



Chelmsford District Scout Council
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Held on Thursday 31st August 2023 at 8pm
At Writtle Scout HQ,

Present – Roger Cole (in the chair), Leanne Oscroft and Suzanne Ball (Co-District Commissioners), Richard Oscroft MBE, (District President), Councillor Linda Mascot (Mayor of the City of Chelmsford), Jan Dear (Deputy County Commissioner) plus some 35 members and friends of the District Scout Council representing the following Groups/Units – 1st Chelmsford, 2nd Chelmsford, 8th Chelmsford, 14th Chelmsford, 23rd Chelmsford, 24th Chelmsford, 25th Chelmsford, 1st Broomfield, 1st Danbury, 1st Writtle, Network, ASU, Evolve ESU, Tsunami ESU, Conundrum ESU, Kracken ESU, Riffhams Camp Site and members of the District team, plus Leaders and 13 participants who attended the Jamboree in South Korea, USA and Jersey expeditions in 2023.

- 1) **Welcome** – Roger welcomed everybody including our guests Councillor Linda Mascot (Mayor of the City of Chelmsford), Jan Dear (Deputy County Commissioner), and our young people who are going to share some of their experiences from their various overseas Scout visits this year. He also shared some words he'd recently found in a 1947 book called "Scout Dodges" attributed to Lord Baden-Powell -
"Make us trustworthy for there are those who trust us, Make us loyal for through loyalty we reach our highest ideals, Teach us to be helpful for through helpfulness do we forget our self-ness, Make us friendly for there are so many who need a friend, Train us in courtesy, for courtesy is the carpet on life 's floor, Make us kind for kindness is the oil in the cogs of life's machinery."
- 2) **Apologies for Absence** – 8 members of the District sent their apologies.
- 3) **Minutes of Annual General Meeting – held on 1st September 2022**

Last year's AGM minutes which had been made available to all members of the District were **approved**.
- 4) **Governance Topics**
 - a) To adopt the Chelmsford District Scout Council constitution (based on the Scout Association "Model") which had previously been sent to all in the District for comment and which is posted on our website. Noted that with Co-District

Commissioners, one will be ex-officio and one co-opted onto the District Trustee Board **Approved and Accepted.**

- b) To note the District's financial year. **Noted as 1st April to 31st March.**
- c) To agree the number of members that may be elected to the Trustee Board. **Up to 4 as per the constitution with currently 3 being normally elected. Approved and Accepted.**
- d) To agree the number of members from the District Scout Council to form a quorum. **Approved and Accepted as 15 members.**
- e) To agree the number of members from the District Trustee Board to form a quorum. **Approved and Accepted as one third plus one member. This will also apply to any sub-committee.**

5) Review of the Previous Year

The 2022/23 Annual Report had previously been posted on the website together with a set of interim accounts. The final audited accounts for the financial report had only been made available that evening in time for the AGM. These showed a slightly improved picture compared to the interim figures. One key feature from the accounts was that, as a result of introducing a District levy in 2023 plus the efforts made in controlling costs and improving income, our end-year bottom-line was approaching "break-even" compared to a £10K deficit in 2021/22. We plan to retain the District levy for one more year with the hope that by next year we should be in a position to consider reducing the levy (unless capital works were envisaged).

Roger then passed over to the co-DC, Leanne, to run through the District's activities over the past year. Leanne covered both the results from the 2023 census together with the main activities and events from 2022/2023. It was noted that the Riffhams campsite usage had approximately doubled in 2023 compared to 2022 (both day visits and camper nights).

We then had a presentation with a slide show from the young people who had attended the 2023 international events in Jersey, North America, and the World Jamboree in South Korea. We also had comments from one of the Leaders who went to America and one who was part of the international service team (IST) in Korea. The overall feeling from those participating was the sense of fun, achievement, self-fulfilment, memories and the making of new friends from many parts of the world.

We remembered those members of the District who have "Gone Home" in the past year including our former President Malcolm Treacher.

The DCs then presented Wood Badges to Ruth Reed and Sarah Landon. Other awards included a 40-year award presented to Betty Simister and our President Richard Oscroft presented a 50 year award to Roger Cole.

The Annual Report and Accounts were **approved.**

6) Appointments

- a) To Re-appoint the District President
Richard Oscroft was **re-appointed.**

- b) To note any other persons who may be admitted to membership of the District Scout Council, by the District Commissioner, the District Trustee Board or the District Scout Council.

None Noted.

- c) To approve the District Commissioner's nomination for District Chair

Roger Cole was nominated by the DC's and was **re-appointed**. (In accepting the role Roger remarked that this was his 5th year as District Chair and asked members to support the DC's in their search for the next District Chair as this was likely his last year).

- d) Election of the District Secretary

Rick Balding was nominated and **re-elected**.

- e) Election of the District Treasurer

David Clarke was nominated and **re-elected**.

- f) Election of up to 4 members to the District Trustee Board

The following nominations had been received:

Malcolm Taylor (Chair 1st Broomfield)

Andrew Missen (15th Chelmsford Scouts)

Chris Harpley (Riffhams campsite Manager)

No other nominations were received and thus these 3 were **duly re-elected**.

- g) To approve the District Commissioner's nomination to the District Trustee Board

Nicola Hills (Danbury Cubs)

Danyel Horner (Deputy District Commissioner Youth programme)

Stephanie Bendall (Monster ESU)

All were duly accepted and **re-elected**.

- h) To nominate representatives of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council.

Kris Reynolds was **re-appointed**.

- i) To appoint the Independent Examiner for 2023/2024

Community 360 have been our Independent Examiners for the past 8 years and we have recently been experiencing some problems with long lead times; delays and relevant personal not always being available for discussion. It was proposed to have further discussions with 360 and if necessary, investigate alternative options for Independent Examination of the accounts. **Accepted**

7) Jan Dear (Deputy County Commissioner for Training and Development)

Jan commented that she was currently the County Training Manager or using the new title under the transformation programme the Volunteer Team Lead. She reiterated the comments made by Paul Walker relating to the international visits – that the young people involved would long remember their overseas Scouting experiences and congratulated them on their resilience when challenged, and in representing both Chelmsford and Essex Scouting. She then thanked them for all that they have put into the meeting and acknowledged all the Leaders who took young people to these international events. She then thanked all the Leaders in Chelmsford and the Trustee Board for all they do to deliver Scouting for all in the District.

8) Councillor Linda Mascot (Mayor of the City of Chelmsford)

Linda firstly congratulated Roger on 50 years' service and to all others receiving awards tonight. She then thanked everybody for putting in so much to support young people to do the amazing things she has heard about tonight. She congratulated all those young people who spoke, and each experience or story was different, and how in a shared experience they were all different, and each person will carry these things with them into the future. She said it warms her heart to hear of the great things being done, and she is confident that we will carry on as we have and are still changing with the times and doing things to support young people as individuals and for their personal development, whatever that is, to give them a brighter future. She then thanked all the adult volunteers on behalf of the people of Chelmsford.

9) **Closing Remarks**

Bringing the formal part of our meeting to a close Roger thanked these young people for making this evening such a great experience for all of us. He thanked everybody for sitting through a slightly longer AGM than normal but well worth it to hear of the various overseas adventures.

Finally, he thanked the WSJ 2023 team who were providing the forthcoming refreshments with a "Korean flavour".

Signed :- _____

Date :- _____