

**The Annual General Meeting of the Surrey County Scout Council held at the Cobham Curve, Fairmile Lane, Cobham KT11 2BU at 8 pm on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**Minutes**

The meeting opened with a short audio-visual presentation from the Media Team reviewing the 2023-2024 Surrey events including the WSJ, KIX and Scoutabout.

**1. Introduction and welcome**

Ian Newbury, County Chairman, welcomed 84 members and observers (listed as an appendix to these minutes) to the meeting and particularly our President, HM Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Mr Michael More-Molyneaux, Dr Derek Pollard, Vice-President, Beverley Heywood-Jones, County Commissioner Surrey East Guides and Sarah Ings, County Commissioner Surrey West Guides.

**2. Apologies for absence**

Had been received from 34 members ( listed as an appendix to these minutes) of the Council including the Regional Commissioner, James Palin who was unwell.

**3. Governance Topics**

(a) Acceptance of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023 was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Alex Fairweather and approved by the meeting.

(b) The acceptance of the revised constitution for Surrey County Council agreed by the Trustees was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Kelvin Freeman and the meeting agreed to its adoption.

(c) The meeting noted that the County's financial year ran from 1 April to 31 March.

(d) The meeting approved the appointment of Gordon Bates, Dr Derek Pollard and Martin Gerrard as members of the Council and that Saj Hussein (Chair, Surrey County Council), Beverley Heywood-Jones and Sarah Ings be community members of the Council.

(e) The Trustee Board recommended that the Board should have a minimum of five and maximum of 12 members, seconded by Dr Julia Kielstra and approved by the meeting.

(f) The meeting approved a recommendation from the Trustee Board and proposed by the Chair, seconded by Phil Currie, that the quorum for future meetings of the County Scout Council (excluding this AGM) should be 25.

#### **4. Review of 2023/24**

(a) In speaking to the published Annual Report, Joe Rogerson, County Commissioner, referred to the video and Annual Report as examples of what Surrey had achieved. He particularly highlighted the record of top awards awarded across the sections. Numbers have been up across the County. In looking at the challenges across Scouting he mentioned the priority of safety, following the report of the Great Orme incident. Safety was a priority, secondly, growth, reiterating we are the standard for youth volunteering. Our role is to make the next generation one of better people. A core issue is the financial situation at Headquarters following the impact of Covid and the WSJ in Korea. Finally, transformation - by the end of September we will know when the new digital platform will arrive. This also includes the new titles. Most importantly, the change to working in teams to encourage retention of adults. None of these jobs are easy, but we want the 'magic of Scouts'. We need to 'light the fire' but need to put in the hard work of 'collecting wood' and that is what Surrey is good at.

#### **(b) Receiving and considering the Annual Report of the County Trustee Board**

The meeting received the published Annual Report and the audited accounts, they having been previously approved by the Trustee Board. The accounts were presented to the meeting by the Treasurer, Gary Ernest.

Gary mentioned that although there were 17 pages, he wasn't going through all of them. We had a record level of income of over £1 million which had required a full audit, mainly because the County had hosted three substantial events adding income of over £900K. Bentley Copse had performed well with revenue of £377k, whilst we had received donations of £100k. Bentley has reached a level where it is sustainable, its core objective is to provide training and be a site for Scouts. Our total surplus was £144k primarily as a result of the final part of the legacy from Richard Shortman. Our profits have come from non-recurrent income, so we are set to break even going forward. We have less events in 24/25, the major one being Scoutabout which turned over £240k, so we should not need a full audit as we are expecting total revenue to be below £1 million. The Bentley development plan includes - three new buildings (new toilet block, range needs replacing, new building to house archery and climbing wall) planning permission has been gained for all three, thanks

to the work of Mike Keeble, previous treasurer. There are some restrictions but plans are being drawn up and will then go out to tender. Estimated cost of £1.2 - £1.4 million. We have 700K, but will need to raise the over 700k. Applying to trusts for some six figure funds. The Trustees are keen to see how we can get Scouts across Surrey to contribute, open for ideas, talk to Ian or Joe. Accounts had been subject to a full and extensive audit which had raised some queries about how we recorded the transactions in the County SASUs and we will need to review those processes.

