


WILTSHIRE SCOUT COUNCIL
Thursday 21st July 2022
Annual General Meeting Minutes

1	The meeting was opened at 19.30 by the Chair Justin Purkis.
2	<p>Welcome - The Chair gave a warm welcome and said how good it was to be able to see everyone in our first face to face AGM since 2019.</p> <p>The Chair started by thanking all leaders, executives and everyone involved in Scouting for all their efforts over the last year in keeping Scouting going in whatever format they have been able.</p>
3	<p>Apologies had been received from our President Mrs Sarah Troughton, High Sheriff of Wiltshire Marchioness of Lansdowne, Chair of WCC Cllr Richard Clewer, Mrs Jenny McKay, Francis Wakeham, Lady Patricia Simpson-Buysman, Stephanie Ovens RST, Ruth Sara, Shirley Eve, Diane Bouault Girl Guiding, Julian Brown, Alex Millard, Paul Ingram, Sue Wills, Steve Tibbert, Elaine & Graham Morrell,</p>
4	<p>Reflection by County Commissioner</p> <p>Theme was 'We Can Make it Happen' - We are on track to meet our Scout Association 2025 vision target.</p>
5	<p>Minutes of AGM 2020 The Chair noted that the minutes of the County AGM held virtually on the 15th July 2021 were approved at a subsequent Executive Committee Meeting held on 7th September 2021. Copies had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p><i>There were no objections.</i></p>
6	<p>Trustee Annual Report and Accounts</p> <p>The Chair presented the Annual Report and Accounts for the year to 31st March 2022, which had been circulated prior to the meeting and conforms with the requirements of the Charity Commission, and highlights the main events in the year and how Wiltshire County Scouts meet our charitable objectives. They reflect the continuing unusual financial year we have experienced, including grants received for running the WSC which compensated for lack of rental income, but also Scouting not having fully returned for the whole year. We have however been able to keep the County Membership Fees at their reduced level this year to assist all members.</p> <p>Paul Ingram, our Treasurer had produced the accounts and was thanked by the Chair for all his efforts. The Accounts have been reviewed and audited.</p> <p><i>There were no objections and they were approved by all.</i></p>
7	<p>Nomination of County Chair The County Commissioner had nominated Justin Purkis to continue in the role of County Chair for a further year and Justin had accepted the role.</p> <p><i>There were no objections and this approved by all.</i></p>
8	<p>County Constitution The County adopts its constitution from the Scout Association Policy Organisation and Rules [specifically Rule 5.16]</p> <p>We are required to agree a quorum for meetings of the County Scout Council. This is proposed at 20 members. In addition we are required to agree a quorum for the County Executive Committee. It is proposed we follow the Charity Commission recommendation of one third of committee members plus one.</p> <p><i>Chair seeks approval for these. This was approved.</i></p>

9a	<p>Appointment of Officers – County President County Chair reappointed the County President, Sarah Rose Troughton and thanked her for her ongoing support. <i>This was approved by all</i></p>														
9b	<p>Appointment of Officers of the Council County Secretary Sue Rose had been nominated to take the role. No further nominations so proposed by Chair, seconded by Steve Barley and agreed by all. Chair thanked Sue for her support and what she has done during the year.</p>														
9c	<p>Appointment of County Treasurer Paul Ingram had agreed to continue in the role. There were no other nominations and Chair proposed Paul's appointment. <i>The appointment was seconded by Sue Rose and agreed by all.</i></p>														
9d	<p>Appointment of County Independent Examiner The Treasurer, Paul Ingram, has proposed that MHA Monahans continue as Independent Examiner. <i>The appointment was seconded by Justine Purkis and agreed by all.</i></p>														
10	<p>Scouters nominated from District Scout Councils are:-</p> <table data-bbox="183 996 782 1265"> <tr> <td>Mid Wiltshire</td> <td>Damien Hassjes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>North East</td> <td>Viv Lucas</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Salisbury & South Wilts</td> <td>Mike Hiley</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Swindon North</td> <td>Dave Prior</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Swindon Ridgeway</td> <td>Robert Morris</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wiltshire North</td> <td>Caroline Butson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wiltshire West</td> <td>Mollie Beales</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>All nominations were proposed by Chair and agreed by all.</i></p>	Mid Wiltshire	Damien Hassjes	North East	Viv Lucas	Salisbury & South Wilts	Mike Hiley	Swindon North	Dave Prior	Swindon Ridgeway	Robert Morris	Wiltshire North	Caroline Butson	Wiltshire West	Mollie Beales
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11	<p>Appointment of County Executive Committee Chair thanked everyone who has served on the Committee this year for all their hard work and support, especially in the trying conditions we find ourselves of virtual and hybrid meetings.</p> <p>The County Executive Committee consists of :- Ex-officio members who are: County Chair, County Commissioner, County Youth Commissioner, County Secretary and County Treasurer</p> <p>Nominated Members:- Roger Reeves, Graham Belsten, Richard Holmes <i>All nominations were agreed by all</i></p>														
	<p>Elected Members:- George Thornton, David Waspe, Daniel Bavister, Tom Dobson, India McLean <i>All nominations agreed by all</i></p>														

