

Minutes

Opening Information:

1. **Welcome and Introductions** - Tony Hale opened the meeting and David McDowell introduced himself as the new District Commissioner
2. **Apologies for absence** - Trevor King, Neil Ballantyne
3. **Appoint Minster District Executive Committee Chair** - David asked the members if anyone wished to nominate themselves as Chair. In the absence of any offers, David nominated Tony Hale who was seconded and approved
4. **Appoint Minster District Executive Committee Treasurer** – Deborah Watson agreed to stand for the remainder of the financial year but asked for someone to replace her after the end of year reports were completed. Thanks were given to Deborah, from the floor, for her contributions to the District. Deborah Watson was nominated and seconded as District Treasurer.
5. **Appoint Minster District Executive Committee Secretary** – Katie Gilpin was nominated and seconded as District Secretary
6. **Conflicts of Interest** – None Declared
7. **Minutes of AGM held on Monday 8th September 2021** – Proposed by Gerald Snowden, seconded by Adrian Pomfret
8. **Receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Executive Committee, including the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022** - The Report and Accounts had been made available for viewing prior to the meeting. Questions were invited from the floor.

A member asked for clarification of what the expense item 'Admin charges' included. The Treasurer explained that a large proportion of the amount derived from administering and updating the District website and emails and this was followed by a further question as to why the District was spending such a high amount on this.

DC explained that plans are in place and already being actioned to move to a free/cheaper Microsoft platform now that this was available and costs would therefore start to come down over the next financial period.

A second question was raised to query the amount of funds held as a contingency/reserve fund and what this was held for specifically. The Treasurer explained that the District had clearly gone through a difficult few years in terms of structure and management, plus Covid. The Executive recognised the need to review the District's spending and reserves policies and plans and would be doing so in the coming months. Further information would be provided in order to answer the question raised in due course.

9. **Receive and consider the Statement of Accounts for the York Joint Scout Trust for the year ended 31st March 2022** – No questions, accounts approved
10. **Confirm Appointed Independent Examiner** – Appointed examiner was Claire Hutchinson – Approved
11. **Additional Members for the Executive Committee** – The three currently elected members agreed to continue in role. A discussion was then held about electing more members to sit on the Committee. The discussion included information from the County Commissioner about what it means to be a trustee, what happens in other Districts, the difference between ex-officio and elected members, and how many meetings there are per year.

After Max Butler (County Commissioner) spoke, there was then a general discussion around who would be good as representatives for the Committee and a comment was raised about how most of the people at the AGM have already given their time to District and that it may be better to look at the younger members and parents to fill the roles.

David McDowell asked for people to reach out to him after the meeting, if they were interested in joining the committee, and reminded everyone that the role was higher on responsibility and commitment but lower on time requirement.

12. **Nominating members for the Joint Scout Trust** – David McDowell explained that Minster District needed to appoint two new members to the Joint Scout Trust and

that the roles were for members and didn't need to be specifically Secretary or Treasurer. He added that the Trust is going through a period of change, so the role isn't a straightforward one. No-one offered to stand so David asked people to reach out and talk to Tony Hale if they needed more information or wished to join the Trust.

13. Nominate a person to represent Minster District at North Yorkshire County Scout Council – Gerald Snowden and David Ingledew both offered to stand. After a vote (Gerald Snowden – 3, David Ingledew – 17), David Ingledew was chosen and thanks were given to Gerald Snowden.

14. District Vacancies – David McDowell explained that there are a number of roles across the District that need filling and asked people to contact him regarding any of them after the AGM, if they were interested in volunteering. He listed the following vacancies and additional information:

- Stockton on the Forest GSL – an interim GSL would be ok too.
- Training Advisors – preferably one per group
- Nights Away Advisor – Since losing Kath the District has been short of/without a Nights Away Advisor. To alleviate the backlog, Ebor have given support.
- “Anyone with Skills” – people are needed to support groups and the District in a variety of areas so anyone who has skills that might help would be appreciated
- District Representatives – Not asking for ADC's but, to make sure the District voices are heard, representatives are needed.

15. District Commissioner's Remarks – David McDowell stated that last year the District had an unclear future, so he stepped up in January with three Deputies. Once in role he discovered that the task was a much bigger task than he had anticipated which led to the first 6 months in role being more about fire-fighting than progressing. He added that, since that point, he has been able to be more proactive and that more roles are now being filled but that there is lots to still be done to stabilise the District.

He reminded everyone that we are all volunteers and that any help anyone can give is valuable and asked for patience when awaiting replies.

The District overall has seen growth and is doing better after the Covid dip which was challenging.

David McDowell then explained that he knows there are waiting lists but that there is an issue with volunteers so let him know what he can do to help and to let him know about any problems, issues, or changes needed

16. **Awards** – David McDowell then gave out a number of awards for a variety of lengths of service.

17. **County Commissioner's Remarks** – Max Butler opened his remarks with a reflection on the journey Minster District has been on over the last 12 months, starting with almost being disbanded due to the future of the leadership, through the plea for help and David McDowell answering the call, and ending with asking for continued help and support for the DC while he provides the drive and support for the District to move forward.

Max then moved on to talk about National changes and transitional changes. He noted that the District would need to “keep an eye on the ball” and keep providing skills for life. He then explained how the changes would make scouting more accessible and that the roles that need to be filled will no longer have titles like “Commissioner” but would now become titles like “Trustee of Scouts” which he believes will make things clearer.

Following this, Max talked about how modernising scouting is great and will include changing compass into something else and that there have been mistakes in the past so this modernisation will take time to come about and implement effectively.

As part of the modernisation, there will be a “learning systems” update which will include a top up for wood badges and make training easier.

In terms of County, Max explained that he has been in role for 6 months and that he covers 12 Districts. Of those Districts, Minster ranks 4th for size so growth is important. He stated that he would be supporting the District and committed to making it easier and more accessible to access permits. He also stated that there were 16 new permit assessors.

Max explained that the County can deliver events at scale and referenced examples like Cub Camp with 600 people, Ignite with 700 people, and the Beaver Damboree.

Max acknowledged that the current County website is not accessible and that it is difficult for people to know what is happening in the County, then gave assurances that the website is being updated to make it more accessible. He also acknowledged that County do not communicate well which has meant that people don't know what equipment the County has to offer.

Moving forwards, Max shared information he had been given that all levels of scouting need to look at spending and accounts and that excess funds should be kept at no more than about 3-9 months' worth of operational expenses. He challenged groups to look at how the extra can be spent now to provide better

services for the members. He reminded people to ask the questions that need asking and stated that groups have too much capital, like County, but that County is looking at how to spend the extra to provide experiences for the members so groups should do the same.

Max then shifted focus to York as a whole and talked about York being two Districts but only one City with one Promise and said that it was great to hear that the two Districts are working together.

In his closing comments, Max gave thanks to everyone for being there and gave a reminder: "We are all here to support young people in giving Skills for Life".

18. Inclusion and Supporting Young People (SEN) in the District – Katie Gilpin opened by stating that there are more SEN in the District than we are aware of and that volunteers may not always know how to handle the needs. She added that we, as a District, want to be as inclusive as possible and develop a support network across the District so people feel comfortable talking with us but that without communication from the groups, we don't know what we are dealing with.

Katie then asked people to reach out and talk to the District team about anything they might be seeing and aren't sure how to support and reminded people that additional needs aren't often included in forms by parents.

Katie is planning on developing a Scouting Support Plan that will follow the young person through their scouting journey to support everyone involved in providing the best experience possible for all members.

A further discussion then took place including comments around an email system to allow people to contact the District team, how some groups have a higher need than is represented on the Census, the possibility of a "Workplace Health Passport" style system which is Youth led, the development of an adult support network for volunteers, and the development of specific training to help adult volunteers feel more confident in their own skills.

19. Any Other Business – Nothing declared

20. Closing Remarks – Thanks to everyone for attending and the next Executive meeting arranged for Wednesday 9th November – venue to be confirmed