



LINCOLNSHIRE SCOUT COUNCIL

Annual General Meeting

21st September 2024

1. Introduction and welcome

Mr Howard Nelson (County Lead Volunteer) welcomed everyone, including Mrs Paula Evans (Regional Lead Volunteer) to the meeting. He stated that at the AGM in 2023, Mr Newlove resigned as Chair, so he asked if anyone had an objection if he chaired the meeting. There were no objections.

Mr Nelson also thanked Lincoln District for the use of the Sudbrooke campsite for this meeting and the Lincs Fest event.

Apologies for absence

Mr Nelson reported that we had received apologies from Mr G Rowles Nicholson (President), Mr P Williams (County Treasurer), Mr A Scott (Vice President), Mr R Wright (former CC) Mr S Thompson, Mr N Hibbert, Mrs D Armitage, Mrs C Carrington, Mrs J Waite, Mr & Mrs Mahon, Mr J Newlove, M A Jacklin, Mr R Denis and Mr G Hardy for their absence today.

2. Governance topics

Mr Nelson stated that this part of the meeting is to make sure the charity's foundations are in good order

2a. Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 16th September 2023

The County Trustee Board have reviewed the minutes of the previous AGM at their meeting held on 16th September 2023. He put forward these minutes taken as read and asked the County Scout Council to agree that they were a true record of that meeting.

Mr A Walton seconded the minutes, and the minutes were approved by the meeting, and signed by Mr Nelson.

2b. Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR)

In line with the recommendation from Scout Headquarters, the County Trustee Board proposed that the County adopt the model constitution from Chapter 5 of Policy, Organisation and Rules. A copy of this was available for review and inspection prior to this meeting, and copies are also available at this meeting.

This proposal was seconded by Mr T Watson and approved by all present.

2c. Note the County's financial year

Mr Nelson asked County Scout Council members to please note our charity's financial year is 1 April to 31 March. This meeting noted the County's financial year.

2d. Approve and appoint community members of the County Scout Council

Mr Nelson noted that the County Scout Council can admit other people to membership. He advised that Sue Newbatt, Jo Dawes, Nicky Coxon, and Lyn Henry had been nominated as County Scout Council members.

These are to be admitted as members of the County Scout Council as well as the ex officio list in POR Rule 5.6.4. All present approved.

2e. Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board

Following good practice recommendations from the Charity Governance Code, POR states Trustee

Boards should have a minimum of five and no more than twelve Trustees in total. This includes ex officio and co-opted Trustees.

The County Scout Council must agree the number of people to be appointed to the Trustee Board. The outgoing Trustee Board recommended that twelve people should be appointed. Mr Nelson proposed that the County Scout Council approves that recommendation.

This recommendation was seconded by Mr L Evans and approved by all present.

2f. Agree the quorum for future meetings of the County Scout Council (excluding this AGM)

The outgoing Trustee Board recommends the quorum for the County Scout Council should be set at 12 people. The quorum is the minimum number of County Scout Council members that must be present at County Scout Council meetings.

Mr J Wand seconded this proposal, and it was approved by all present.

3. Review of the previous year

Mr Nelson stated that this part of the meeting would be used to reflect on the activities of the past year.

3a. The County Lead Volunteer's review of Scouts in the Lincolnshire Scout County

Mr Nelson stated that copies of the annual review were available. It has been a good year, with grateful thanks to Miss Gilbert, who was CC/CLV at the time. There have been more events for young people, permit training for leaders and the now annual leaders camp, Lincs Fest. He thanked all the DLVs who, along with their teams organise scouting across the county.

Mr Nelson was delighted to report that the 2024 census showed growth in the young members and a smaller growth in adult membership.

Much of the focus this year has been on safety following the Prevention of Death report which resulted from the tragedy on the Great Orme.

LinCub was the highlight for that section: - this was a very successful camp, even given the last-minute change of venue. Sincere thanks go to Mr Wand and his team.

The highlight for a smaller group of Scouts was the World Scout Jamboree, which proved not to be the experience they expected, but none the less was an enjoyable event.

Transformation is now, at last, moving forward.

Mr Nelson concluded by again thanking Miss Gilbert for her leadership over the last three and half years.

He also thanked Miss E Broome and Mr J Wand, whose terms as County Youth Commissioner and Deputy Youth Commissioner, also finished this year.

He also thanked everyone in the room and their colleagues for all they do to support our young members.

3b. Receive and consider the Annual Report of the County Trustee Board including the annual Statement of Accounts.

Mr Nelson stated that the County Trustee Board has approved the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts and has received the report on the accounts from the Wright Vigar.

He read out a statement from Mr Williams.

Overall, the year to 31 March 2024 was very satisfactory as far as our finances were concerned, the money we raised through the membership fees, plus the interest earned on our balances at the bank, comfortably covered all the normal running costs of the county organisation for the full year.

We have had a significant increase in Scouting activities compared to the previous year. The main reason for this was that we sent a good sized contingent off to the World Scout Jamboree in Seoul, Korea and all

our income and expenditure for that event has now been processed in the books.