	<p>Chair informed all that County Executive Committee also has the option to co-opt additional members in the future if required to provide specific skills. This is a matter for the executive not the AGM. Currently there are no co-opted members.</p>
12	<p>County Representative to the Council of the Scout Association The County Commissioner and County Youth Commissioner are ex officio members. In addition the County Executive has nominated Justin Purkis – County Chair, Mollie Neville – County Youth Commissioner and Dan Bavister <i>All nominations agreed by all</i></p>
13	<p>County Commissioners Report Prior to the CC talking through his report he presented Wood Badges to - Neil Wills, Matthew Mollart and Tom Roberts Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Victoria Nye, presented a Civil Service Award to Chris Boom</p> <p>County Commissioner’s Report to the AGM – July 2022</p> <p>How fantastic is this? Our first face to face Annual General Meeting since 2019! It is so wonderful to be able to meet everyone again face to face and let you all know that Scouting Wiltshire has managed to keep going over the last two devastating years of Covid-19 and is now back on the road again, heading towards a full recovery. 2022 is going to be very good for us and I have every confidence that 2023 and beyond is going to be even better for Wiltshire Scouts. There are so many plans, agreements and actions taking place, on top of all the positivity I am feeling right now, that I can truthfully say, we are in a very good place right now.</p>  <p>I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved, to all our amazing leaders, managers and supporters, from District Teams to Groups and individual Sections, to Scout Active Support Units, our County Leadership/Support and Training Teams and our Governance Teams at Group, District and County levels. Thank you for your commitment, drive, creativity and importantly, administration, in ensuring that throughout the pandemic and beyond, our young people continued to receive high quality programmes, whether they were delivered using social media, communication platforms or by running the gauntlet and deciding to stay with the face to face approach, despite the issues encountered in abiding by the enforced social distancing rules, in addition to facing the complexities of writing Covid-19 Safety Risk Assessments too! However, I’m glad to say that all our Groups are now reaping the benefits of returning to some form of normality, meeting face to face and judging by the numerous reports and online posts from Groups right across the County, our young people are once again experiencing fun, challenge and</p>

adventure, and not forgetting, learning valuable skills for life.



Here are just a few examples of what Groups, Districts and the County have done or are doing now or planning for in the future:

- International expeditions – now that borders have been relaxed somewhat, a number of Groups have planned international trips for example, at least two Groups have planned visits to Kandersteg International Scout Centre in Switzerland, the County have organised a skiing trip to the Valle de'Aosta in early 2023 and of course, next year will see the 25th World Scout Jamboree in South Korea, where we have a full Unit of 36 young people and four Leaders from Wiltshire currently training for this trip of a lifetime. There will be more on this later on in the AGM where we have a presentation for you delivered by some of the members of the WSJ Unit itself.
- Every Group and Section are delivering amazing programmes to young people and many young people are now experiencing Night's Away activities again. Activities such as crafts, pioneering, backwoods cooking, camping skills, navigation and learning all manner of skills for life. There has been a significant rise in the number of Adventurous Activity and Night's Away Permits, which give credence for this. Just recently the County staged the Cub Scrap Heap Challenge, which witnessed a number of Cub Packs from across the County compete against each other in designing and building displays based on the theme of 'Jungle Party'. This event was organised by Kate May, our DCC (Programme Support) and was a huge success. The worthy winners were Neston & Box Cub Pack from Wiltshire North and the runner up Pack was Warminster Cubs from Wiltshire West District, but in my mind, everyone was a winner! You will be pleased to know that a number of other County run competitions are in the pipeline, for example, County Scout Cooking Skills, Camping Skills and some long

overdue, no thanks to the pandemic and lockdown restrictions, Patrol Leader/Assistant



Patrol Leader Training.

