

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL
Hallowtree Activity Centre, Alnesbourne Priory, Nacton, Ipswich, IP10 0JP
Thursday 21st September 2023 at 7.45pm**

PRESENT:

Peter Jones (County Chair), County Commissioner, County Treasurer, County Secretary and Members of the County Scout Council (as per Constitution).

Introduction by the Chair

- a. **Welcome:** the meeting opened with Peter Jones, County Chair, welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending especially Katherine West, County Commissioner from Suffolk Girlguiding.

He noted the apologies from the Vice Presidents and wished Gordon Biden who had recently had a fall, a speedy recovery.

The meeting was confirmed as quorate with 27 Council members in attendance and with sixteen guests.

- b. **A Thought for the Meeting** was delivered by the Deputy County Commissioner, Keith Barber.
- c. **Apologies** for absence (34) had been received from – Lady Clare, Countess of Euston (County President), Alison Barber, Gordon Biden, Sarah Britten, Martin Brooks, Gary Burden, Steve Challis, Celia Comber, Robin Farrar, Leigh Foster-Green, Alfie Foster-Green, Matt Gilbert, Mike Golston, Alan Gosling, Brian Harvey, Debby Hatcher, Paula Hollings, Anne Humphrys, Paul Hunt, John Ineson, David Jameson, Peter Jarvis, Janet Jennings, Lucy King, Graham Mackie, Matt Mills, Selina Noton, James Nunn, Michael Phillips, Alex Price, Brian Roe, Jenny Roe, Henry Slim, Charmain Southgate.
- d. **The Minutes of the previous County Annual General Meeting** held on 22nd September 2022 were **APPROVED**.

Governance

a. Suffolk Constitution

- i. Members were asked **to approve** the recommendation of the **Trustee Board for the re-adoption of the Suffolk Scouts' Constitution updated 21-Jun-2023 to v1.0b**.
- i. This was **APPROVED** by the members.
- ii. **To note the amendments to the Suffolk Constitution in respect of the terms 'Executive Committee' and 'Trustee Board'** with the changes introduced in POR in April 2023, the term 'Executive Committee' is replaced by 'Trustee Board' throughout the document. By inference, an 'Executive Member' becomes a 'Trustee Board Member'.
- i. Members **ACKNOWLEDGED** the changes.

b. Financial Reporting Year dates

Members were asked to note that the Council's Financial Year begins on 1st April in each year and ends on 31st March the following year.

Members **ACKNOWLEDGED** the dates.

Review of 2022/2023

a. Receive and consider the Annual Report & Accounts 2022/23:

Howard Blackett presented the Annual Report and highlighted the following points:

- i. *44-page document*
- ii. *Many thanks to all those who contributed a section of the report. Particular thanks to Jonny Emin, Treasurer, for the finance report and to Carl Gloess, Administrator, for chasing hard and for ensuring that the report was made ready both electronically and in hard copy for this evening's meeting.*
- iii. *Of note in the report:*
- a. *The County's finances are healthy (Jonny Emin to elaborate).*
- b. *Our young people have been busy at all levels of scouting.*

c. *There has been very encouraging growth in the number of participants, and we are on course to meet our growth target numbers. Growth in squirrel dreys has been conspicuously good. Thanks to all our ACCs in charge of various sections:*

i. A.C.C. (Squirrels) Brian Harvey

ii. A.C.C. (Cub Scouts) Jo Cracknell

iii. A.C.C. (Scouts) Angela Humphrey

d. *We still have too many young people on waiting lists.*

e. *There is a very thorough county safety report written by Gary Burden*

f. *200 young people are participating in the DofE Award and there have been 30 Bronze, 13 Silver and 2 Gold Awards. There is scope for growth in this area. Thanks to Ralph Hansby-Patterson and team.*

g. *In addition to the WSJ we are looking abroad for opportunities and we are planning a trip to Norway (Roverway). Thanks to Heather Bridges ACC (International)*

h. *Training has gone well as ever. Thanks to Jenny Roe*

i. *Plenty of CMAT related activities and water-based activities. Thanks to Andy Black and Leigh Foster-Green*

j. *Plenty of awards in recognition of the contribution made by our adult volunteers across the county.*

iv. *In summary – the report paints a very encouraging picture. Scouting in Suffolk continues to recover from the ravages of Covid and is thriving.*

v. *Finally, and not in the report but we will hear more later, I would like to thank and congratulate Steven Young and his team of Heather Bridges, Lucy Seary and Annie Jones for looking after our WSJ contingent. Under very difficult circumstances they led a highly successful trip.*

No questions were asked about the report.

b. Receive and consider the **Annual Statement of Accounts 2022/23:**

John Emin, County Treasurer provided the following commentary regarding the accounts:

The financial activity at county level in the year to 31st March 2023 was a much busier one than the year before as general scouting and events returned following Covid.

As a result, our income increased to £343,000 from £65,000 the year before. This was primarily due to events and activity income which totalled £265,000 of which World Scout Jamboree alone contributed £139,000. Naturally the costs associated with these activities and events also increased substantially.

