



Minutes of Northumberland Scout County AGM - Saturday 14th September 2024

Venue: Northumbria Student Union Newcastle upon Tyne

1. President's Welcome & Lead Volunteer;

Prof Sir Alan Craft welcomed all to the meeting along with the young people presenters including a thank you to Sir Nigel Sherlock who was standing down as a County Vice President for his support over many years.

2. KISC Away 24:

The young people who attended the County trip to Kandersteg 2024 delivered their presentation.

3. Presentation of Awards:

Long service awards were presented to Mark Beckwith, Mel Hewitt, Ann Popay, Katheryn Fuller, Claire Brooks, Suzie Thorp & Gillian Barron. Chief Scout Commendation to Julie Phillips, Awards for Merit to Clive Rich, Kathryn Fuller & David Wright. Coronation Medal of King Charles III to Vix Wallis. Wood badge certificates to Clive Rich, Scott Blackett & Jamie Pearson.

4. Apologies for Absence:

They are held at Scout House and additions given at the meeting were added to that list.

5. Approval of the Minutes of Annual General Meeting:

9th September 2023 minutes were agreed as being a true record of the meeting.

6. Governance Topics

- 6.1 **In line with Scout Association guidelines, to adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules.**

Agreed by the meeting.

- 6.2 **Note that the County's Financial year runs from 1st April to 31st March.**

Understood and agreed by the meeting.

- 6.3 **Agree the quorum for each of the County Scout Council (including the AGM), meetings of the County Trustee Board, meeting of any sub committees, should be half the members plus one.**

Agreed by the meeting.

7. Review of the previous year

- 7.1 **To receive and consider the Annual Report of the County Trustees Report including the annual Statement of Accounts.**

The report and accounts were displayed on the Northumberland Scout website and advertised as such prior to the meeting and was received and accepted by the meeting.

Mark Beckwith spoke briefly to the meeting explaining displayed presentation slides, confirming that the County were in a sound position financially and any queries could be directed to him. He advised the meeting that it was the final year that John Oswald, who Mark thanked for his work and support, would carry out the external examination and the County were seeking an alternative examiner for the coming year.

8. Making Appointments

- 8.1 **Appoint the County Chair, following the recommendation from the closed selection process initiated by the County Trustee Board.**

At this point Peter Thorp (CLV) thanked Prof Sir Alan Craft for his unwavering support of Northumberland Scouts after stepping into the role for eight years having been National Chair prior to that. Alan initially stood in on a temporary basis and stayed however he is stepping down as he feels that the County is on strong footing.

Peter then welcomed Dr Helen Paterson as the new Chair of Northumberland Scouts following the selection process initiated by the board.

8.2 Appoint the County Treasurer, following recommendations from the closed selection process initiated by the County Trustee Board.

The meeting was advised that Mark Beckwith has been appointed to the role of County Treasurer for a further year.

8.3 Appoint members of the County Trustee Board, following recommendations from the closed selection process initiated by the County Trustee Board.

The meeting was advised that the following would be the trustees for the next three years. Alan Kelly, Joycelyn Collie, Norma Pigeon, Daniel Thirlaway, Sean Mulligan, Paul Coulson & John Harvey

8.4 Appoint the Scrutineer/Independent Examiner/Auditor

As mentioned in Mark's presentation details of the examiner will follow when secured.

8.5 Nominate representatives of the County Scout Council to represent the County on the National Scout Council.

The meeting was advised that the Young Person Representative the National Scout Council is Alex Ridley. John Arkley was confirmed as the Adult Representative on the National Scout Council.

9. County Lead Volunteer:

Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting in particular the members from outside of Scouting who joined the meeting. He spoke of a busy day prior to this meeting having hosted five awards presentations where the County had welcomed Ian Hammond the Regional Commissioner and our Vice President and Lord Lieutenant Lucy Winskell OBE. Each were actively involved in the young people's Top Award Presentation. Peter spoke of being proud of his County Lead Volunteer role and the team that he has working with him from leaders in Groups and Districts to trustees who look after the governance of the County. He thanks everyone for their commitment to the young people in our County.

Peter remembered the people who are no longer with us, Harry James, Steve Jobson and the field commissioner Danny Jones who worked closely with Northumberland County some years ago.

Peter reminded the meeting that over the last few weeks a new Chief Scout, Dwayne Fields, has been selected and our leaders Laura Humphries and Liam Walsh were at Gilwell for his introduction. Our Royal Patron is now King Charles III and a new CEO will be announced soon as Matt Hyde the current incumbent is moving on.

He acknowledged the stepping down of Sir Nigel Sherlock after many years as Vice President having held the roles of District Commissioner and Chair over his years of involvement and we managed to secure a personal letter for Nigel from Bear Grylls.

Peter also thanked Prof Sir Alan Craft again at this point for his support and wisdom but was happy to say that Alan would remain as County President.

He spoke of Oliver Scott, Rio Groves and Charlie Ross who are stepping or have stepped down and thanked them for their work.

He thanked Tony Stephenson and Fran Iley for their time on the County Trustee Board but are now stepping down.

Peter confirmed the appointments of Neil Robinson as District Lead Volunteer in Blyth Valley, Fiona Lydall as County Cub Lead Volunteer, Liz Waterfield as County Scout Lead Volunteer and Mike Hawkins and Graham Atkinson sharing the MAPS role.

The meeting was advised that our compliance figures for safety and safeguarding were impressive; that a programme of County activities was coming together; the County is in the early stage of securing a camp site – more details to follow.

Thanks as always to Paul Willis, Pamela Iley, Laura Humphries and his family Suzie & Sophie for their support.

The County will Go Live with transformation before the end of the year – dates and times will be shared.

10. Closing Remarks and thanks:

Meeting was closed with thanks for the work of all adult volunteers in the County.

11. Date of next AGM (TBC)