

**CHESTER & DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Lecture Theatre at Grosvenor Museum, Grosvenor Street, Chester
Thursday 18th May 2023

Meeting opened at 19.35

Present:

Kieran Skinner	District Chair
Alan Wilding	District Lead Volunteer
Mark Gallagher	District Treasurer

Together with the Vice Presidents, members of the Executive and guests. Total attendance 30.

1. Opening Reflection

The opening reflection was made by three World Scout Jamboree 2023 representatives Esme Rippon, Charlotte Mercer and Toby Abbott.

2. Welcome & Apologies

Welcome and thanks from the Alan Wilding, District Lead Volunteer. Alan nominated Kieran Skinner as the District Chairman for the forthcoming year, Kieran gladly accepted. A vote took place and this was given unanimously.

There were no additional items to be added to the agenda.

Apologies were received from

Rt Rev the Bishop of Chester (Honorary VP)
Rt Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Chester (Honorary VP)

Chris Huxley-Clowes (District Executive)
Tomas Smalldon (Scout Network, District Exec)
Callum Webster (District Exec)
Ashley Hynds (District Exec)
Steve Shone (District Exec)
Charlotte Hewitt

Daniel Gaskarth (1st Tarvin)
Tim McLachlan (Chair, Gang Show)
Roger Owens (County SASU Manager)

3. Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 19th May 2022

Minutes of the last meeting were unanimously approved and are to be published as the official record.

4. Election of Officers

District Secretary, one nomination for the post, elected is Liz Roberts.
District Treasurer, one nomination which was Mark Gallagher who is elected in the post.

5. Presentation of the Annual Review

The annual review was prepared and presented on projector screen by Megan Porter, DDC and DESC.

Megan reported that numbers were up from the previous year. Some of the highlights included: the introduction of Squirrels at Saltney. Beavers visited RAF Cosford Air Museum; Cub Scouts took part in Damboree. Chester Scout troops took part in the revamped Cheshire Hike which proved very popular. Chamboree was well supported by Chester and District Groups with Explorer Scouts grouping together, sharing leaders allowing more young people to attend. Chester Gang Show was able to take place again in 2022 with restrictions lifted just intime. In addition to the show week the Gang also appeared at Chamboree and at the invitation of Amasing performed at The Storyhouse and Chester Zoo. The Water Activities Team ran Paddleboarding and Kayaking Courses through the season. 2022 also saw the highest number of Queen and King Scout Awards for some years with 5 being awarded.

A copy of the presentation will be published on the district website.

6. Presentation of Annual Accounts

Mark Gallagher, District Treasurer explained the 2022 Accounts are pending final updates and review by the Independent Examiner and were not available for the meeting. This is due to a number of extenuating personal circumstances of Exec Committee Members and the change over to a new accounting system.

The Accounts are expected to be ready for review and approval at the next Executive Committee Meeting.

A special general meeting will be held after to receive the Accounts and the Annual Report.

In brief, Membership has increased from 1,141 in 2021 to 1,257. District Fee increased to keep up with rising costs. Capitation income increased by £3,613 by comparison to 2021. All highlights are included in a summary in the Annual Review.

As the accounts were not available today, there will be no vote. The vote will take place at the EGM.

7. Members to serve on District Executive Committee

Nominations had been put forward prior to the meeting, closing date was 12 noon on 4th May 2022.

We had three nominations these were approved unanimously. Congratulations and welcome to the following three who have been elected:

Calum Webster
Chris Huxley-Clowes
Michael Stout

8. District Commissioner Nominated Members for the District Executive Committee

The District Commissioner is allowed to elect the same number of people as have been elected by the membership. So, in this case Alan has up to three persons who he can nominate should he wish.

Alan had three nominations which are:

David Bull
Steve Shone
Kristy Collins

Unanimous show of hands endorsed the nominations of the District Lead Volunteer.

9. Election of member to serve on County Scout Council

Graham Polley was elected to serve on the County Scout Council. Passed unanimously.

10. Appointment of Auditor

McLintocks have agreed that they are prepared to be our Independent Examiner. McIntocks were unanimously approved by the meeting.

11. Resolution to adopt Chester and District Scout Council Constitution: -Revised on: 9 May 2023

Kieran advised about the resolution to adopt Chester and District Scout Council Constitution. This was unanimously agreed to be adopted.

12. County Commissioner Address

Dave Hopley, County Commissioner, thanked Chester and District for inviting him and noted it was great to hear Megan's review of the year.

Dave went on to give a presentation to the group on helping young people gain skills for life over the next twelve months.

In brief Dave talked about growth and recruitment. Equity, Diversion and Inclusion, wanting to make sure everyone feels Scouting is a place for them.

The aim is to make scouting volunteering easier and more enjoyable. On average a volunteer only stays for two years so we want make improvements to encourage them to stay longer.

At the moment there are approx. 200 roles in Scouting it is roles based and we are trying to move to a teams-based organisation.

Dave talked about bouncing back. Scouting is in the national media more than ever. Growth; there has been a 5% rise, with the biggest area for growth seen in Beavers. Explorers is booming. Waiting lists are high, running at 2000, with 681 for Squirrels alone. The importance of Scouting being Youth Shaped, preparing young leaders to lead.

Chamboree was a great success and Dave thanked everyone for their support.

This is going to be a big year internationally for the County with 80 attending the World Scout Jamboree 2023 in South Korea with the support of IST. 63 will be attending an event in The Netherlands. Exciting times ahead, looking forward Roverway will take place in Norway in 2024, Mute 2025 in Portugal and World Scout Jamboree 2027 to be held in Poland.

Dream Live a Community Day is an event planned to take place on 9th September 2023 where the aim is to show everyone, what Scouting is about.

Dave thanked Brandon Hone, our District Youth Commissioner who was chosen to be part of the King's Coronation celebrations representing Chester and District & Cheshire.

There are plans underway for new uniforms, a designer has been appointed however it will not be changing for the next 12 months.

In closing Dave thanked the WSJ IST who spoke at the opening of the AGM and to Alan, Meg, Brandon and team and to everyone here.

13. Presentation of awards

Alan, District Lead Volunteer presented Alison Wigglesworth with a 15-year service award. Of the 5 Queen and King Scout awards Toby Abbott was awarded a Queens Scout Award.

14. Vote of Thanks

The meeting finished with a vote of thanks from Brandon Hone, District Youth Commissioner. Brandon thanked Dave Hopley for his address. Brandon also thanked the District Exec, Training Team and everyone who is involved in the day to day running of Scouts.

Meeting closed at 20.25