



BRISTOL SOUTH DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 30th July 2021 @ 7:30pm
Via: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Members Present

Scott Stowell; Tony Rees; Steve Williams; Theresa Coll; Beth Haines; James Wall; Paul Harper; Paul Duckett; Bob Stanfield; John (Moe) Jones; David (Arthur) Milton; Bob Hussey; Stephen Thomas; Andy Dyer; Nigel Ball, Andy Scully; Nick Winter; Rose Nicholls; Anne (possibly 229th?); Jemma Williams; Angela Williams; Rachel ?; Graham (Baggles) Shaddick; Phil Burnett 255; Representation from 9th; 'Purple Carrot' = ?

The quorum level mandated for AGM/EGM is 12 so the meeting could proceed

Apologies for Non-Attendance

Cath Elkins; Louise Hall; Cathy Harding; Graham Brant; Sharon Grainger; Peter Keighley.

Welcome

A warm welcome was extended to all present by the Chairman to this annual general meeting. A special welcome to Nigel Ball (Deputy County Commissioner) for joining us this evening

Due to current restrictions the meeting would be conducted as a Zoom virtual meeting. Furthermore, the meeting would be recorded not for publication but purely for validation and accuracy of the minutes for the meeting.

Minutes of AGM 2020

The minutes of the AGM held 7th July 2020 had been previously circulated and posted to the district website and members had been directed to refer to them prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Tony Rees, seconded by Cathy Harding to accept these as a true record of the proceedings.

(Poll vote recorded 14 for, none against, no abstentions)

Matters Arising from 2020 Minutes

No matters had been raised as requested for discussion prior to the meeting

Chairman's Report

The chairman Stephen Williams welcomed everyone to the meeting. Referring to his written report posted on the district website paid tribute to all those who assist both at Group and District level especially over the last 12 months when scouting has not been able to function on a face-to-face basis and a special mention to those whose work invariably is conducted behind the scenes and can be sometimes overlooked

Update for the year and Looking Forward

The DC Paul Harper addressed the meeting and expanding on his written District Commissioners report previously posted to the district website and highlighted. Paul highlighted the issues with groups starting back up meeting face to face only to have to return to meeting virtually due to high numbers of members having to self-isolate. Paul extended his thanks to both the interim DC and to Scott who together with Cathy Harding has agreed to stay on as DDC's and to Beth Haines, Karl Waters and Tansie Congdon. It was reported on the mini census that there were 212 young people current on waiting list and possibly even more. Therefore, the priorities are safeguarding, our uniform leaders and building on adult support so we can build the groups back up the pre Covid pandemic numbers within the district will be a priority.

Reflections and Farewells

The meeting was handed over to Nick Winter who reflected on several of our district members who had "Gone Home" during the last 12-month period.

- Derek Halls Cub leader at the 145th Sea Scouts.
- Don Malcolm Vice President of the district and a former DDC of the old Bristol East District and
- Cyril Mullen who was known throughout the district and was a former DC of the old Bristol East District, former GSL of the 256th and his most recent role of heading up the SASU for the District.

Financial Report and the Accounts for 2020-21.

The meeting handed over to Tony Rees to identify some of the financial items from the approved annual financial reports currently posted to the district website.

Due to the Covid pandemic District as well as some of the District Scout Groups have benefited from various grants and donations to the amount of £20,000 which together with returned and rebated rates for Eastwinds has enhanced our yearend figures.

Investments on savings remain low and the BOT are considering various proposals of offering financial support throughout the district in a fair and supportive manner.

The annual subscriptions that had been recorded in the financial reports would be retrospectively passed onto County during April 2021.

There has been no capital investment made during the financial year.

Tony wished to extend his grateful thanks to Russell Smith for scrutineering our accounts and informed the meeting that after a decade of service to the district has decided to stand down. A letter of thanks had been sent to Russell on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

Nomination of District Chairman for 2021-2022

Paul Harper informed the meeting that he wished to nominate Steve Williams for the role of District Chair and the meeting was given the opportunity to poll vote online. The vote was unanimously in agreeing the nomination.

(Poll vote recorded 25 for, none against, 1 abstention)

Steve expressed his thanks to the district and in particular the magnificent support he had received from both the management team and board of trustees during the past 12 months under the challenging conditions we found ourselves in.

Election of District Secretary

Steve Williams nominated Theresa Coll for the role of District secretary which was seconded by Paul Harper This was unanimously agreed by all

(Poll vote recorded 23 for, none against, no abstentions)

Election of District Treasurer

This position of District Treasurer is currently vacant and at the time of meeting no nominations had been received. The BOT requested that if a nomination came forward then the BOT have the authority to co-opt someone to the appointment, with formal election at new year's AGM. This motion was agreed by all present.

Appointment an Independent Examiner

As already stated in the finance report, our current scrutineer was standing down and to date no other nomination had been received. The chair requested the provision that if an Independent Examiner is unavailable when the next inspection is due the Board of Trustees (BOT) has the authority to make alternative arrangements. This was proposed by Stephen Thomas and seconded by Nick Winter.

This was agreed by voting.

(Poll vote recorded 23 for, none against, 1 abstention)

Election of Members to District BOT

Steve Williams informed the meeting that Andrew Morris, former District Chair has decided to stand down as a trustee and was thanked for his service to the District. Historically, the District appointed 6 members to the BOT. It was proposed by Theresa Coll and seconded by Scott Stowell that the following persons who have previously agreed to stand for election be elected.

They are - Tony Rees; Stephen Thomas; Gemma Francis; Nick Winter; Gary Turner and Nick Eccles.

This was agreed by voting.

(Poll vote recorded 23 for, none against, 1 abstention)

Approval of DC Nomination for Members of the District Board of Trustees (BOT)

The meeting was reminded that the number of DC nominees may not exceed the elected members. Paul Harper proposed the following members be elected to the BOT

They are – Scott Stowell; Cathy Harding; Beth Haines: Aaron Wheatley and Roger Whiter

This was agreed by voting.

(Poll vote recorded 23 for, none against, 1 abstention)

Ex-officio members of the BOT

The meeting was reminded that by virtue of appointments held the following persons sit on the BOT.

District Commissioner – Paul Harper
District Chair – Steve Williams
District Secretary – Theresa Coll
District Treasurer - as appointed, currently vacant
District Explorer Scout Commissioner – Carl Rogers
District Network Commissioner – James Wall
District Youth Commissioner – Tansie Congdon

Any Other Business



District Honorary Appointment

The chair brought to the meeting a proposition from the BOT to appoint Peter Keithley to the honorary position of a District Vice-President.

Peter has served scouting for numerous years both within the district where he held the position of Treasurer and served on the finance committee and worked endlessly for the 21st Bristol Scout Group. The BOT believed this honorary position would express our thanks to Peter for all his work and he has expressed his sincere gratitude for being considered for the role. By a show of hands, it was unanimously agreed by all. Peter would be duly informed of his appointment

The meeting was handed over to Paul Harper to present some District Recognition Awards.

Awards



The Dixie Duggan Award

The Dixie Duggan award this year was presented to our former DC Scott Stowell. Since standing down from his role as DC, Scott has worked thanklessly on behalf of the district in various behind the scenes roles and support so many people during this unprecedented period of uncertainty within Scouting for which Paul gave his grateful thanks. Unfortunately, the award had to be presented virtually for which Scott expressed his sincere thanks.



Special Recognition Award

Tonty Rees expressed to the Scout Council that it was felt by the BOT that we would like to acknowledge our gratitude to the outgoing DC (Scott) and DDC (Cathy). Although they have subsequently been persuaded to continue within the district it seemed only right and fitting to show our appreciation.

2 caricature pictures had been commissioned and were shown on screen and would be presented to both Scott and Cathy at the first opportunity once regular face to face meetings resumed.

Avon Scout County Representative

Steve invited Nigel Ball, Deputy County Commissioner to say a few words.

Nigel apologised that Graham Brant unfortunately could not attend the meeting this evening. Nigel went on to say that the last year has been unprecedented year in scouting due to the Covid pandemic. The mini census conducted showed within the county a drop of 11% in adult leadership and a 17% in young people. However, the county had fared better than the national picture. Avon County had offered funding to Districts for groups that were struggling to resume face to face meetings. Further funding could also be requested via the District Commissioner. Thanks to a dedicated team Woodhouse Park had reopened offering activities and camping free of charge to all scouts

Finally, Nigel on behalf of the county team wished to express their sincere thanks to all the volunteers who have risen to the challenge over the last year and juggled their own and family safety and still managed to keep scouting functioning for all our young people.

AGM Closing words

Steve thanked everyone for their attendance and Paul concluded by commenting on the strength and commitment within the District from running zoom meeting for sections to district appointments interview. On behalf of all the young people in the district a big "Thank You". Have a great summer break and hopefully looks forward to seeing you all face to face when the new term starts in September. Where he hopes to visit every scout group within 6 months

This concluded the business of the Annual General Meeting and the meeting closed.