The Net Income shown for the period of £24,000 does not include the cash effect of spending on replacing and renewing fixed assets across the county estate. It also includes an element of timing differences for World Scout Jamboree where further expenditure has yet to be incurred.

Excluding activities and events, county income for this financial period was £31,000, based on £6 per young person. We spent almost all of this income with total unrestricted cash outflows for the period of £28,000. The main expenditure items included: -

- *County administrator and office costs - £8k*
- *Insurances - £5k*
- *Bradfield Loan repayment - £5k*
- *Contributions to activity teams - £3k*

Turning to the balance sheet, Our net assets have increased to £365,000. Of this sum £154,000 related to fixed assets, the majority of which is the value of Bradfield and its related assets.

Cash balances, on the face of it, look extremely healthy however at £365,000 however we must note that, as at the accounts date, £178,000 of this sum was due to be paid to UK HQ for membership fees and a further £52,000 is held in restricted funds.

For the year ahead we continue to replace and refresh our county stores, further rebuild our WSJ fund and push on with investigating our plan to provide a new county office now that we have left our old home on Cauldwell Hall Road.

Finally, I had the pleasure of working with Steven Young and his team in following the financial activity of the World Scout Jamboree event in South Korea. I would like to record my thanks and admiration for the way Steven and the team worked so hard in the long build up to the event to ensure, financially at least, it ran very smoothly indeed.

No questions were asked about the report.

Make Appointments

- a. The County Commissioner's nomination for **County Chair, Peter Jones**, was **APPROVED**.
- b. The County Commissioner's **Nominated members** of the County Trustee Board were **APPROVED**
Rodney Turner Selina Noton
- c. Election of the **County Secretary – Carl Gloess - *unanimously elected***.
- d. Election of the **County Treasurer – Jon Emin - *unanimously elected***.
- e. The following people were Elected to sit on the County Trustee Board (3 years left).
Colin Winter Keith Barber Dan Jackson Gareth Cox [One elected seat remains vacant]
Matt Gilbert stood down having served for a number of years and was thanked for his contribution to the board.
- f. Jon Emin proposed the appointment of **Ian Brookman as Independent Examiner** – seconded by Rodney Turner which was ***approved unanimously***.
- g. County Representative nominated to serve as a **Member of the Council of the Scout Association** (3 years left) – **Keith Barber**
- h. County Representative nominated to serve as a **18-24 Member of the Council of the Scout Association** – **currently no nomination**.

It was confirmed that both of Suffolk's National Council Representatives are 'invited to attend' County Trustee Board meetings.

The Chair noted that **Co-opted Members** of the County Trustee Board are selected (if required) at its first meeting after the AGM.

Close of Meeting by the Chair of the Trustee Board.

The County Commissioner, Howard Blackett was invited to address the meeting and gave the following commentary.

I would like to raise a few points from my own specific report and add a few comments to the ones I made earlier when presenting the report.

- i. Appointments
 - a. I am delighted to say that the following DC appointments have been made:
 - i. DC Waveney Steve Denton
 - ii. DC Lowestoft Jo Harley
 - iii. DC Orwell Max Raffe
 - iv. DC Deben Alex Price
 - b. One other appointments of note:
 - i. Transformation Lead Colin Winter
- ii. Appointments required:
 - a. CYC – we have a good candidate for this post
 - b. There are gaps in adult volunteers at every level highlighted in my report (NB 20 of 89 groups are operating without a GSL)
 - c. County SLT and DCs are working hard at it
- iii. County Senior Leadership Team (SLT)
 - a. This now includes DCs which has greatly improved communications between the County and the Districts.
 - b. I am in the process of reviewing various county roles and this is also being done at district level to help the deployment of adult volunteers into the right places.
- iv. Transformation agenda
 - a. This is being led by Colin Winter
- v. Programme

- a. Led by Andrew Shoesmith DCC (Programme) with ACCs who met recently for the first time.
 - b. Integration of the DofE scheme is important.
- vi. Strategic plans
 - a. Still working on them
 - b. Brief in presentation – reflecting the national plans.
- vii. Girlguiding Suffolk
 - a. Very warm welcome to Katherinne West
 - b. I visited the guides' annual camp held at the Suffolk Showground
 - c. I am committed to developing a strong relationship with Girlguiding Suffolk
- viii. Thanks
 - a. To our 2,000 adult volunteers
 - b. County SLT
 - c. Carl Gloess County Administrator
 - d. County Trustees led by Peter Jones, County Chairman
 - e. Keith Barber DCC

The Chair thanked the members for attending and noted the close of business.

The meeting closed at 8.14 pm

Awards: The County Commissioner presented the following award (with citation)

- **Good Service Awards**
Silver Wolf
Keith Gleen
- **Suffolk DoE Gold Neckerchief** (a new County award for Gold DoE Award achievers)
Molly Peacock
- **Wood Badge**
Heather Bridges (WSJ Deputy Leader)

Presentation then followed from the **Suffolk Saxons Unit to 25th World Scout Jamboree in South Korea** in July/August 2023.