

Minutes of the Blackdown District Scout Council Annual General Meeting held on 7th June 2017 at Tangier

Attendees

John Lewis (Chairman)

Pam Gaines (District Commissioner)

David Johnson (Treasurer)

Elizabeth Henderson (County Commissioner)

Adrian Ashford (County Chairman)

(See attendance list at end)

1. Welcome

John Lewis opened the meeting, welcomed all present especially Liz Henderson County Commissioner and Adrian Ashford County Chairman.

2. Opening Thought

John Lewis offered the following as context for the meeting

“Scouting is a fine game, if we put our backs into it and tackle it well, with real enthusiasm. As with other games too we will find that we gain strength of body, mind and spirit from the playing of it.” (B-P)

“Life without adventure would be deadly dull.” (B-P)

“A Child Does Not Owe

You must educate those children. You must love those children

You must do all you can to protect and nurture those children and,

You must remember; there is only one thing a child owes you: Nothing!

A child does not owe you respect. A child does not owe you gratitude.

Those things are gifts the child chooses to give, so long as you deserve them.”

(*Nelson Mandela*)

3. Apologies

President Charlie Back, Vice Presidents Sheila Bourner, Babs Collins, John Palmer & Pat Hitchcock. Yvonne Back, Peter Venn, Barbara Collins, Ian Marks, Steve Mitchell, Jo & Lauren David, Graham Hodge, Nigel Morgan, Samm Gee, Bob & Wendy Camp. Guide Commissioner Sandra Verrier

4. Approval of minutes of AGM held 9th June 2016

Minutes of the previous Scout Council AGM were available to the meeting. All agreed these as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

5. To receive the Annual Report

The Annual Report had been published on the District website prior to the AGM. John formally presented the Report to the meeting thanking all the contributors. The reports were very informative of the large amount of work that goes on within the District. Of particular note were the Cubs 100 and Beaver 30 year celebrations and presentations of Silver Acorn to Kath Haste and Silver Wolf to Charlie Back.

6. Presentation of the Annual Accounts

David Johnson circulated a commentary plus key pages of the Accounts. The full SOFA accounts were available on the website. David summarised the information - income was down on the previous year from £143,180 to £131,609 and expenditure up from £127,649 to £141,819. It costs £20,000 to run Huish Woods

and essential work had been carried out and there were always the wages to pay. There was a deficit of £10,000 but this had been covered from reserves. The level of cash reserves is as the previous year. The Explorers have a separate Treasurer but both Ray and David would appreciate any available help and assistance. David gave great thanks to Norman Powell for all his help with the financial business – he will be sorely missed. Christian Hartnell raised a query about the need for an Investment Policy Statement and has offered to help with this if required.

John reported that the Annual Accounts had been approved by the District Executive

7. Appointment of President and Vice Presidents

On behalf of the Executive Committee John nominated Charlie Back as President and Vice Presidents as Cyril Bond, Dorothy Bond, Peter Bournier, Sheila Bournier, Babs Collins, Pat Hitchcock, and John Palmer. These were agreed by all.

8. Nomination of District Chairman

Pam Gaines (District Commissioner) nominated John Lewis to continue as District Chairman. All agreed

9. Election of District Treasurer and District Secretary

The only nomination for Treasurer is David Johnson who graciously accepted the role. No nominations for Secretary were received so this will remain vacant. The well-established current team will continue to deliver the administrative role.

10. District Commissioner's nomination of members of the District Executive

None were nominated

11. Election of members of the District Scout Council to the District Executive

Five nominations had been received for the six elected seats on the District Executive. The following were therefore duly elected: Peter Venn, Shaun Dale, Tricia Sedgbeer, Marian Scott and Lauren David

The District Executive therefore comprises the five above together with the Chairman, Treasurer, District Commissioner, District Explorer Commissioner, District Youth Commissioner and District Network Commissioner as ex-officio members.

12. Election of two Group Scouters to the County Scout Council

Pam nominated Yvonne Back (Bishops Lydeard) and Richard Williams (Trinity) - all agreed.

