



WARWICKSHIRE SCOUT COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual General Meeting
held on Wednesday 24th September 2025
at Kenilworth Scout and Guide Centre

Attendees: Ruth Palmer, Jonathan Miller, Michelle Brierley, Nigel Hailey, Bridget Winstanly, Steve Thomas, Mark Earles, Tony Guy, Dawn Grice, Karen Marshall, Steven Haynes, Sam Marshall, Shaun Marshall, Frederick Salt, Natasha Dunnigan, Katrina Collie, Toby Russell, Paul Wakeley, Rob Marshall, Phil Revill

1. Welcome:

Rob welcomed everyone to the AGM for 2024/2025

A QR code was provided for easy access to the documents

Rob introduced himself to those that hadn't met him before, has been through scouting in West Warwickshire, professionally works for NESO, and brings his professional skills of Governance to the role

2. Apologies for absence:

Joan Russell, Gerry Russell, Mark Payne, Richard Elliott, Mick Pearson, Tim Cox (President), Douglas Faulconbridge, Jenny Stockbridge, Jo-Ann Bramston, Linda Feltham

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 26th September 2024:

The County Trustee Board reviewed the minutes of the previous AGM meeting held on 26th September 2024 at their meeting of 23rd October 2024. 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.

Proposed by Mark Earles, all in agreement

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 Karen Marshall 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. Approve appointed and community members of the County Scout Council

Appointment of County Scout Council members. The Chair noted that the County Scout Council can admit other people to membership and proposed that any member present at the AGM holding a role in Warwickshire, who otherwise does not hold a role on the council, is adopted as part of the Council for the AGM. This was seconded by Dean Lobo. All were in favour.

3e. 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 - no change from last year but good practice to review.

Seconded by Tony Guy

3f. 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 recommended that 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 began by saying that lots of amazing stuff has happened in the year and he thanked everyone for all they do.

Membership sits at 5,494 – this is bigger than before COVID and the biggest we have been over the last decade. This growth has largely been driven by growth in Squirrels.

The membership system has been transformed but everything has not been seamless. The CVL noted that he shared the leaders' pain. There are still some issues, but some things are now better.

Safety is crucial. A deadline of 14th July was set by the Scout Association for all adult members to complete revised safety training and we got 1,800 people through that training. Our compliance for safety/safeguarding training sits at 99.8% complete today, which means all our leaders have the basic skills to support our young people.

Alfrey - The Trustee Board has done a lot of work towards renewing the lease on our County Camp site in Alfrey and have plans to reinvigorate it.

We have supported International trips to France, Netherlands, Switzerland, and USA and County preparations for the jamboree contingent to go to WSJ in Poland in 2027 are well under way.

The County continues to provide First Aid training to all adult volunteers and support for DofE expeditions.

But like the rest of the Scout movement, we are constrained 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.

Paul then turned to looking ahead

- Get In 2026 will be held in May at Ragley Hall. This is open to all sections and will be truly accessible for all – including meeting physical and emotional needs
- There is a new national strategy, replacing Skillsforlife, which looks good in draft. This reverts back to two amazing pillars - getting the programme right and supporting volunteers.
- There will be targeted inclusive growth, including each group having a roadmap to introduce Squirrels
- There will be strategies to ensure the right people/right roles to support the County.

Paul then said:

- Thank you to the Trustee team for stepping up into a new governance structure to ensure as a charity we are in a good place.
- Thank you to County / District leadership teams
- Thank you to everyone..... thank the young people, it is the 5,500 young people across Warwickshire that we do it for!

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 prepared the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts and noted that the accounts have been signed off by Mark Harwood and Co of Warwick. They will be filed with the Charity commission within the next few days.

The County Treasure gave an overview of the accounts:

Overall, the level of income remains the same (£553k), although it has come from slightly different sources.

WAGS broke even this year and Alfrey has recovered to post COVID income levels.

Total reserves were slightly higher at £337k (previous year £324k). Designated reserves totalled £129k (these relate to Alfrey, WAGS, GetIn 2026 etc).

Rob thanked Phil for taking the AGM through the accounts, and for all his work this year, no approvals were needed.

5. Making appointments

All Trustees appointed last year were for a term of three years, so no appointments necessary. There are no vacancies for Chair, Treasurer, Trustees or representatives to the Council of the Scout Association to be decided at this AGM.

County representatives of the Council are all also mid-term.

5a. To re-appoint the County President and/or Vice Presidents

The Chair noted that the County Scout Council re-appoints the County President and/or Vice President.

The Chair advised that Tim Cox, Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire, is proposed as President and Bridget Winstanley MBE as Vice President. This was seconded by Dawn Grice and was carried by the meeting with a show of hands.

5b. To appoint the Independent Examiner

The Treasurer proposed Mark Harwood and Co of Warwick to be the Independent Examiner. This was seconded by the Chair and was carried by the meeting with a show of hands.

6. Closing Remarks

6a. The Chair invited Steve Thomas, Regional Lead Volunteer for the West Midlands, to make any remarks

Steve started by saying that it had been lovely to hear about activities over the past 12 months and the opportunities that these give to young people. These will have an impact, today, tomorrow and in the future, they have impacts for many years to come. He also gave a huge thank you for providing those opportunities to young people.

There have been some challenges, but Counties and Districts are embracing the new ways of working. We are seeing how new ways of working make a difference, we are not there yet, but we are getting there. Steve commended the County on

their huge effort in compliance - it was hard but we did it to make sure our young people were safe.

Referring to the National strategy – we have started to see drafts / consultations, it is clear that a new strategy will not be the volume of pace and change that we have seen in the past 5-10 years so there will be sustainable growth.

Steve finished by noting that Warwickshire is setting itself up well to embed changes into our new ways of working.

6b. In the absence of Tim Cox, the Chair invited Bridget Winstanley MBE to make any remarks

Quoting Katrina, Bridget said “Young people are amazing, The Scouts job is to ensure that they achieve this”. Bridget noted that the County is living by this and that we are making a difference. She finished by saying that she is looking forward to joining us next year to see how much further we have got on the journey.

7. Any other business

Ten year certificate was presented to Toby Russell

The Chair closed the AGM, thanking everyone for attending and advising that refreshments were available.

These minutes were considered by the County Trustee Board at their meeting on 22 October 2025, following the AGM. They noted that they form a true record of the AGM. The minutes will be formally submitted to the Scout Council for approval at the next AGM, scheduled for September 2026.