

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting for York Minster District  
21<sup>st</sup> September 2020  
19.30hrs  
Held online**

**1. List of People Present**

Simon Errington, David Hatliff, Mark Edwards (County Commissioner), Tony Hale, Cloe Duke, Deborah Watson, Ed Bell, Gerald Snowden, Jill Errington, Joy Turner, Tom Mann, Kath Shapcott, Pete Ingham & Thomas Gabbitas.

**2. Apologies for Absences**

Shaun Mortimer, Clare Mortimer, Peter Swann & Mark Turner

**3. Minutes of the AGM held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

Proposer for the minutes – Jill Errington  
Seconder for the minutes – David Hatliff  
All in Favour  
Signed by the Acting Chair – Simon Errington

**5. Receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Executive Committee including the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2020**

A **verbal report** was provided by the Acting District Commissioner

As you are all aware, I took over the mantle of Acting District Commissioner earlier this year after Andy took the decision to step down. I have to say it has been a rollercoaster of a journey since. Before we talk about the now this is a review of last year so let us look at what happened between April 2019 and March 2020.

I will start the year off by saying we had another cracking St Georges Day parade where the whole district looked well and they marched/walked through the City, as this was one of my last official events, I have to say I was proud of everyone and it was great to see so many people turnout.

A Beaver Sleepover at Christmas held at Snowball. Sundowners was again well attended, there was also a Christmas party get together with a magician and a sleepover just before Christmas with crafts. The Beaver Sleepover in March had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

We have sadly lost some of our longer serving district team members this year as we said a very sad farewell to Ann Shannon (ADC Cubs) and Jim Benson (ADC General Duties and Appointment Secretary). They will both be sorely missed.

## **Accounts**

I would like to record my sincere thanks to Kath Graves who recently stepped down as Treasurer of the Executive after 6 long years in the role. She did a sterling job keeping me in check and retaining the funds in a positive position.

In the absence of a Treasurer as Kath Graves stepped down mid-year, I will answer all the questions that I can, any that I am not able to I will respond to those individuals who have raised them and will document these in the minutes which will be published on the website.

No questions were raised on the evening at the AGM.

### **6. Receive and consider the statement of accounts for the York Joint Scout Trust for the year ended 31 March 2020.**

A copy of the Statement of Accounts for the York Joint Scout Trust which were agreed by the Trustees at their meeting recently were distributed prior to the meeting. There were no points of clarity for recording at the meeting.

### **7. Approve the District Commissioner's Nomination of District Chairman**

The District Commissioner read out the following statement:

I do not have a nomination for the role of District Chair; however, I will continue to seek out a candidate over the coming months. I would like however to pass on my sincere thanks to Deborah Watson who has been acting as the District Chair for the past year, she has provided a positive support to the district during this time. She has taken the decision to step down as Acting Chair of the District Executive to take up a new role. I would like to record my sincere thanks to sincere for Tony Hale too who has stood by me and supported me as I returned to the Acting DC role, I am very grateful for his wisdom and guidance.

If anybody would like to be considered for the role, please do get in touch with me so I can consider an appointment, I will of course be looking for a chair and once identified I will put this forward to the Executive for co-opting on to the Executive, during the next year.

### **8. Elect District Secretary**

The Acting chair read out the following statement:

During the past year, the Executive has been without a secretary as I have been unable to secure somebody to provide this role. I have been carrying this role during the 6 months since my return.

Now, if there is anybody from the floor who would like to take up the role, please let me know as soon as you can, now would be great!

## **9. Elect District Treasurer**

The Acting chair read out the following statement:

As I have already reported, Kath Graves took the decision to step down earlier this year, however she has continued to provide support to make payments and attend to other matters that need the attention of a Treasurer.

I am incredibly pleased that a new Treasurer for the District has been secured to keep the District funds in check and support the compliance with the Charity Commission rules.

Deborah Watson has kindly stated that she is willing to step into the role of District Treasurer if it is the will of the meeting to support this appointment. Deborah has been working with the Executive as the Acting Chair for the past year so is well placed to take up the role.

I would like to propose Deborah as the new District Treasurer, could I have a seconder?

Secunder - David Hatliff

All in favour

## **10. District Commissioner's nominations to the District Executive Committee**

At the District Executive meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2020 the following proposal was tabled and agreed by all members of the Executive, therefore there will not be any further elections to the District Executive at this time.

Extract from the minutes:

- A proposal was laid on the table by SE that the Executive should shrink to the Officers, the DC and those Ex-Officio Members who are entitled to attend, although it was felt that for the majority of Ex-Officio members their effectiveness would be a leadership level down from the Executive in the District Leadership Team.

This was agreed by all members present and would be implemented with immediate effect.

Those present agreed that, unless they were an Officer on the Executive, that they would step down and become a member of the Operational Leadership Team under the Leadership of the DC (currently acting), which will more closely align with the skills of those around the table, this will give us 9 people instantly on the operational leadership team.

- **The Snowball Management Committee**

The Acting Chair read out the following statement:

As you will be aware from last year's AGM, the decision was taken not to elect representative directly to the Snowball Committee. However, if anybody is able to offer their support to the Snowball Management Committee, I am aware that they are currently looking for a Business Manager and I am sure Tony Hale would welcome the support with this and other areas of the management of Snowball. Tony, do you wish to say anything about the role or Snowball in general to entice individuals

Nothing further was added at the meeting

- **The York Joint Scout Trust**

Simon Errington proposed three nominations to the York Joint Scout Trust for 3 places as Trustees

David Hatliff

Simon Errington

Jill Errington

Seconded – Kath Shapcott

All in Favour

## **11. Nomination of a person to represent the District at North Yorkshire County Scout Council**

Jill Errington proposed Simon Errington as a nomination to represent the District.

Seconded – Tony Hale

All in favour

## **12. Appointment of an Independent Examiner**

The Acting Chair read out the following statement:

Andrew Masheder stated at the last AGM that he would not continue to Independently Examine the District Accounts after what I believe are many years of service. I would like to record my thanks to Andrew and will pass these on directly to him.

With the newly appointed Treasurer we will look to appoint an Independent Examiner to review the accounts next year and as soon as this has been determined I will advise the membership of the person.

### **13. District Commissioners Remarks**

Simon expanded briefly on his update of the verbal report and the current challenges that the district faces with the pandemic situation and passed on his thanks to all members of the district for their continued effort and support of Scouting in the District.

### **14. County Commissioner Remarks**

Mark Edwards addressed the meeting setting out his thanks and expectations for the future of Scouting. Mark outlined that York Minster District was struggling to recruit a New District Commissioner and that after 3 attempts, there have been no nominations. Mark stated that he had confidence in what is being put in place by the Executive and will support them for a period of 4 months to see some change in the recruitment of volunteers to roles to support the recruitment of a New DC which will be less onerous if there are roles to support the structure. Mark thanked Simon Errington for stepping back into the role, however that this couldn't be for an indefinite period.

Mark outlined the importance of the requirement to complete the Safety and Safeguarding Training and also the requirements to update First Response as far as is practicable in the lockdown situation. He also advised of some new Mental Health Awareness Training and encouraged all members to consider accessing the training to support themselves and others.

### **15. Closing Remarks from the Acting Chair**

Thanks again for being with us tonight, sorry again for it being the Simon Errington show, this really does have to change for the benefit of the district's longevity, a document is being circulated through groups of a number of roles that are required to support the functioning of the district and if you or anybody you know can spare a small amount of time, I would personally be grateful.

Best wishes to you all

Meeting Closed – 8.30pm