

Minutes of the Northumberland Scouts Annual General Meeting – Saturday 17th September 2022

Alan Craft, County Chairman welcomed everyone to the Northumberland Scouts AGM with a special mention to Carl Hankinson, Ian Hill, Peter Thorp & Pat Bell.

Alan asked the meeting to remember Derek Bullimore who passed away in recent times having completed 60 plus in Scouting.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies are held at Scout House for the record.

2. To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 20th September 2021:

The meeting agreed that the minutes available on the Northumberland Scout website were a true record of the meeting by a show of hands.

3. To approve the names of the District Representatives co-opted on to the County Scout Council:

The names of those who had been co-opted before the meeting were shown on screen and the additional names will follow the District AGMs.

4. To receive and consider the Trustees Report and Accounts submitted by the Executive Committee of the Council for the year ended 31st March 2022:

Mark Beckwith the County Treasurer sent his apologies to the meeting. Peter Thorp read a prepared report from Mark advising that the County is in a comfortable position after a difficult couple of years in Scouting (COVID) as the annual accounts show. Any questions from the floor should be direct to Mark via County Office and he will respond directly.

5. Appointment of Examiner:

John Oswald addressed the floor and advised that the County had survived the last couple of years well and there had been no necessity to draw down reserves. The County is in a good financial state.

6. To approve the County Commissioner's nomination of the County Chairman:

Peter thanked Prof. Sir Alan Craft for the last 12 months of support and confirmed that Alan had agreed to continue in the role for a further year. All agreed.

7. To announce the results of election of Treasurer:

Mark Beckwith continues to do an excellent job as County Treasurer and will stand for a further 12 months. The council approved.

8. To approve the County Commissioner's nominations to the County Executive Committee:

The following are the CCs nominations: Joycelyn Collie, Alan Kelly, Jim Allan John Harvey & Tony Stephenson. The council approved.

9. To announce the results of election of members to the County Executive Committee:

The following are the elected members to the County Executive: Harry James, Norma Pigeon, Ian Woods, Trudi Woods & Ellie Cummings. The council approved.

10. To confirm the member of the County Scout Council as the nominated adult member to The Council of the Scout Association:

Daniel Thirlaway was confirmed as the nominated adult member. Agreed with a show of hands.

11. To confirm the member of the County Scout Council as the nominated youth member to The Council of the Scout Association:

Sean Mulligan was confirmed as the youth member. Agreed with a show of hands.

12. Peter Thorp – County Commissioner Northumberland Scouts:

Peter welcomed all to his first County AGM as CC; paid respects to our Patron Her Majesty the Queen sharing his personal memory of meeting her at the State Opening of Parliament; he thanked Michael Wood Williams for his work over the last six years; thanked Carl Hankinson UK Chief Commissioner and Ian Hill the Regional Commissioner for joining the meeting today; he thanked all for their support after COVID and was pleased to report that activities were opening up again and he had visited a few; he spoke of the County goals which included growth, inclusivity, youth shaped and community impact; he mentioned the success of the day which had been full of presentations to our young people; Peter's thanks were given to Alan Craft, the County Executive, Sam Lacey & Rio Groves, Pamela & Adam in the office, and mentor Don Charlton; finally thanked all members of Northumberland Scouts without who's support and commitment Scouting would not be delivered.

13. Carl Hankinson – UK Chief Commissioner:

Carl thanked Northumberland Scouts for the invite and said it was a joy to be here. He spoke of visiting the WSJ participants at Dilston; the recent and very sad passing of Queen Elizabeth II; his pride at the help offered by Scouts at the condolence books; his confidence in the recovery of Scouting after COVID; the North Star vision for 2025; how we look after managers and leaders to give freely of themselves and enjoy what they do to promote retention; how Scouting transforms for the future, thinks differently to be robust, safe trusted and efficient; in transformation work out how we lead, support and prepare well; how Scouting has so much potential, numbers are up and we must take all opportunity to let people see what Scouting is about; He wished all well and asked leaders to ensure they enjoy their Scouting.

14. Adult Award Presentations:

Long service awards to Peter Thorp 30 years; Meryl Charlton 40 years; Don Charlton 50 years; Chief Scout Commendation Corey Hogg & Tracy Mitchell; Silver Acorn Liz Hay, Alan Campbell & Alan Craft; Silver Wolf Richard Walker.

15. Q & A with Carl Hankinson, Peter Thorp, Alan Craft & Rio Groves:

Question raised and answered ranged from: What are top three priorities? Expenses for Leaders; How are Squirrels going in the County; Network badges; why the changes in Marra; Scouting and the cost-of-living crisis; how can communication be improved; is there a fun bit of being CC; Gosforth Park resurrection and financial support.

16. County Chairman's Closing Remarks:

Alan Craft closed the meeting with thanks for a wonderful day of presentation for the young people and celebrating adult awards at the AGM. Encourage people to volunteer and when they ask 'Should I take it on?' reply 'You can't not!' He thanked Carl Hankinson and Ian Hill for joining the meeting and to all attending for listening to him and Peter!