



County Annual General Meeting 2024 – 2025

23rd September 2025 7.30pm

Moor House Adventure Centre

Minutes

1	Welcome The Chair welcomed Ian Hammond, Lead Volunteer – North East England, and members to the meeting. A list of 37 attendees and 76 apologies is attached to the minutes.
2	Opening Reflection Hilary Stubbs gave an opening reflection referring to the selfless service of volunteers.
3	Apologies for absence A list of 76 apologies received is attached to the minutes
4	Governance
4a	Minutes of the 2024-25 Annual General Meeting The minutes of the last AGM were APPROVED.
4b	Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) In line with the recommendation from The Scout Association, the County Trustee Board proposes we adopt the model constitution for a Scout County from Chapter 5c of Policy, Organisation and Rules. The meeting APPROVED.
4c	County's financial year The meeting noted that the County's Financial Year is 1 st April – 31 st March
4d	Number of Trustee Board Members Following good practice recommendations from the Charity Governance Code, POR states Trustee Boards should have a minimum of 5, and no more than 12, Trustees in total. This includes ex officio and co-opted Trustees. The County Scout Council must agree the number of people to be appointed to the Trustee Board. The outgoing Trustee Board recommends that 11 people are appointed. I propose the County Scout Council approves that recommendation, which has been seconded. The meeting APPROVED.

	Quorum The minimum number of County Scout Council members that must be present at County Scout Council meetings. The outgoing Trustee Board recommends the quorum should be set at 12 people for future meetings of the County Scout Council (the quorum for this AGM was agreed at last year's AGM). The meeting APPROVED.
5	Update on Last Year's Activities
5a	County Lead Volunteer's report Bryan Johnson thanked the young people, volunteers, support teams and partners and supporters for the wide range of activities held in Scouting this year, both in the UK and abroad. Bryan also thanked those who have stepped down from their roles during the year. Looking ahead the aim is to increase youth membership and adult volunteers with a focus of improving inclusion. This was also an opportunity for Bryan to personally thank members as he changes direction in his Scouting role as he comes towards the end of his time as County Lead Volunteer. The following awards were made Darren Glanville – Award for Merit Joan Holmes – Silver Acorn Recognition was also given to Sheila Gibbon on recently receiving her Chief Scout 60years Service Award.
5b	Annual Statement of the Accounts Signature of the accounts had been completed just prior to the meeting, as a result they had not been circulated. The treasurer gave a presentation to ensure the meeting was fully informed. They have subsequently been circulated. The treasurer highlighted a number of points • Net assets have increased by £30,000 • Net income has declined by £15,000 • Donations received were the same at £5,000 The treasurer was keen to explain the County has funds available to support Scouting locally by way of grants which can be provided to individuals, Groups and Districts. In addition, interest free loans are available for projects involving the development and refurbishment of premises.
6	Appointments
6a	Appointment of members of the County Trustee Board The County Lead Volunteer, Bryan Johnson and the County Youth Lead, Jenny Thompson are both ex-officio and therefore not subject to the appointments process.

	The current Trustees agreed on and followed an open selection process with publication in Durham e-post and by Mailchimp. The selection was based on a skills profile of the skills we require for the governance of the County. All of our current trustees were appointed at the last AGM and all were given a One year appointment. The recommendation to the County Scout Council is that the following should be appointed as members of the County Trustee Board for the specified terms: Hilary Stubbs: 1 year term Nick McCormick: 3 years Greg Piskosz: 2 years Mark Ireland: 3 years Ryan Currah: 3 years James Elliott: 2 years Richard Smith: 1 year Caroline Howarth: 2 years George Bowron: 1 year The meeting APPROVED these appointments.
6b	Appointment of the County Chair The County Lead Volunteer took the chair and said that the Trustee Board's recommendation to the County Scout Council is that Hilary Stubbs should be appointed as County Chair. The meeting APPROVED this appointment.
6c	Appointment of the County Treasurer Hilary Stubbs returned to the chair and said it is the Trustee Board's recommendation to the County Scout Council that Nick McCormick should be appointed as County Treasurer. The meeting APPROVED this appointment.
6d	Appointment of the Auditor The Treasurer recommended Robson Laidler Accountants Limited as independent auditors for the financial year 2025-2026. The meeting APPROVED.
6e	Election of representatives of the County Scout Council to represent the County on the Council of The Scout Association As County Youth Lead, Jenny Thompson is an ex-officio representative. We need to elect one additional representative to the Council of The Scout Association. Greg Piskosz has been nominated and seconded. The meeting APPROVED this appointment.
7	Regional Lead Volunteer Ian Hammond thanked volunteers for their compliance with training and emphasised the importance of good foundations.

