

Minutes of the East Somerset District Scout Council AGM 24th September 2023 held at Edgar Hall Somerton



The AGM was opened by the Chair by welcoming all at 14:00

Attendees:

Louise MacDonald, Heather Pitts, Paul Bentley, Angela Bentley, Tim Rutherford, Bob Simpson, Ray Marsh, David Frowde, Pam Burch, Colin Anderson, Eric White, Chris Harper, Ann Tuck, Trevor Tuck, Heather Martin, Gemma Stacey, Allan Moore, Tristram Stobbs, Heather Anderson, Jan Doyle, Mark Tanner, Nicki Tanner, Margaret Pate, Jill Begg, Fiona Bayles, Liam Burt, Becca Pitts, Sarah Purdy, Lance Purdy, Elise Powis, Richard Howard, Dawn Wilson, Tim Wilson and Jean Brunning

Apologies:

Michael James, Howard Russell, Charlotte Redfearn-Ward, Pete Ward, John Myers, Renira Rutherford, Joan and Chris Jones

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting having been presented were *Proposed by Becca Pitts and Seconded by Allan Moore and accepted by all present.*

Finance Report by Treasurer and approval of accounts

The accounts were presented by the Treasurer, these were agreed, *Proposed by Bob Simpson and Seconded By Liam Burt and accepted by all present.*

Nomination of District Chairman by DC

The Chair then stood down and handed the meeting over to the DC Heather Pitts, who in turn Nominated Tim Rutherford for another year to which he agreed. This was seconded by David Frowde and *was accepted by all present.* The meeting was handed back to Tim to continue the business of the day.

Adopt the Constituion as laid down in POR

DC Heather Pitts suggested we adopted the constitution as listed in POR rather than compose one as a District. This was proposed by Jean Brunnings, seconded by Eric Wite and accepted by all present.

Agree numbers to constitute a quorum of Trustees at Trustee Board Meetings

DC Heather advised this was a work-in progress and numbers would be confirmed by the next AGM

Agree numbers to constitute a quorum of any sub-committee

As above

The sub committee for Finance already has a minimum of 3 members

Agree numbers to constitute a quorum of Trustees and Scout Council Members at Scout Council Meetings

As above

Election of District Secretary

In the absence of John Myers, Heather Pitts advised he was happy to carry on as Secretary. This was *Proposed by Paul Bentley and Seconded by Becca Pitts and accepted by all present.*

Lou MacDonald will be acting as scribe for minutes, when John is unable to attend meetings.

Election of District Treasurer

The chair then asked Pam Burch to carry on for one more year to which she agreed, with a caveat that she would continue for this year, but the District will need to find a new Treasurer for next year. This was *Proposed by Jan Doyle and Seconded by Jean Brunning and accepted by all present.*

DC nominations for members of the District Executive Committee/Trustee Board re-elected en bloc. This was *Proposed by Heather Pitts and Seconded by Allan Moore and accepted by all present.*

Ex-Officio Members	Elected Members	Nominated
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Tim Rutherford – Chair

Bob Simpson

None

Pam Burch – Treasurer

Michael James

Co-Opted Members

John Myers – Secretary

Howard Russell

None

Heather Pitts – DC Team (Camelot)

Adrian Ashford (County Chair)

David Frowde – DC Team (Avalon)

Paul Bentley – ADC - Comms

Chris Jones

Jan Doyle – DESC Avalon

Ray Marsh

Pete Ward – DESC Camelot

President

Wes Read

Right of attendance –

Dawn Wilson (CC)

Adrian Ashford (County Chair)

Appointment of Auditors

Chalmers and Partners were nominated again and were *Proposed by Jean Brunning and Seconded by Nikki Tanner and accepted by all present.*

DC's Report

DC Report – East Somerset AGM – 24th September 2023 – Heather Pitts

Thank you all for your show of support for the District with your attendance today.

The past 12 months have seen so much progression in the support of the young people in our area. The census figures in January showed that as a District we were enabling 1849 young people to access all that Scouting has to offer. That's an increase of 4.5% on the figures we had in 2022. This is following the continual trend of growth we have seen since the pandemic and is credited to the hard work and enthusiasm of the Adult volunteers who encourage the young people of our sections to think about what they would like to achieve, to do their best, to try everything on offer, at every opportunity. Research has shown that these experiences have such a positive impact on the mental health and well-being of Children and Young People and helps them to make positive choices for their futures.