We also had many more local activities last year as Scouting bounced back from the Covid years. All our Scouting activities are expected to operate at about breakeven, so the income raised for an activity is equal to the expenditure on that activity. Where there are differences, we try to carry them forward to the next time that activity takes place.

One exception to the "breakeven" goal last year was LinCub where we did have a bigger shortfall. This arose because LinCub had to move venue at short notice. The team did a terrific job reorganising everything, but it did lead to unexpected extra costs.

Some time ago the Trustees identified that our financial reserves are actually higher than they need to be. A conscious effort was made to address this when the Support & Opportunities Fund was established in 2020. Its aim is to use some of our excess reserves to promote Scouting activity. The Fund continued this process last year by making grants totalling over £17,000 to 15 different beneficiaries. Including these grants, and all our other income and expenditure, we spent £17,796 more than we received. Normally that might be considered unwelcome news, but the Trustees are fully comfortable with it. It means we have successfully used some of our excess reserves. We are confident we have done so constructively.

Looking forward, we expect another very satisfactory year, and we expect to continue to use our reserves sensibly to promote Scouting throughout the county.

Mr Nelson thanked Mr Williams for all his hard work.

4. Making appointments

Mr Nelson stated that we will use this part of the meeting to organise the setup of the charity until the next AGM. He explained that as part of this item, a Trustee Board would be appointed to oversee good governance for the charity over the next year.

4a. Appoint the County Chair, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the County Trustee Board.

Mr Nelson explained the open selection process agreed and initiated by the Trustee Board. The recommendation from the Trustee Board to the County Scout Council was that Mr Peter Williams be appointed as County Chair for 3-year term. Mr Nelson asked for a show of hands and the appointment of Mr Williams as County Chair was approved.

4b. Appoint the County Treasurer, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the County Trustee Board.

Mr Nelson explained that as Mr Williams had accepted the role of County Chair, a search and interview selection had taken place to find a new county treasurer, The recommendation to the County Scout Council from the Trustee Board is that Mrs Emily McRitchie should be appointed as County Treasurer for 3 years. Mrs McRitchie's appointment was approved by a show of hands at the meeting.

4c. Appoint members of the County Trustee Board, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the County Trustee Board.

Mr Nelson explained the open selection process agreed by the Trustee Board. The recommendation from the outgoing Trustee Board to the County Scout Council is that the following should be appointed as members of the County Trustee Board:

1. Anthony Davis		2 years from 21/9/24
2. Ashley Barker		2 years from 21/9/24

3. Connie Roberts	16/9/2023	2 years from 21/9/24
4. David Wilson		1 year from 21/9/24
5. Mark Campbell	8/10/2022	1 year from 21/9/24
6. Peter Talbot-Jones		1 year from 21/9/24
7. Sue Newbatt		2 years from 21/9/24
8. Thomas Morton		2 years from 21/9/24

It was noted that Mr Howard Nelson and Miss Caitlin Hall are also appointed to the Trustee Board as ex-officio members.

A show of hands approved these appointments.

Mr Nelson thanked the Trustees for their work during the year and, in particular, those members who are standing down – Mrs C Greig, Mrs S Burt, Mrs S Aumais, Mr J Wand, Mr J Newlove, Mr A Walton, Mrs C Lee, Mr S Henry. Also, Miss E Broome who stepped down in April, as her role ended and Miss A Gilbert who stepped down in May, when her role ended.

4d. Re-appoint County President and/or Vice Presidents

Mr Nelson stated that the County Scout Council has a President and Vice President, who are appointed by the Scout Council. He proposed Mr Graham Rowles Nicholson is re-appointed as President and Mr Alan Scott as Vice President. A show of hands approved these re-appointments.

4e. Appoint the Independent Examiner

Mr Nelson stated that Mr Williams had proposed Wright Vigar, as our independent examiner. Mr Nelson confirmed that Wright Vigar has been proposed, seconded, and is qualified for the role, and asked for a show of hands to approve Wright Vigar nomination. Wright Vigar were approved as the independent examiner.

4f. Elect representatives of the County Scout Council to represent the County on the Council of The Scout Association

Under rule 6.5 of Policy, Organisation and Rules, the County elects representatives to the Council of The Scout Association. There were two posts to elect, one member and one member aged 18-24. Mr Jacob Wand has been nominated, seconded, and approved as the 18-24 member.

5. Closing remarks

Mrs Paula Evans, Regional Lead Volunteer, stated that it was lovely to see so many attending an AGM.

She stated that governance is especially important to ensure both the safety of our young members and the balancing of the accounts, among other things.

Volunteers give up so much of their time for others, they should be thanked, and celebrated whenever possible; however, volunteering should also be fun. She hopes and believes that the changes, coming with transformation will encourage more adults to volunteer to help the young people.

Finally, she stated that she wanted to add her thanks to Miss Gilbert and her team, for all their work over 3 ½ years, as well as all the DLVs and their teams. She also stated that she hoped everyone would now support Mr Nelson as he, and his team, take the county forward.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1640.