Gary as thanked for his outstanding work as Treasurer which was endorsed by the meeting.

The meeting received the published Annual Report and accounts

## **5. Making appointments**

The Chair highlighted the open and transparent process that had taken place in respect of appointments for the County Trustee Board. Whilst new appointments could be for an initial maximum of three years, the Board had agreed to vary the length of new appointments.

(a) Appointment of Chairman: One nomination for County Chair had been received and the meeting approved the appointment of Ian Newbery for one year.

(b) Appointment of Treasurer: One nomination had been received for County Treasurer and the meeting approved the appointment of Gary Ernest for three years.

(c) Appointment of Trustees: Following the open selection process the Board recommended the appointment of the following as Trustees whose appointment was approved by the meeting:

Julia Kielstra – 2 years

Martin Gerrard – 2 years

Hellen Lutton – 1 year

Hugh Gosling - 3years

Joe Casey – 1 year

Kewin Kobylski – 2 years

Thanks were expressed for the excellent contributions to the governance of the County by Benita Middleton, Howard Park and Claire Morris who were standing down from the Trustee Board. The Chair made a presentation on behalf of the County to Benita.

(d) Re-appointment of President and Vice Presidents: The meeting unanimously approved the re-appointment of HM Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Mr Michael More-Molyneux as President, and Dr Derek Pollard and Mr Gordon Bates as Vice Presidents.

(e) Appointment of Independent Examiner : Gary Ernest proposed Alliotts LLP to be our Independent examiner/auditor (as appropriate) and this was approved by the meeting.

(f) The meeting noted the members of the County Scout Council nominated to represent the County on the Council of the Scout Association (second year of three year nomination) - Martin Gerrard, Phil Currie and Marcus Martin-Burns were nominated to represent County.

## **6. Closing Remarks**

The Chair thanked all those involved with Scouting in the County, our paid staff and especially Joe Rogerson for his work as County Lead Volunteer.

As President, Mr Michael More-Molyneux spoke, noting how impressive that, as a volunteer organisation, we bring in so many people to support and help out. Without volunteers like those in Scouting, life in Surrey would struggle. He noted our numbers and waiting list and commended the success that shows. Having attended Scoutabout he was very impressed, especially by the lack of mobile phones! Having seen a presentation from attendees of the Korean WSJ, he was impressed how people made the most of it despite the adversities. He was proud to be president.

The Lord Lieutenant presented the King Charles III Coronation Medal to Luke Arscott.

The business meeting was followed by an excellent presentation on an Explorer Belt expedition to the Netherlands, following which Joe presented Explorer Belts to the team members of Adam, Tom, Jess and Sophie.

The following awards were presented following the meeting:

King's Scout Award - Kewin Koblynski

The Wood Badge - Carter Coles & Josh Goodwin

5 year service - Marcus Martin-Burns & Adam Rainer

10 year service - Nick Cann accepted on behalf of Jess Cann

15 year service - Quentin Vaughn

25 year service - Paul Iverson

Chief Scouts Commendation – Martin Marcus-Burns

Bar to the Award of Merit - Gary Ernest

Silver Acorn - Kath Ashworth, Denise Iverson & Simon Sikes

Joe concluded the evening by thanking everyone for their hard work as volunteers, both for the big events and the weekly Scouting and extended an invitation to them to join him for refreshments in the bar.

