

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Held on Thursday 17th September 2020 online via Zoom

1. Welcome

Stephen Lake, the County Chair, welcomed members to the meeting.

Those present were: Andy Holter, Ang Healey, Ann Haseler, Ashley Freeman, Barbara Bridges, Callum Johnston, Caro McIntosh, Carole O'Donnell, Chris Ludwig, Colette Ballinger, Colin Steward, Dan Orchard, Dave Hall, Dave Hawkins, David Goldsmith, Emma Spiller, Gareth Ovens, Godfrey Tarling, Hamish Stout, Jean Buxton, Joan Goldsmith, Kat Holter, Keelan Tootell, Lauren Greening, Lewis Dangerfield, Liz Harding, Liz Hodge, Louise Little, Margaret-Mary McNeill, Mark Spiller, Mark Westwood, Mike Stennett, Pam Tovey, Paul Baker, Paul Trott, Richard Piper, Ricky Campbell, Roger Tovey, Ron Shell, Ruthie Stennett, Ryan Hawkins, Sarah Hick, Shelley Wright, Stephen Lake and Tom Harding

A motivational HQ video entitled "What Made Me" was played.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Vice President Robin Stayt, Martin and Helen Williams, Steve Jackson and Sam Tucker.

Members who had "Gone Home" during the year were remembered with a period of reflection:

Gerry Bannister – former leader at 1st Dursley Scout Group and lifelong supporter of Scouting

Trevor Cronk – leader at 1st Hatherley, 45th Cheltenham (Bethesda) and 24th Cheltenham (Shurdington) and former ADC Adult Training.

Ken Morris MBE – a stalwart of Scouting, as Honorary Vice President of Gloucester District, former District President and Group Scout Leader at 38th Longlevens

Brian Kimber – who gave many years to Scouting with various roles from leader, skills instructor, administrator, assistant commissioner, Honorary Vice President.

Keith Foord – former leader at Churchdown Scout Group and more recently a Group Skills Instructor.

Hugh Stanford – leader at 1st Swindon Village

3. Adoption of minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19th September 2019

The minutes were approved and would be signed by the Chairman when face-to-face meetings resumed.

4. Changes to POR since the last AGM

A number of amendments to POR had taken place in January 2020. Details had been made available to members ahead of the meeting. Key changes announced on 15/9/20 were:

- All adult members of the County who had roles in Table 2 of The Appointments Process were now members of the County Scout Council and would be invited to future EGM / AGM meetings.
- Training requirements for a number of roles had changed (with a one year transition to get this into place)
- Safety & Safeguarding were now valid for 3 years (like First Aid)
- New complaints, whistleblowing, Safeguarding and anti-bullying policies were in place

5. Receive and consider the Trustees' Report

The Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for 2019/20 had been distributed ahead of the meeting.

It was noted that, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Scouting had faced major challenges but had managed to adapt and to provide exciting experiences for its members. The challenges were set to continue but members were asked to be kind to all, to overcome frustrations and to continue Scouting in the best ways available.

Members were unanimous in their approval of the annual report.

6. Receive and consider the Trustees' Financial Statements for 2019/20

The Financial Statements for the year to 31st March 2020 were contained in the Trustees' Report, which had been circulated ahead of the meeting.

Points to note regarding the Financial Statements 2018/19:

- i. The detailed Statements had been professionally examined by Chartered Accountants, Randall & Payne and included a great deal of detail as required by various regulations. Overall, the County showed a small surplus of £266 for the year.
- ii. For ease of reference, a separate one page document had been produced which summarised the Income & Expenditure for the year and compared it with the previous year.
- iii. The financial result had been largely unaffected by Covid-19 as the suspension of face-to-face Scouting and the closure of Cranham came just a week before the year end. However:
 - a. It had proved necessary to write off some unrecoverable costs relating to 2020 Strategy & Evolution, which had been cancelled.
 - b. Cranham income was also affected by the loss of income during the latter part of March.
 - c. Since the year end, every effort had been made to reduce ongoing costs and to claim appropriate Covid grants and furlough income.
- iv. Over the last two years, Cranham had shown a significant financial improvement thanks to the hard work and determination of the management team. The signs were that this would have continued had it not been for the Covid pandemic.
- v. The coming year was going to be difficult for the whole of Scouting but the County had reserve funds, which would be likely to be needed (for details, see note 16 on pages 26 & 27).
- vi. Usually, the Executive Committee would designate surplus funds to appropriate future projects but because of the many uncertainties arising from Covid-19, it was felt prudent to retain flexibility and to react as the situation developed.
- vii. The Treasurer thanked the County Administrator for her work in maintaining the day-to-day accounting records.

The Treasurer was thanked for his hard work throughout the year. As he was standing down, a small gift had been presented earlier in the day. He had expressed a willingness to continue to offer support until a replacement had been recruited.

The Trustees' Report and Financial Statements, which had already been approved by the County Executive Committee, were endorsed by the meeting.

Membership of the County Scout Council

7. Approval of County Commissioner's nominations for membership of the County Scout Council

There were no nominations.

