having been a young person in the movement – but he has not yet been an adult volunteer beyond helping at events like Get-In. Rob works as a senior leader in the energy sector and has significant experience in governance and chairing meetings.

Paul asked for questions from the meeting, of which there were none. A show of hands approved the appointment.

Paul went on to thank Andy for his excellent chairmanship over the last 7 years and his +30 years in Scouting. He then handed back the chairmanship of this meeting to the County Chair.

5b. Appoint the County Treasurer, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the County Trustee Board

The Chair explained the open selection process agreed by the Trustee Board. The recommendation to the County Scout Council is that Phil Revill should be appointed as County Treasurer.

Phil's appointment was carried by the meeting with a show of hands.

5c. Appoint members of the County Trustee Board, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the County Trustee Board

The Chair explained the open selection process agreed by the Trustee Board. The recommendation to the County Scout Council is that the following six individuals should be appointed as members of the County Trustee Board:

- Paul Blackmore
- Natasha Dunnigan (aged 18-25)
- Mark Earles
- Dawn Grice
- Phil Revill
- Drew Sangster (aged 18-25)

The appointments were carried by the meeting with a show of hands.

The Chair thanked the Trustees for their work during the year and, in particular, those members who are standing down.

5d. To appoint the Independent Examiner

The Treasurer proposed Mark Harwood and Co of Warwick to be the Independent Examiner.

The Chair confirmed that Mark Harwood and Co of Warwick has been proposed, seconded and is qualified for the role and asked for a show of hands to approve the nomination.

The appointment was carried by the meeting with a show of hands.

5e. To elect representatives of the County Scout Council to represent the County on the Council of The Scout Association

The Chair advised that, under rule 6.5 of POR, we need to elect County representatives to the Council of the Scout Association.

The Trustee Board recommends that our one vacant position for the 18-24 member is occupied by Drew Sangster. The Chair confirmed that Drew Sangster has been nominated and seconded and asked for a show of hands to approve the nomination.

The appointment was carried by the meeting with a show of hands.

6. Belize Presentation

The Chair handed over to Nigel Hailey who gave a short presentation to the meeting on the trip to Belize that had taken place during the summer. Nigel explained that the idea had been to offer an international trip to all Explorer Scouts across the county. As such, there had not been a selection process but that it was open to all and, in the end, 65 Explorers had taken up the offer. Every district was represented.

The trip was supported by a new leadership team; some of the leaders were new to international trips.

The trip encountered challenges; for some of the Explorers this was their first trip on a plane, some had never been away from their parents before etc. The logistics of organising, transporting and managing so many Explorers is not to be underestimated. The group visited 5 different locations across Belize and a wide range of activities took place including staying in a jungle resort, visiting Mayan ruins, ziplining, cave tubing, snorkelling etc.

The group met up with scouts from the town of San Ignacio and carried out some community work litter picking along the riverbank. There was a joint campfire where the UK and Belizean scouts performed skits, sang songs etc. The Belizean scouts suggested that the campfire be ended with their traditional song which turned out to be a rendition of 'Kumbaya'!

In addition to the Explorers, a contingent of 12 Network members also travelled to Belize. They spent part of the time with the larger group but also went off to different locations on their own. The trip was a huge learning experience for them.

7. Address by Tim Cox, His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire and President of Warwickshire Scouts

Tim Cox was then invited to say a few words and he began by thanking Nigel for his presentation. Tim commented that he had attended Get In and was impressed to see the 3,000 members and 1,500 volunteers. He thanked everyone involved in Scouting for what we do, both on events, but also week in, week out. His view is that Scouting is in a good place. Tim thanked the Council for the invitation to attend the meeting.

8. Awards

Paul Wakeley invited Katrina Collie to come forward. He said that he had already surprised Katrina at the Stratford upon Avon AGM, but this was an opportunity to make the award before the County Scout Council. Katrina has been an integral part of the County over the years and is DLV in Stratford currently. Paul said that Katrina knows everything and is always very happy to help. Katrina was duly presented with the Bar to the Silver Acorn by Tim Cox.

9. Closing Remarks

The Chair then brought the meeting to close thanking everyone for attending and thanking Kenilworth for the use of their beautiful HQ which is 'available for hire!'

The meeting closed at 20:37.

These minutes were considered by the County Trustee Board at their meeting on 23rd October 2024, and were considered an accurate reflection of the meeting. The formal approval of the minutes will be undertaken at the AGM in September 2025.