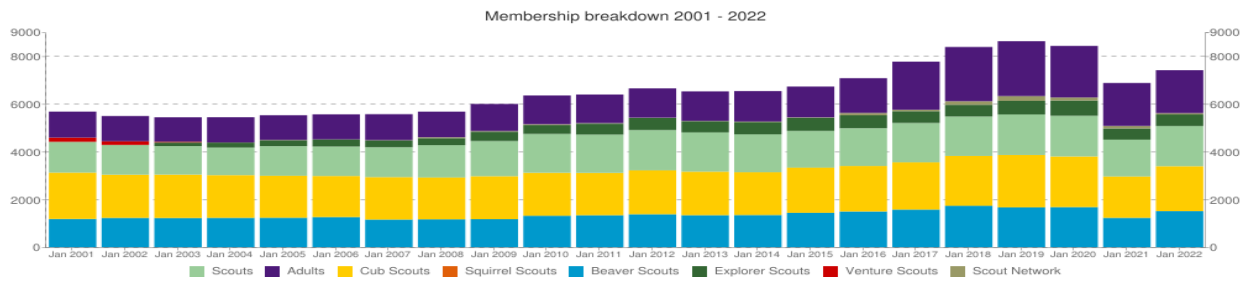
- The County has created a Scout Active Support Unit that focuses on events and thanks to Tom Roberts (SASU Manager) and his team consisting of Mollie Nevill, our County Youth Commissioner, Dan Bavister, our County Transformation Lead and Tom Dobson, District Youth Commissioner for Swindon North, who were the founding members, we now have a growing team in place that will plan, deliver and coordinate County run events, for example, based on last year's successful Celebration of Scouting in Wiltshire event in September 2021, we will be running Celebrate 22, which will again be a fantastic, fun-filled day full of activities at Wiltshire Scout Centre on the 1st October 2022 for our young people to take part in and enjoy, and provide the ideal opportunity for their parents to see what they get up to in Scouting. Each District has been invited to help support this event by putting on an activity to augment the big ticket activities planned for the day. The Events Team are looking for volunteers to help with this amazing event so if you would like to offer your support, please do get in touch with Tom Roberts and his team.

To give you a feel of where we currently are regarding growth and the direction we are heading, De Jones, our Deputy County Commissioner for Growth and Development, has put together the below report with some notable facts and figures:

Achieving Growth in 2022

Despite the previous two years being tough and whilst many are still recovering from the effects of the pandemic, thanks to the hard work and dedication of all our volunteers we achieved 11% growth of our young people. This equates to 535 more young people enjoying all the activities that Scouting has to offer bringing our total membership to 7,409. That's 5,612 young people supported by 1,797 amazing adults across the County. Despite a small number of Sections having to join together and consolidate resources, additional Sections have been opened and it is great to be able to report that 1st Stratton St Margaret Scout Group in Swindon North has opened our very first Squirrel Drey in Wiltshire, with three more Dreys opening later in the year and already, we have appointed our first Assistant County Commissioner for Squirrels Section Support, so a huge thank you to Tracy Jackson for agreeing to take on this new role in the County.

Growth Trend:



Extending our Reach

In the last year we have provided support in conjunction with the Regional Service Team, advertised the wealth of knowledge now available on the Scouts website regarding growth and development to help aid the recovery process. We have extended our reach into areas of deprivation within the County ensuring young people within those areas have access to Scouting and will continue to do this with the further opening of Squirrel Dreys across the County. The fact that we are an all-inclusive movement has been promoted by way of using promotional material and establishing links within communities.

