



LINCOLNSHIRE SCOUT COUNCIL

Annual General Meeting 13th September 2025

1. Introduction and welcome

Mr Graham Rowles Nicholson welcomed everyone, to the meeting and introduced a video from the Scout Association, which was shown to the meeting.

2. Chair for this meeting

Mr Thomas Morton, Member of the County Trustee Board) stated that Mr Peter Williams is unable to attend, therefore Mr Howard Nelson (County Lead Volunteer) has asked him to Chair the meeting. He asked if anyone present had any objections. There were no objections.

Mr Morton welcomed our special guests; Mrs Liz Henderson (Chief Volunteer of England) and Mrs Paula Evans (Regional Lead Volunteer).

He also thanked Lincoln District and the Sudbrooke Park team for the welcome.

A minute's silence was held for Mr Tony Davis, County Trustee who passed away recently, and all others we have lost this year.

3. Apologies for absence

Mrs Burt reported that we had received apologies from Mr P Williams (County Chairman), Mrs E McRitchie (County Treasurer), Mr A Scott (Vice President), S Bushby-Smith, K Law, K Craney, C Pine, T Fell, M Hall, A Tagg, C Dennis, Mr Jarvis, N Jarvis, J Scott, and S Davis.

4. Mr Howard Nelson, County Lead Volunteer

Mr Morton passed the meeting to Mr Nelson; who spoke about how proud he is to be leading this county and its many events: - Chill-out, Lincs Fest, Full County Team Support Day, Cubs on Water, Weekend on the Water to mention just a few; with LinCub and Little Lincs still to come.

Transformation has been a major part of the county teams work this past year, with it problems and challenges, which are being addressed.

As Mr Nelson comes to the end of his first year as County Lead Volunteer he is delighted to say that the county continues to move forward, with more face-to-face meetings, the introduction of a monthly bulletin, a new county calendar on the website, and an improved website.

He was also delighted to attend the county awards celebration held at Burghley House in April, where 7 Silver Wolves and 6 Kings Scouts Awards were presented along with many others.

Looking further forward, the county is preparing for Poacher 2026, which is already fully booked.

In conclusion Mr Nelson stated that he would like to thank all volunteers in the county (you are what makes this county a success), including the Senior Leadership team, the District Lead Volunteers, especially Mrs Lorraine Derrick and Mr Simon Henry, (who stepped down from their roles during the year), the County Trustee Board, Mr Williams, Mrs McRitchie and Mrs Burt for their support.

5. Governance topics

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

5a. Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21st September 2024

Mr Morton reported that the County Trustee Board have reviewed the minutes of the previous AGM. 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 M Moore seconded the minutes, and the minutes were approved by the meeting, and signed by Mr Nelson.

5b. 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 Miss E Broome and approved by all present.

5c. Note the County's financial year

Mr Morton 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.

5d. 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 Morton proposed that the County Scout Council approves that recommendation.

This recommendation was seconded by Mr D Wison and approved by all present.

5e. 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 N Onyon seconded this proposal, and it was approved by all present.

6. Review of the previous year

6a. Mr Morton stated Mr Nelson has already highlighted some of the activities of the County over the past year, more activities are highlighted in the Annual Review, which he recommended to the meeting.

6b. Receive and consider the Annual Report of the County Trustee Board including the annual Statement of Accounts.

Mr Morton stated that the County Trustee Board has reviewed and 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 Mrs McRitchie

Once again, our finances for the year have been very satisfactory.

The money we raised through the membership fees has comfortably covered all the normal administrative running costs of the county organisation for the whole year, which is, of course, the intention.

In addition, this year we received nearly £15,000 of bank interest on our investments as we enjoyed some better interest rates for the full year.

All our Scouting activities are expected to operate at about breakeven, so the income raised for a specific activity is approximately 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. This year has been no different with no major deviations to report.

Some while 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. The Fund has continued to make grants to help develop our activities across the County and this year has paid out over £10,000 to various different beneficiaries.

Including these grant payments, and all our other income and expenditure, we spent £8,677 more than we received. Normally that might be considered bad 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.

We have now further developed how we wish to use our excess reserves and expect to continue to help Scouting develop in a number of exciting ways, making it more rewarding for all our members.

Overall, we are in good shape.

Mr Nelson thanked Mrs McRitchie for all his hard work.

7. Making appointments

Mr Morton 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.

7a. Appoint members of the County Trustee Board, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the County Trustee Board.

Following an open selection process through the Scout Council, it is recommended that Mrs Sarah Baumber and Miss Jess Duffield are both appointed to the County Board of Trustees for a 3 year Term.

A show of hands approved these appointments.

Mr Morton thanked the Trustees for their work during the year and, in particular, those members who are standing down – Mr David Wilson, and the late Mr Tony Davis

7b. Re-appoint County President and/or Vice Presidents

Mr Morton 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.

7c. Appoint the Independent Examiner

Mr Morton 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.

7d. 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 Malcolm Moore and Mr Jacob Wand have been nominated and seconded.

8. Mrs Liz Henderson

Mrs Henderson stated that it was wonderful to meet so many great volunteers; her friends all know that she is happiest when out on a field with volunteers and young people.

When she was starting out on her scouting life, she was inspired by one person, a Lincolnshire scouter, Mr Tony Davis, who we all remembered at the start of this meeting. Mrs Henderson spoke about him as a patient, inspirational leader – her first scouting hero and how proud he was of his two daughters. We should all be like Tony, aiming to inspire the young people in our units.

Skills For Life started in 2018 and is now coming to an end – it aim was to grow the movement and be more impactful in local communities; successful in many areas, although a global pandemic did not help. The next strategy will be over 9 years, split into 3 x 3 years sections. The draft of this has been circulated to CLVs for discussions and feedback at future meetings.

She spoke about the increase in numbers in some sections, especially the number of Squirrel Dreys, and her delight at the number of top awards being presented in all sections this year, an increase of 1400 from the previous year.

Headquarters have been successful in obtaining a grant to fund Growth officers who are working in areas of deprivation.

They have also had a rapid and robust response to the 2 Prevention of future death reports – this has had a level of challenge for all, but very essential.

World Scout Jamboree in 2024 was an incredible experience, but not what was expected. The cost of providing the experience in the circumstances has cost the Association a lot of money.

There have been other changes, all aimed at keeping our young people safe:- a new yellow card, a new way of reporting abuse, a new digital system, which as already stated is not without it challenges, (but they are being addressed).

Moving forward with the new strategy we will aim to empower more young people to gain more experiences. This cannot be achieved without the wonderful volunteers like you – THANK YOU

9. Awards

A number of different awards were presented to Mr Bill Hurst, Miss Abigail Jodhan-Singh, and Mrs Caroline Greig.