

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE SEVENOAKS DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL**

**HELD AT MILL LANE SCOUT CENTRE, SEVENOAKS
On SATURDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2021**

1. Chair's welcome and apologies for absence

Anthony Hitchings welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced dignitaries in turn - The Chair of Sevenoaks District Council, Cllr. Diana Elser with her husband and consort Michael Pearsall; The Mayor of Sevenoaks, Councillor Dr. Marilyn Canet; Richard Parry, President of Sevenoaks District Scouts, Ryan Tordwell - Kent Scouts Representative.

Apologies were received from:

Jeanette Schwarz; Anne Perry; Ali Miller; Michael Laver-Smith; Nick Roberts; Dave Martin; Tess Robson; Robert Doward; Sarah Clubley; Charlotte Ward; Rebecca Richardson; Mary Martin; Susie Pascoe; Bronwen Waschefort; Graham Baldwin; Charlotte Lewis; Robert Francis and Karen Wilson.

2. Minutes of the 2020 AGM

These were not read but made available on the District website and members of the Sevenoaks District Scout Council notified in advance of the meeting.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 2020 AGM

There were no comments or matters arising.

Anthony Hitchings recommended to the meeting the 2020 AGM Minutes be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting; these were unanimously approved and the meeting adopted the Minutes of the last AGM.

4. Chair's report

Anthony reflected on the past year which covered the COVID-19 period.

He thanked everyone present for their involvement in Scouting during the COVID-19 period, despite the challenges that this had presented. He mentioned the central programme for online Scouting which had been paramount in supporting the continued Scouting activities in the District.

For the first time, a virtual St. George's Day parade had been held, and Anthony noted the success of this.

Anthony gave particular thanks to the Finance Team, and noted their good progress during the past year.

He also thanked the Estates Team for their work over the past year and noted that they are currently exploring the position regarding the Seal Headquarters.

Finally, he gave thanks to Nigel Rainey and in particular his efforts with regard to Safeguarding.

5. District Commissioner's Report and Acknowledgements

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On behalf of the DC Team Jo Brookbank addressed the meeting expressing thanks to Anthony for his invaluable support to the DC Team and District Executive; and Michael Dreksler for his adaptability to change (and Zoom cookery skills!).

6. Treasurer's Report and Approval of the Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2021

Samantha Devenney presented the Accounts to the meeting and thanked those who assisted addressing queries as the reports compiled. She noted that the last financial year covered two membership fees, whereas the year ending 31st March 2021 only covered one membership fee, and that had an associated impact on the figures shown in the accounts.

Samantha thanked all the people who worked together to prepare the accounts.

She noted that the accounts are not yet audited.

One question was raised by Andrew Holland. He asked Sam to explain the movement in funds year-on-year. Sam explained that these were mainly Covid grants and restricted funds for charitable causes. Some funds are set aside specifically for investment in the Seal Headquarters.

Anthony thanked Sam for looking after the District's finances and the Annual Accounts were unanimously accepted by the meeting.

7. Acceptance of District Commissioner's Nominations for the District Executive Committee

Michael addressed the meeting for the following Nominations –

- a. Chair: On behalf of the DC-Team thanked Anthony for a brilliant job done in the role of District Chair and Anthony agreed to volunteer for another year.

The DC-Team nominated Anthony Hitchings as District Chair and his re-appointment was unanimously approved by the meeting.

- b. Nominated Members: The DC-Team nominated the following – Jennifer Baker-Hirst, David Martin, William Morrish and Nigel Rainey. These nominations were unanimously accepted by the meeting.

8. Election of members of the District Executive Committee

Anthony addressed the meeting for the following elections –

- a. As detailed on the presentation slide the names of the six nominations received together with proposers and seconders) as follows:

<u>Nomination:</u>	<u>Proposer:</u>	<u>Seconder:</u>
Michael Schwarz	Rose Mears	Chris Barrow
Bertie Downard	Chris McCann	Paul Heath
Erik Barrow	Jonathan Axon	Robert Francis
Russell Porter	Barry Mullin	Steven Hobbs
Nick Roberts	Ali Miller	Malcolm Fisher
Kelly Moore	Robin Coombs	Becky Sandles

The meeting unanimously accepted these nominations.

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Further volunteers were requested.

- b. Secretary: Nicola Crawford was nominated for the role of District Secretary by Anthony Hitchings and seconded by Helen Davies; the meeting unanimously accepted this nomination.
- c. Treasurer: Anthony recommended the re-election of Samantha Devenney as District Treasurer; Anthony Hitchings proposed the election and Bertie Downard seconded the proposal; the meeting unanimously accepted the re-election.

9. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Anthony confirmed that Alan Copleston has agreed to volunteer to be our Independent Examiner for the forthcoming year's accounts; the appointment was carried unanimously.

10. Sevenoaks District Representative on Kent Scout Council

Anthony advised Chris Barrow is currently volunteering to represent the District (role open to a volunteer on an ad hoc basis). Chris stated he is happy to continue in the role.

11. Address by invited guests

Anthony invited Cllr. Diana Elser to address the meeting.

Diana congratulated those present, and all those involved in District Scouting, on their resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic.

She thanked everyone for their dedication to the Scouting cause, on behalf of all the children and young adults who are involved.

12. Any Other Business appropriate to an AGM (previously notified)

The County Commissioner expressed his gratitude to the Sevenoaks District Scout Council, via an email read out by Jo Brookbank.

Jo Brookbank advised the meeting that Squirrels, a new Scouting group for 4-6 year olds, would be starting in September in Sevenoaks.

She noted that there are currently a lot of young people applying for places at Scout groups, and Sevenoaks District is currently suffering the lowest level of losses from Scouting in the County.

No AOB questions had been raised in advance.

No further AOB or additional questions were raised during the meeting.

13. Presentations

A number of thank-yous and awards were presented to those present.

14. Presentation on World Scout Jamboree 2023

Gareth, the Assistant County Commissioner for Inclusion presented eloquently on the advantages of attending a World Scout Jamboree, based on his own personal experiences. The selection process for attendance begins in September 2021 and will run to the end of November 2021. Information

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Days will be held on Sunday 26 September at 4pm, at the 4th HQ; and Saturday 2 October at 7pm via Zoom.

15. Close

With no other items of business appropriate to the AGM received Anthony Hitchings thanked everyone for attending the meeting before closing the business part of the AGM at 18.50