Growth Opportunities

As part of our strategic objective we must provide and maintain sufficient Colonies, Packs, Troops, Units and Networks to meet local need and with 1,524 young people declared to be on waiting lists within the County we must look at the opportunities we have to ensure more young people have the chance to experience Scouting in Wiltshire. We are currently missing 3 Sections to make every Group and District complete by opening these Sections at 24 per Section this would give 72 new young people the opportunity to enjoy Scouting. There are 65 Sections with fewer than 12 members. If all of these Sections reached 12 members that would give an additional 253 young people the opportunity to gain Skills for Life. Across the County there are 28 Sectional waiting lists of 12 or greater, 28 new Sections at 24 per Section would allow a further 672 young people to enjoy high quality programmes filled with fun, challenge and adventure. Currently we have 51 Young Leaders across 1 Drey, 88 Colonies, 94 packs and 84 Troops. To achieve at least two in each Section there would need to be an additional 483 Young Leaders, that's 483 potential adult



members of the future running our Sections.

How are we going to achieve this?

Working closely with District Commissioners and their teams we have a work bank of potential new provision taking us up to 2024 and we will be working with Groups in developing their own growth plans. Focus will be placed on recruiting and promoting Young Leaders, our future adult members, as well as attracting more adults from across all our communities. I am actively seeking

members to become Local Growth Facilitators in Districts that at present do not have someone driving growth.

Recently, the County Trustee board agreed to participate in a recent Regional Support Team initiative, where we agreed funding for a project that will secure for us two Development Team Assistants (DTAs), whose role and responsibilities will include helping reduce the number of young people on our waiting lists, assist in the restarting of closed Groups and Sections, contribute towards adult volunteer recruitment and importantly, help the County grow in the number of young people by at least 5% each year. Agreed funding for these two salaried individuals is initially for two years, which would hopefully ensure that we satisfy our contribution towards the Scout Association's 2025 vision.

The past year has been a challenging but successful one thanks to our amazing volunteers' commitment to ensuring more young people have the opportunity to take part in the exciting, challenging fun filled adventure that is Scouting.

Compliance – Mandatory Ongoing Learning

Staying on the theme of facts and figures for just a little bit longer, I would like to share with you where we are with regard to compliance, or rather, report to you on where we are with those members who are overdue and/or outstanding in their mandatory ongoing learning requirement, the latest figures are:

- Safety training – 3% of our adult membership are overdue
- Safeguarding training – 3% of our membership are overdue
- First Aid Training – 7% of our membership are overdue

Considering our current situation regarding MOGL, the above figures are very positive, especially if you compare them to where we were in September 2021 which was our baseline to work from, which at the time nearly a quarter of our membership needed to do some form of MOGL. Ideally, it would be fantastic if we could get the percentages down to 2% across the requirement but there is clear indication that we are most certainly heading in the right direction. I would like to thank everyone who is involved in getting our numbers down as I know only too well how difficult



this can be.

Transformation

Most of you are now aware that Scouting UK is currently undergoing a period of transformation. This transformation is very much needed to ensure that we can meet our Association's aim and vision beyond 2025. This means we are facing truly exciting times ahead because the programme

will address many aspects of Scouting from how we recruit, support and train our volunteers so that they can do what they do best and deliver high quality programmes to young people, which will mean they will receive fantastic experiences and learn valuable skills for life, which will entice



others to want to join and do likewise, quite simple really!

Our transformation is being led and coordinated by our newly recruited Transformation Lead, Dan Bavister. To achieve greater insight into the changes afoot, Dan, Myself, Mollie Neville, County Youth Commissioner, and two District Commissioners, Sharon Gaitskell and Kelvin King, participated in an event at Manchester University in May of this year, aptly named Basecamp '22. At this event we learnt much about the number of changes coming our way, which are all very exciting and very much needed. The changes are based on four key areas that will start the programme, they are:

1. A warm welcome for everyone
2. Simplifying how we volunteer together with new roles and structures
3. More support to help get everyday things done: digital transformation
4. A more engaging learning experience

You will be pleased to note that we have already started making inroads into this transformation programme. As mentioned previously, we have appointed Dan as our Transformation Lead and Dan has already begun delivering sessions on what the programme is all about and what it means for us, as a County. If you have not taken part in one of Dan's sessions, please do not worry as he will be reaching out to everyone sometime soon. In addition, Dan submitted and received approval for a plan to improve the digital infrastructure of Wiltshire Scout Centre and I am pleased to announce that this work has now been completed. This work has resulted in greater bandwidth and internet accessibility for the Scout Centre, so that events such as our Adult Training weekends and any other Scouting events can now run successfully without interruption to or complete loss in connection. If anyone has any questions regarding Transformation, Dan will be more than happy



to help you.