	The next 12 months will focus on leader training, behaviour management, adventure permits, and badge reviews. Beavers and Cubs will be a focus with a new Explorer and Network programme. Ian spoke about the difference Scouting makes to children. Working with the community, the establishment of a new Scout Group in Bradford has had an impact of helping reduced crime in the area. Ian also thanked Bryan for the work he has done as County Lead Volunteer.
8	Questions from members There were 3 questions. Q1 What is the process for booking the bunkhouse please and what will the prices be? Can this be made fully available to all leaders of all sections to book? A1 The Chair had asked Mark Ireland as Chair of Moor House Sub Team to respond. Q2 Are we selling Moor House to the local developer building in the adjacent area? A2 There are no plans to sell Moor House. Q3 Please can you outline at the AGM the position that Moorhouse holds within the mid and long term strategy for the county. Our county community leaned in significantly to support MH during covid to enable cash flow and thus assure its future during that uncertainty. MH means a great deal to that community where many scouting memories have been made and crucially where many of our traditional competencies have been taught, developed and assessed throughout our young people and volunteers. Whilst the development of the bunkhouse is encouraging we have witnessed over the last 5 years macro divestment in the site and it's infrastructure resulting diminishing capability and ultimately MH becoming a less attractive proposition in the marketplace of adventurous activities. In the same period other sites have secured grants and investment to grow and develop within scouting e.g. Burnmoor and thus we are obligated to be transparent in our intent for MH to the whole of the county community and acknowledge that if we use the leverage of that whole community a more positive outcome could be achieved for MH site investment and capability securing it for the long term future of the Scout county as credible adventure centre and HQ. A3 Mark Ireland illustrated some of the investments which have been made in improved activity ranges, drainage and sewage and electrical works. He declared his passion for the value of Moor House as a resource within the County. The treasurer, Nick McCormick, emphasised the need to seek best value for money when investing in Moor House. As part of the County strategy, both the Finance Sub Team and Moor House Sub Team are working closely together to develop a Moor House strategy for the short, medium and long term. Both stressed the need for volunteers to help with the site's maintenance and development.
9	Date of Next AGM – To Be Arranged
10	The meeting closed at 20.30.

Attending

James Anderson
Gareth Ayre
Leigh Callaghan
Ryan Currah
Jennifer Daniel-Hill
Jean Devlin
Alastair Edge
James Elliott
Gill Forth
Dan Graveston
Jayne Gibson
Ethan Hall
Louise Hall
Ian Hammond
Daniel High
Cameron Hirst
Aaron Horton
Caroline Howarth
Harry Humphrey
Bryan Johnson
Ian Johnson
Caroline Knox
Daniel Lawson
Nick McCormick
Andrew Pink
Greg Piskosz
Victoria Pelling
Stephen Ramsey
Clive Richardson
Jonathan Rought
Dave Russell
Alex Smith
Hilary Stubbs
Richard Talbot-Jones
Jenny Thompson
Steven Whatt
Michael Winn

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Apologies

Julie Allison
Pat Bake
Darren Barker
Ricky Bell
Daniel Belcher
Colin Berry
Kirk Blakemore
George Bowron
Andy Carr
Joe Carr
Alan Carlton
Alison Charlton
Beth Clayton
Katy Cleminson
Abbey Corbin
Helen Cramman
Sophie Dias
Andrea Dickinson
Doreen Dickinson
Deanne Dutton
Andrew Emmerson
Elaine Ferris
Angie Forster
Michaela Frazer
Sheila Gibbon
Howard Gilfillan
David Gill
Ali Gray
Rachel Grayson
Tia Hans
Carole Heppel
Cameron Hirst
Linda Hudson
Emily Hunter
Jamie Ion
Becky Jones
Maddy Kennedy
Fiona Kimmitt
Kirsty Lewton
Helen Linton
David Lloyd
Alan Mangles
Gavin Mankin
Roselyn Micklethwaite
Andy Moore

John Moore
Nicola Mulgrew
Catherine Page
John Patterson
Dizzy Peverley
Karen Peverley
Daniel Ransom
Graham Robinson
Steven Rose
Trevor Shand
Emma Smith
Mike Smith
Charlotte Storey
Paula Sumner
Jane Thompson
Alan Toll
Andrew Towers
Craig Waites
Peter Williams
Adam Wilson
Angela Wilson
Wendy Wind
Claire Wipat
Kris Woods
Peter Young
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