

Minutes of Northumberland County AGM – Saturday 9th September 2023

1. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies collated at Scout House and held there for the records.

2. To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 17th September 2022:

The council approved the minutes as a true record of the AGM 2022.

3. Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules:

After an explanation of the request for the Council to adopt the model constitution (P.O.R 5.4) the Council agreed and the motion carried.

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

Those names supplied from the District at the time of this AGM were agreed by the Council. Further names will follow District AGMs.

5. To receive and consider the Trustees Report and Accounts submitted by the Board of Trustees of the Council for the year ended 31st March 2023:

- Treasurers Comments: Mark Beckwith reported that the County is in good financial health and there are currently no issues or concerns. He commented that the County is not quite back to pre-covid situation, but the balance sheets are strong and there are reserves to support. Consideration is being given to a County Development Officer to help drive growth in strategic areas particularly adult volunteers. This is still under discussion. The independent examiner – John Oswald spoke of deferred income which relates to events happening the following year and confirmed that the financial processes of the County are sound.

6. Appointment of Examiner:

The council were advised that John Oswald of Stephenson Coates Audit Ltd has agreed to carry out the examination of accounts for the next year. The council showed their agreement.

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

Peter Thorp advised that he had spoken with Professor Sir Alan Craft and he has agreed to stand as County Chairman for a further year. Peter acknowledged that he and Alan worked well together and Alan's support was greatly appreciated when dealing with difficult situations.

8. To announce the election of Treasurer:

The Chairman announced that Mark Beckwith will stand as County Treasurer for a further year as the only nomination for the appointment. The council agreed.

9. To approve the County Commissioner's nominations to Northumberland Scouts Board of Trustees:

The County Commissioner's nominations to the Trustees Board were advised to the council as Tony Stephenson, Joycelyn Collie, John Harvey, Fran Iley & Paul Coulson. The council approved.

10. To announce the results of election of members to the Northumberland Scouts Board of Trustees:

The elected members to the Trustees Board were advised to the council as Harry James, Sean Mulligan, Daniel Thirlaway, Alan Kelly & Norma Pigeon.

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

The adult member nominated to the Council of the Scout Association was confirmed as John Arkley. The meeting approved.

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

The youth member nominated to the Council of the Scout Association was confirmed as Alex Ridley. The meeting approved.

13. Peter Thorp – County Commissioner:

Peter thanked leaders who have moved on and welcomed the new members of the team. He spoke to the slight increase in numbers, the new Squirrel Dreys, adult recruitment, the need for Group Scout Leaders and Trustees. Thanks given to leaders for their fantastic work and amazing programmes, including home and international trips. Adult training has continued to be delivered with 262 wood badges being awarded and non-compliance has been reduced. Peter's hopes for the coming year are growth, new volunteers and more amazing activities.

14. Transforming our Volunteering Experience: – Stu Bennett

Stu Bennett delivered a very comprehensive presentation on Transformation informing the members of the process, timescales and the benefits going forward.

15. International Presentation – World Scout Jamboree (South Korea)

Liz Waterfield delivered a very informative presentation about the World Scout Jamboree with its ups and downs!

16. Adult Award Presentation:

Awards were presented to:

Graeme Popay	40 Years Service
Kath Tyson	50 Years Service
Silver Acorn	Claire Gauld
Silver Wolf	Frances Walker
Silver Wolf	Graeme Popay

17. County Chairman's closing remarks:

Sir Alan Craft offered sincere thanks to the meeting attendees, to all the adults and leaders who are involved in Northumberland County and wished everyone a successful coming year. Keep up the hard work.

18. Date of the Next Meeting:

To be confirmed.