And finally...

At the beginning of this report, I gave thanks to everyone involved in Scouting in Wiltshire and I would just like to add that without you, this County would not survive. I am indebted to you all and my only ask is that you continue to do what you do, because you are doing it very well. I would just like to end this report by sharing with you a number of Leaders and Supporters who have been recognised over the last 12 months for going above and beyond their role description and going that extra mile to ensure that Scouting for our young people is exciting as it can be. Taken from this year's Role of Honour, they are:

Bar to the Silver Acorn - John David Hunt

Bar to the Award for Merit

Colin David Hall
David John Brookes
Ian Schofield
Mark Roy Allen
Matthew Giles Bather

MID WILTSHIRE

Award for Merit - Lucy Ann Dempsey

Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service

Damian Haasjes
David John Stovell
James Richard Moody
Joseph Theo Pearson
Michael Robert Curry

SALISBURY & SOUTH WILTSHIRE

Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service

Andrzej Tadeusz Zieleniewski
Edward Chares Halsey

SWINDON NORTH

Award for Merit

Christopher Male
Holli Sacha Pinder
Toni Michele Lloyd

Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service

Andrew Purdy
Jacqueline Ann Stevens
Kelly-Louise Jayne Crawford
Simon Mulrain

SWINDON RIDGEWAY

Award for Merit

Richard Peter Bennett

Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service

David Kilminster
Gary James Payne
Gillian Esther Fatica
Jacqueline Bridget Ware
Jamie Richard McRobie
Janet Louise Baker
Joanne Lindsey Begg
Laura Elizebeth Joan Poole

	<p>Matthew David Baker Rebecca Elizabeth Stokes</p> <p><u>WILTSHIRE NORTH</u></p> <p>Award for Merit Janette Christine Barstow Joanne Hall Jonathan Barstow Kirsty Jane Stovell Martin Charles Bellinger Nicholas Robert Bartlett Stuart Philip Willimont</p> <p>Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service Andrew James Stovell Caroline Ann Hilder Carron Lesley Waterhouse Christine May Hibell Gregory Oliver Corr Jerome Semichon Kirsty Burnell Nigel Stuart Edwards Sarah Alison Ball</p> <p>I apologise if I have missed anyone from the lists above. If you have received an award but not listed here, I would like to say congratulations to you and a huge thank you what you do.</p> <p>Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Victoria Nye then said a few words. She stating that she was very honoured to be present, had minimal experience of scouting but was very excited to hear what the CC had said in his report. It was lovely to hear about what is done and what transformations and headings are being worked towards. Flowers were then presented to her.</p>
14	<p>World Scout Jamboree Presentation by young people attending The 25th World Scout Jamboree will be held August 1–12, 2023 at Saemangeum, North Jeolla, South Korea, hosted by Korea Scout Association with the theme, "Draw Your Dream". 36 people will be attending from Wiltshire. The young people talked through the process of selection and the team building events they will be holding. Wiltshire contingent will be called Brunel Bustards and as part of their fund raising they are selling bustard badges at £2.50. They are needing to do a lot of fund raising to attend, and their goal is to raise £4,000 each.</p>
15	<p>The Chair invited Acting Regional Commissioner, Brendon Booth to say a few words. Brendon thanked everyone for attending the AGM and especially the Jamboree Team for their presentation. He stated that part of Transformation is about making volunteering easier then more people will do it and then more people will come into scouting. He thanked everyone for all they do and the determination shown to keep scouting alive during COVID.</p>
16	<p>Vote of Thanks The Chair proposed a vote of thanks to all those who had in any way contributed to the event, and to the other events held in the last year.</p>
17	<p>DATE OF NEXT A.G.M. – Tuesday 18th July 2023 Chair informed all that we plan to hold our second County Celebration Day at Wiltshire Scout Centre on Saturday 1st October 2022. All welcome.</p>

