



Minutes of the 2021-22 Annual General Meeting of the Sevenoaks District Scout Council

**Held at Mill Lane Scout Centre, Sevenoaks
on Saturday 10 September 2022**

1. Chair's welcome and apologies for absence

Anthony Hitchings welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced dignitaries in turn - The Chair of Sevenoaks District Council, Cllr. Avril Hunter with her husband and consort Alan Hunter; Councillor Irene Collins; Richard Parry, President of Sevenoaks District Scouts, Debby Pearce and Jenn Abel - Kent Scouts Representative.

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Rachel Parry, Chris Mears, Bernie Wright, Ian Crothall, Ally Fotheringham, Dan Wilks, Laura Trott MP, Reverend Angus MacLeay, Neil Gearing, Anne Perry, Nigel Rainey, David Hitchings, Fiona Thompson, Mr and Mrs Hudson-Gool, Ali Miller, David Beaton, Emma White, Lucy Heath, Steve Richards, Caroline O'Mahony, Adrian Maydom, Pat Crawley, Erik Barrow, Jennifer Baker-Hirst, Marie Crewe

Following the passing of her late Majesty the Queen on 8th September, an official Scout Association message was read out to all by Toby Royle. A moment of reflection was taken following the reading of a poem by Anthony Hitchings.

2. Minutes of the 2021 AGM

These were not read but made available on the District website and members of the Sevenoaks District Scout Council notified in advance of the meeting.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 2021 AGM

There were no comments or matters arising.

Anthony Hitchings recommended to the meeting the 2021 AGM Minutes be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting; this was proposed by Chris Barrow and seconded by Richard Parry and unanimously accepted.

4. Chair's report

Anthony reflected on the past year and talked through his written report. He updated all on the latest developments and thanked the Executive Committee and attendees at the meeting for their involvement in Scouting.

5. District Commissioner's Report and Acknowledgements

On behalf of the DC Team Jo Brookbank and Michael Dreksler addressed the meeting expressing thanks to Anthony for his invaluable support to the DC Team and District Executive. All volunteers involved in Scouting were also thanked and it was noted that Scouting numbers were now at pre-pandemic levels.

6. Treasurer's Report and Approval of the Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2022

Samantha Devenney presented the Accounts to the meeting and thanked those who assisted addressing queries as the reports compiled. It has been a busy year with significant grant money received and significant expenditure on equipment.

She noted that the accounts are not yet audited.

One question was raised by Andrew Holland regarding the amount of money likely to be coming in following the sale of Seal in future. It was discussed that building of the TARMAC barn is likely to have significant costs and it was confirmed that this will be a district asset.

Anthony thanked Sam for looking after the District's finances. The Annual Accounts were adopted following a proposal from Nick Roberts and Seconded by Andrew Holland.

6. Acceptance of District Commissioner's Nominations for the District Executive Committee

Michael addressed the meeting for the following Nominations –

- a. Chair: On behalf of the DC-Team MD thanked Anthony for a brilliant job done in the role of District Chair and Anthony agreed to volunteer for another year. The DC-Team nominated Anthony Hitchings as District Chair and his re-appointment was unanimously approved by the meeting.

b. Nominated Members: The DC-Team nominated the following – Jennifer Baker-Hirst, David Martin, William Morrish.
These nominations were unanimously accepted by the meeting.

7. Election of members of the District Executive Committee

Anthony addressed the meeting for the following elections –

As detailed on the presentation slide the names of the four nominations received as follows:

- Michael Schwarz
- Erik Barrow
- Nick Roberts
- Nigel Rainey

The meeting unanimously accepted these nominations.

- b. Secretary: Nicola Crawford was nominated for the role of District Secretary by Anthony Hitchings and seconded by Helen Davies; the meeting unanimously accepted this nomination.
- c. Treasurer: Anthony recommended the re-election of Samantha Devenney as District Treasurer and this was unanimously accepted.
- d. Russell Porter, Bertie Downard and Kelly Moore have all stood down from DEC.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Anthony confirmed that Alan Copleston has agreed to volunteer to be our Independent Examiner for the forthcoming year's accounts; the appointment was carried unanimously.

9. Address by invited guests

Anthony invited Cllr. Avril Hunter to address the meeting.

She thanked everyone for their dedication to the Scouting cause, teaching life skills and fun, on behalf of all the children and young adults who are involved.

Richard Parry thanked all involved in scouting and spoke about pride in what Scouting has done for Sevenoaks. He looks forward to the coming year.

Debby Pearce and Jenn Abel thanked all volunteers, trustees and DCs. They discussed forthcoming changes this year with warmer welcomes and simplification for new volunteers. A new uniform review and digitalisation were two of the initiatives this year.

10. Any Other Business

No AOB questions had been raised in advance.

No further AOB or additional questions were raised during the meeting.

11. Awards

A number of thank-yous and awards were presented to those present.

12. Guest Speaker

A guest speaker, Andy Watson from the Kenward Trust gave a fascinating short talk about the choices we make and possible effect of these choices. The topics covered moved quickly from smoking, vaping and carrying weapons to homelessness and life changing meetings through kindness. He is to speak further to the Explorers at a future meeting.

13. Close

With no other items of business appropriate to the AGM received Anthony Hitchings thanked everyone for attending the meeting before closing the business part of the AGM at 18.50