### Appendix 1 - Attendance

Michael More Molyneaux, HM Lord

Lieutenant

Katy Cozens - County Secretary

Julia Kielstra - DCC

Martin Gerrard - Vice Chairman

Ian Newbury - Chairman

Sam Featherstone - 2nd Cuddington

Joe Rogerson - CC

Gary Ernest (Online) - Treasurer

Stuart Kidd - DC - Leatherhead

Jess Harman - Exp Leader - Dorking

Tom Kiernan - Ast Exp Leader - Dorking

Alice Hope - Explorer - Dorking

M O'Sullivan - Chair- Godalming

Joe Casey - 1st Staines Ast Leader -

Spelthorne

Josh Goodwin - Explorer Belt Leader

Carter Coles - DCYC - Surrey

Sarah Ings - Girlguiding CC Surrey West

Lisa Freeland - Parent - East Grinstead

Mel Freeland - Sibling - East Grinstead

Sophie Freeland - Network Member - East Grinstead

Heather Howell - GSL - Runnymede

Jan Jobson - Banstead Rep- Banstead

Pauline Lewes - Training - Surrey

Colin Scarf - Training - Surrey

Chris Lintott - Surrey

Frank Lintott - SASU - Guest

Helen Lutton - Trustee

Sophie Sprachon - Woking Rep - Woking

Benita Middleton - Safeguarding Advisor

Denise Iverson - ACC BS - Surrey

Paul Iverson - Training - Surrey

Russ Baldwin - Network - Surrey

Ann-Marie Vinnicumbt - DLV - Farnham

Deborah Deare - Chair- Farnham

Andrew Carapy - Chair - Woking

Stumpy - SASU - Banstead

Neil Wilbberley - County Media Team

James Richardson - LL Cadet - Surrey

Luke Arscott - ACSL - Banstead

Tim Arscott - ACSL - Banstead

Karen Arscott - ACSL - Banstead

Kath Ashworth - DC - Woking

Kelvin Freeman - DLV - Banstead

Mark Winsett - DDC - Banstead

Penny Stock - DC - Caterham

Peter Lovet - Chair - Caterham

Adrian Jackson - DC - Reigate

Steve Valiant - CC Cubs - Runnymede

Johnathon Casse - Guildford

Peter Procuul - Haslemere

Ian MacQueen - Surrey

Colleen Wheeler - Chair - Dorking  
 Simon Payne - Treasurer - Banstead  
 David Robinson - SASU - Surrey  
 Joan Robinson - SASU - Surrey  
 Julie Bristow-Wark - DC - Godalming  
 Georgina Mercer - 1st Horsley - Guildford  
 East  
 Matthew Cornwell - GSL - Caterham  
 John Rayner - Asst GSL - Reigate  
 Amanda Rayner - Group Treasurer -  
 Reigate  
 Andrew Fozard - Treasurer - Runnymede  
 Judith Taylor - SASU - Spelthorne  
 Mike Taylor - SASU - Spelthorne  
 Nick Cann - Bentley Copse Centre  
 Manager  
 Graham Redrup - ACC Activities  
 Mark Freeland - CSL - East Grinstead  
 David Sainsbury - Surrey Scout Rifle Club -  
 Hampshire

Phil Currie - DCC - Surrey  
 Tricia Griffin - ACT - Surrey  
 Alex Fairbrother - DLV - Dorking  
 Justin Apps - ADC Scouts - Surrey Heath  
 Kerry Edwards - ACC(I) - Surrey  
 Simon Sikes - Air Activity Advisor - Surrey  
 David Shepherd - ADC Scouts - Banstead  
 Marcus MB - CYC  
 Chris Rowley - County Advisor - Surrey  
 Tom Wilkinson - DLV - Esher  
 Mark Burrows - DLV - Esher  
 Derek Pollard - Vice-President - Surrey  
 Ryan Cloyd - Bentley Copse Instructor  
 Kewin Kobylski - DCYC  
 Quentin Vaughan - DC - Guildford West  
 Ruth Beresford - DC - Godalming  
 Rod Nicholson - Scout Leader -  
 Runnymede  
 Graham Mountain - Lead Volunteer –  
 Reigate

## Appendix 2 - Apologies for absence

Andrew Carvell  
 Alistair Tickett  
 Andy Sainsbury-Brown  
 Carl Whitehead  
 Caroline Pearce  
 Charlie Brennand  
 Chris Davis  
 CJ Ledger  
 Fiona Hawker  
 Father Jonathan How  
 Gordon Bates  
 Gwen Hoare  
 Peter Hoare  
 Howard Hills

James Palin  
 Janet Manktelow  
 Martin Manktelow  
 Jen Yates  
 Lisa Cross  
 Liz Pocknell  
 Margaret Tilfor  
 Penny Lympny  
 Peter Hills  
 Peter Hoare  
 Phil Robertson  
 Richard Ayears  
 Rob Harlow  
 Tim Copson

Tony Pearson  
David Hawkins  
Christine Hughes  
Sue Hathaway  
Leigh Thomas  
Howard Park