As well as the opportunities that regular section meetings, and residential experiences have to offer, young people across our district have been supported to start to branch out into international experiences this year, for the first time since the restriction of the pandemic were lifted. Some of our Explorers have been working towards their Explorer Belt and we have seen 9 YP navigate the experiences of the WSJ. All acknowledge that it was not the experience they were expecting but the Volunteer Leaders who have supported them throughout the WSJ experience were able to ensure that all of the Somerset contingent had a positive experience of South Korean Culture and build on their ability to work together as a team and support each other to adapt to a continually changing programme of events. At the same time as the much publicised WSJ adventure was unfolding, 54 Adults and YP from Somerset were working with 3 schools in Nakura in Kenya. Again an international experience but with a completely different way of becoming absorbed in a very different culture, united by Scouting whilst encouraging Explorers to focus on how they can make a positive difference to other young lives. All of this was going on whilst a smaller group of YP were experiencing the fun and adventure of the Harlem Jamborette. East Somerset Scouts have definitely been getting out and about .

Opportunities with Scouting to access other activities and build on skills have also continued in the District, with Archery and Shooting Teams taking part in national competitions. Hill walking and letterboxing offer more opportunities to experience the beautiful area we live in ...and its diverse weather. As a District Team we are aware of the need for more opportunities for our Adult Volunteers to access appropriate training to support more adventurous opportunities and are working with the County Team to improve on this provision.

Mandatory Training Compliance – we are happy to report that our figures for compliance with Mandatory Safety and Safeguarding Training are lower than the national average. However, we are working with HQ, LTMs and GSLs to keep these figures down. The uniformity of the online training has made this important aspect of our volunteering commitment generally more accessible. The firmer requirements from HQ, to suspend leaders after a certain timeframe makes this more important for all the teams concerned. As the requirement for ALL section facing volunteers to hold a valid First Aid qualification is fast approaching, we have been working with the County team by encouraging leaders to book onto the courses as they arise as the Training Team have been working hard to ensure courses are offered in a variety of venues across the county. With the change to POR in October last year, where there must now be a qualified first aider present at all section meetings/events this is a vital piece of work.

The date for Transformation is moving ever closer with the timescale for the changes to the new database and the volunteer journey due to take place in February 2024. We are actively moving forward with "Cleaning Up COMPASS" and are encouraging GSLs to ensure the Adult information on their group is relevant and accurate. As a District Team, we have been working towards trying to ensure that the changes will be seamless for the Teams we are developing, ensuring that roles are

meaningful and appropriate. This includes the continuing development of our own Trustee Board whilst encouraging and supporting groups to do the same. Guidance for Transformation is continually changing and we are grateful to our Paul Bentley (ADC/LV Comms) and the AAC for working with Alan Henderson (County Transformation Lead) to navigate this rather challenging path.

The Census figures in January, also showed that we have an increase in the number of Adults who support Scouting in one way or another across East Somerset. We have over 600 Adults in a variety of different roles, some are more visible than others and if we started naming individuals we would run the risk of forgetting someone. However, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to every single one of you. Whether you meet with the YP on a regular basis or help keep them safe during the unforgiving weather conditions on district events, with words and smiles of warmth and encouragement. Whether you plan and support some of the bigger profiled district events or work hard in the background to support the foundations and compliance, to ensure that any event or activity can go ahead, we are so very grateful, the truth is that everyone in Scouting in East Somerset matters and although a few of us are privileged to see that on a regular basis, whilst actually working with the Children and YP, everyone should be reminded on a regular basis. SO thank you ALL.

Heather and David

East Somerset DC/LV

Guest Speaker
Dawn Wilson County Commissioner

With almost 2000 young people in East Somerset, with this number still growing with new Units and Sections opening, Dawn thanked everyone for their continuing work within Scouting.

It has been a phenomenal year for Somerset & East Somerset with Scout representation at the Queens Lying in State and the Kings coronation. International ventures to WSJ and Kenya, with more young people signing up to Roverway and other international opportunities.

Scouting has never been more needed for young people and adults alike. The Big Help Out was very successful with many huts opening their doors to become Warm Spaces for those who needed it, helping in the community.

Dawn highlighted the importance of ensuring that everyone keeps their Safety, Safe Guarding and First Aid up to date to ensure that we continue to keep everyone safe: when emails arrive, please read, respond and action.

Above all Dawn wanted to thank everyone for making Scouting in East Somerset happen.

All stood and renewed their promise

**On my honour,
I promise that I will do my best
to do my duty to God and to The King,
to help other people
and to keep the Scout Law.**

Presentations

5 Years Service

Heather Martin, Elise Powis, Richard Howard

25 Years Service

Jean Brunning

40 Years Service

Anne Tuck

Wood Beads

Lance Purdy, Peter Macey, Leah Macey

Chief Scout Commendation

Allan Moore, Peter Macey, Leah Macey

Medel of Merit

Lou MacDonald, Jan Doyle

The meeting was concluded by the Chair at 14:30