Forming the County Executive Committee

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| 8. | <p>a. Approval of County Commissioner's nomination of the County Chairman
The County Commissioner nominated Stephen Lake as County Chairman for the forthcoming year. The nomination was approved by the meeting.</p> <p>b. Election of the County Treasurer
A potential County Treasurer had been identified. Members agreed that an approach could be made.</p> |
| 9. | <p>Election of members of the County Executive Committee</p> <p>a. Confirmation of the number of members to be elected to the County Executive Committee
The Constitution, agreed in 2016, stated that there would be five elected members of the County Executive Committee with one coming up for election in 2020. Ann Haseler was standing down after two terms and she was thanked for her service</p> <p>b. Election of members to the County Executive Committee
Lauren Greening was proposed by Mark Spiller and seconded by Colin Steward and was elected by a unanimous vote.</p> <p>c. Approval of the County Commissioner's nominations of members of the County Executive Committee
The County Commissioner nominated Dave Hall, Lewis Dangerfield and Roger Tovey. These were approved unanimously.</p> |

Representing the County Scout Council

10. Election of representatives to the Council of the Scout Association

The County Commissioner was an Ex Officio member of the Council of the Scout Association

The two County Youth Commissioners were also ex-officio members of the Council of the Scout Association. With two youth representatives, the County chose not to elect a further youth representative.

The County was able to nominate one additional representative and Colin Steward has been proposed by Josh Foye and seconded by Ash Freeman.

External Examination of the County Accounts

11. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2020/2021

It was agreed that Randall and Payne would be appointed as Independent Examiners for 2020/21.

Additional Matters

12. Regional Commissioner, Hamish Stout

The Regional Commissioner described Scouting as an “essential service” and was keen to see groups return to face-to-face Scouting as soon as they were ready. He highlighted the importance of:

- Delivering exciting programmes
- Keeping young people and adults safe
- Ensuring that volunteers had adequate training and that they enjoyed what they doing
- Providing adequate funding to ensure that exciting and safe programmes could be delivered

A recent survey of parents had identified the benefits of Scouting to young people (eg increasing independence and confidence, opportunities to socialise, supporting mental health, providing adventures and fun).

13. County Commissioner

- The County Commissioner thanked all those who had contributed to the Annual Review ([Annual Review 2020](#)), which showed the huge and varied activities undertaken by Gloucestershire Scouts both physically up to March 2020 and virtually thereafter. Highlights were:
 - Beast Camp, despite the wet weather
 - Explorer / Network Ball
 - Virtual St George’s Day Parade
 - We Will Survive Camp
 - S&E @Home
 - Water Activities Day
- Since the outbreak of the pandemic, the County had worked hard to communicate with members using a variety of media and had shared good news stories, which had been well received.

Progress to Vision 2020 – the highlights

i. Growth

- a. Numbers of Scouts and Network increased
- b. Fewer small sections
- c. An increase in the number of top awards

But, with over 1,000 young people on waiting lists, the challenge was to reduce these numbers.

ii. People

- a. The County Training Programme had been re-launched
- b. Training was being delivered more widely
- c. Gloucestershire was running its own Manager and Supporter Training sessions
- d. The website had been rebuilt. A Coronavirus Support page had been added
- e. The DCC People had been writing fortnightly blogs

iii. Programme

- a. Inspiring Programme Awards had been presented during the year to the leadership teams at Dursley Beavers, Dursley Cubs and Cam Scouts. Also presented with the award were Lynn Dartnell (1st Bourton-on-the-Water) and Emma Black (1st Lechlade).
- b. Inspiring Programme Awards were due to be presented to Anne Green (2nd Twyning), Freya Williams (22nd Gloucester), Georgina Blagden (45th Gloucester) and Louise Little

(Randwick).

c. Five further nominations were being considered.

The County Commissioner applauded the achievements during the year, whilst acknowledging that there was still work to be done.

He thanked the County team, the County Executive Committee, the DCs and his family for all of their hard work and support.

He ended with the following quote: *“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted” (Aesop)*

14.	County Youth Commissioners <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There were eight District Youth Commissioners covering six districts with vacancies in North Cotswold and Cotswold.• Just prior to lockdown, the youth commissioners had attended a national Youth Commissioner Support Day at Baden-Powell House. This had proved very informative.• The “Mock Executive” project was launched in September and was aimed at introducing Explorers and Network members to Executive Committees – what they did and how they operated. It was hoped that this resource would be used more in the future when things had settled down.• It was noted that in the current challenges, youth shaped Scouting was not at the forefront of people’s minds. The CYCs were planning a Zoom meeting with the DYC’s in order to look at ways of promoting youth shaped Scouting.
15.	AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Water Activities Advisor requested that the Water Activities be included in the Gloucestershire Scouts’ website rather than being a separate website.
16.	Conclusion of AGM <p>The County Chairman thanked the County Commissioner and his team for their hard work especially in the current difficult times. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting.</p>

Signed:

Date: