



Cumbria Scout Council

2025 Annual General Meeting

Date: Wednesday 10 September 2025

Venue: Rheged, Penrith

Minutes

1. Introduction and Welcome

County Chair, Martin Porter (MP), opened the meeting at 1930hrs welcoming all present and thanking the distinguished guests for their attendance and continued support, namely:

- Alex Scott, HM Lord Lieutenant and President of Cumbria Scouts
- Dr. Geoffrey Jolliffe, High Sherriff of Cumbria
- Mark Fryer, Leader of Cumberland Council
- Jane Wheeler, Asst. Director Early Help & Youth Justice, Cumberland Council
- Stephen Dunn, Community Champion Cumberland Council
- Sarah Dunning, CEO Westmorland Group / Cumbria Scouts Ambassador

The meeting noted that there were 68 in attendance, 53 of which being Scout Council members. MP declared the meeting quorate.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies prior to the meeting received from 7 members, Liz Axten, Pat Bevan, Linda Bowden, Euan Gilfillan, Fiona Hammond, Don McCutcheon and Fiona Woodward.

No further apologies were received from the room.

Apologies were also received from invited guests Sam Plum (CEO Westmorland & Furness Council), Lyn Richardson (Westmorland & Furness Council), the County Members of Parliament (busy in Westminster), Heather Lomas (our Regional LV) and our Ambassador, Fred Story. Their continued support is valued and welcome.

3. Governance Topics

3a Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 24 September 2024

The minutes were approved

3b Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR)

Agreed

3c Note the County's financial year

1 April to 31 March was Agreed

3d Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board

Proposal for up to 12 was agreed

3e Agree the quorum for future meetings of the County Scout Council (excluding this AGM)

Proposal of 15 persons was agreed

4. Review of the Previous Year

4a Receive the County Lead Volunteer's Review of the Scouting Year

County Lead Volunteer, Eddie Ward (EW), presented an overview of the previous year (appended to these minutes). MP thanked EW for his review.

4b Receive and consider the Annual Report of the County Trustee Board, including the Statement of the Accounts.

MP note that the County Trustee Board had prepared the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, and has received and considered the report on the accounts from the appointed examiner Stables, Thompson & Briscoe

MP invited the County Treasurer, Alan Clark (AC) to give their review of the Statement of Accounts.

AC reviewed the Statement of Accounts.

MP invited questions from the floor regarding the Trustee Annual Report, and the Annual Accounts. There were none.

MP thanked AC for completing the Statement of Accounts and for all their work during the year.

5. Making Appointments

MP noted that this part of the meeting was to organise the setup of the charity until the next AGM. In accordance with the current processes in POR and our agreed open selection process all existing members of the Trustee Board were appointed last year for a 3-year

term. With no resignations or anyone at the end of their term no new appointments were proposed this year.

MP noted that the County Lead Volunteer and Youth Lead are ex-officio members of the Board. As we have two Youth Leads, Angus is an ex-officio member and Ben is an appointed member of the Trustee Board.

MP also noted that any co-opted members of the County Trustee Board are appointed by the County Trustee Board at one of their meetings, and not the AGM.

MP noted the co-opted work of Liam Edgley, particularly in respect of the Ennerdale Campsite. On behalf of all in Cumbria Scouts, thanked Liam and gave best wishes for his new life in Coventry.

MP then on behalf of all the County Scout Council in thanked the Trustees, and our Board Administrator Kyle McNichol, for their excellent work during the year.

a. Reappoint County President

Recommendation from the board- reappoint HM Lord Lieutenant Alex Scott, this was agreed

b. Appoint the Independent Examiner

Stables, Thompson and Briscoe proposed, this was agreed.

c. Elect representatives of the County Scout Council to represent the County on the Council of The Scout Association

Recommendations from the board: Martin Porter & Ben Walker (18-24), this was agreed. County Lead Volunteer EW and County Youth Lead, Angus Beechey are ex-officio members.

6. Closing Remarks

MP invited the President, Alex Scott, HM Lord Lieutenant to make the closing remarks.

There being no further scheduled business MP closed the AGM at 2015hrs, once again thanking all present for their attendance and support.

7. Non-AGM Business

Following the close of the formal meeting Thomas Evans, from Western Lakes District along with fellow participants gave an overview of the Scout Expedition to Madagascar.

Dr.Geoff Jolliffe spoke of his role as High Sheriff before presenting the High Sheriff's Shield to Eden District Lead Volunteer, Nigel Harling, in recognition of his work in and for Ukraine.

EW then presented MP with his 5-year service award before inviting the President to join him to present a Silver Acorn Award to Geoff Price and a Silver Wolf to Colin Illman.

Finally EW and the President congratulated, County Youth Lead, Ben Walker, on his winning design of Cumbria's first Community Flag which was shown to those present.