13. Appointment of Independent Examiner for the coming year

David Edworthy, who has filled this role for many years, has retired. Pam proposed Kevin Parsons be appointed – all agreed. Kevin is a former Cub & Scout from West Taunton

14. Constitutional Governance.

John explained that POR required the Scout Council to define a quorum for meetings of the Council and the District Executive and its Sub-committees. He recommended the following: -

1. A meeting of the Council shall be quorate where there are 17 members in attendance including the Chair of the District Executive and the District Commissioner where those positions are filled. –

AGREED

2. A meeting of the District Executive shall be quorate where there are five members in attendance including two officers - **AGREED**
3. A meeting of a Sub Committee shall be quorate where there are four members in attendance. Following a debate concerning the status of the Appointments Advisory Committee a proposal to amend the minimum figure to three for all Sub-Committees was **AGREED**

15. County Commissioner – Elizabeth Henderson

John invited the CC to say a few words. Liz expressed her pleasure at representing the County at the AGM having attended last years as Acting CC. 2016 was a year of celebration: 100 years of Cubs, 30 years of Beavers. She was pleased that she could attend the Blackdown Birthday Bash and the Cub Promise renewal event. The County Team is expanding and are helping to look after 3967 members. The 2017 census showed that the UK membership has grown for the 12th year. The County and Blackdown have grown by 3%. Liz thanked all those involved in providing the adventure of Scouting in Blackdown District.

Liz feels we are making a difference to Young People's lives by giving them skills for life. Managers are urged to find places for all those Young People that want to join Scouting. There is a joint project with Avon Scouts in the pipeline which should be of great benefit to both Counties The funds are secure. The March 'Inspire' day where ideas were shared together with guest speakers and the re-launch of the County website had been a great success. The new Blackdown District website is up and running and the Huish Woods website is nearly ready to go live.

In April County & District teams attended Summit 17 to work forward post 2018. This summer there is the Explorer Belt trip to the Silk Route. 2018 will be Rover Way for 16 – 22 year olds in the Netherlands. 2019 will see the World Jamboree in America hosted by USA, Canada & Mexico. Liz and the County Executive gave thanks to everyone for the quality of Scouting in Blackdown District and for the leadership of DC Pam Gaines

16. Presentations

No potential recipients were present.

17. District Commissioner

Pam reported that 2016 was a busy year. The Young People had a good year with all the celebrations we had. There was lots of FUN and we had seen a growth in numbers. This was limited by the fact that many Groups are now full and have closed their waiting lists – we need more volunteers in a variety of roles so that we can offer more YP our varied experiences.

As a District we are seeing changes. We have appointed Deputy Youth Commissioners to support You Shape Scouting and we would like more.

At the Woods we have seen the installation of the new Adventure Play Area as another resource for our YP. Over the next few days we will see the delivery of some new bunk beds which will be part of the refurbishment of the bunk rooms.

We now have a new website site which links in with the others across the County. The site for Huish Woods will be running soon. The Facebook pages have created a new medium for us to show what is happening in Scouting locally and nationally.

There have been more D of E awards than last year. We are currently working on plans to develop the support so we can offer the opportunity to more. Youngsters will soon be able to try and earn a place to take part in the WSJ in 2019 in America. If you talk to any of the participants who have attended any of the previous WSJs the whole experience – selection, fundraising and attending have a positive impact on them that has stayed with them for many years.

HQ has been trying to inform major organisations and employers that our major qualifications mean that they are dealing with yp who are talented with diverse skills. UCAS and some employers now recognise this. We need to make sure that people understand that Scouting is more than camping and badges but it is more about learning about SKILLS FOR LIFE.

For those of you who are here tonight Thank You for what you do to help our yp. I have recently come across a quote from John Quincy Adams *If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.*

18. Any other business

None reported.

The meeting closed at 20:27 and was followed by refreshments served by the SAS.

Signed as a true record

Date

(Chairman)

Attendance list

Graham Bell – DSL	Simon Lacey – Staplegrove
Peter Bourner – Vice President	Jess Morgan - SAS
Simon Cook – ESL District	Dave Mullen – Gang Show
Chris Cox – Rockwell Green	Norman Powell - SAS
Stephen Cox – Rockwell Green	Tricia Sedgbeer – DDC
Roy Crocker – Wiveliscombe	Marian Scott – ADC General Duties
Shaun Dale - AAC	Martin & Jenny Shatttock
Christian Hartnell – Trinity	Doreen & Rob Warburton – SAS
June Hick - AAC	Paul Webber – West Hatch
Marion Hollick – Manor Court	Alan Wright - SAS
Jacqui Hopkins – ADC Beavers	