WILTSHIRE SCOUT COUNCIL
Tuesday 22nd July 2025
Annual General Meeting Minutes

	The meeting was opened at 19.30 by the Chair Justin Purkis.
1	**Welcome** - The Chair gave a warm welcome to everyone. A special welcome was given to:- Our President Mrs Sarah Troughton Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Catherine Roper Chief Constable of Wiltshire, The Right Reverend Stephen Lake, Bishop of Salisbury and Vice President Dorset Scouts, Mayor Elect of Devizes Cllr Jennie Britton, Mayor of Swindon Cllr Fay Howard, Graham Brant South West Regional Lead Volunteer for Scouts, Liz Henderson, Chief Volunteer of England for Scouts, Joint Commissions for Girl Guiding in Wiltshire North Liz Radford and Cherie Bennett, and a number of honorary Vice-Presidents.
2	**Apologies** had been received from Jenny McKay, Dave Waspe, Julian Brown, Shirley Eve – President Girlguiding Wiltshire South, Jo Manship – Girlguiding Wiltshire South CC, Elaine and Graham Morrell, Sharon and Kelvin King, Tom Dobson, Richard Holmes Chair then handed over to CLV, who stated that for a long time we have had the honour of having Mrs Troughton as our President, and I would now like to present her with a County Necker – for which she was very grateful.
3	**Reflection** by County Lead Volunteer Theme – Anybody can canoe! Chair thanked Steve. He then stated that any celebration is always mixed with sadness as we remember the people who cannot be, or are no longer here, so let them be in our hearts and minds as we celebrate successes and their contribution to them.
4	**Governance** **a. Approve the Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 18th July 2024** The County Trustee Board reviewed the minutes of the last AGM at their meeting held on 12th September 2024. The minutes were available in the room, also on our website, or can be found using the QR code. The Chair put forward that these minutes are taken as read and ask the County Scout Council to agree they are a true record of that meeting. *There were no objections.* **b. Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules** In line with the recommendation from Scout Headquarters, the County Trustee Board continues to adopt the full County model constitution from Chapter 5c of The Scout Association Policy, Organisation and Rules [POR]. A copy of this is available on The Scout Association website. **c. County's financial year** The Chair asked that the County Scout Council members note our charity's financial year is 1 April to 31 March. **d. Agree number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board** Following good practice recommendations from the Charity Governance Code, POR states Trustee Boards should have a minimum of 5, and no more than 12, Trustees in total. This includes ex-officio and co-opted Trustees.

	The County Scout Council must agree the number of people to be appointed to the Trustee Board. The Trustee Board recommends that 11 people are appointed. The Chair proposed the County Scout Council approves that recommendation. *There were no objections*. **e. Agree the quorum for future meetings of the County Scout Council [excluding this AGM].** The County Scout Council must agree its quorum – the minimum number of County Scout Council members that must be present at County Scout Council Meetings. The Trustee Board recommends the quorum should remain at 25 people. *There were no objections.*
5	**Appointments** **a. Appoint members of the County Trustee Board** A number of the Trustees, including the Chair and the Treasurer are not yet due for reappointment. But we will move to reappointing the Trustees whose term has expired. The recommendation to the County Scout Council is that after a review and selection process undertaken by the Board, the following people should be reappointed as members of the County Trustee Board for a further year. a. Roger Reeves [Roger is also the Chair of the Wiltshire Scout Centre Sub-Committee. b. Tom Dobson There were no objections. The ex-officio members of the Board are the County Lead Volunteer and Youth Lead. And the continuing Trustees are Dave Waspe, Tom Roberts, Dan Bavister and our Treasurer Richard Holmes. Sue Rose is continuing as the Trustee Board's administrator. The Board also has two vacancies for 18-24 year olds which we continue to search and advertise for, and if you are interested in joining the Board, or know anyone who is, please contact the Chair. The Chair thanked the Trustees and administrators for their work during the year and it continues to be a pleasure and privilege to work with them. **b. Appointment of County President and/Vice Presidents** The County Scout Council also appoints the County President, and as such the Trustee Board proposes Dame Sarah Troughton for re-appointment. *There were no objections* **c. Appointment of Auditor** The Treasurer proposes that Monahans continue in the role of Auditor, and to provide accounting support. The Chair confirmed that they are qualified to undertake this role. *There were no objections* **d. Elect County Representatives of the County Scout Council to represent the County on the Council of the Scout Association** The Chair stated that under Rule 6.5 of Policy, Organisation and Rules, we need to elect County representatives to the National Council of The Scout Association. In addition to the County Lead Volunteer, we need to elect one member and one 18-24 year old member to the Council. I have been proposed for election, as has the Youth Lead. *There were no objections*
a	**Review of the Previous Year** **a. Receive and consider the Annual Report of the County Trustee Board including the Annual Statement of Accounts**

The Chair presented the Annual Report of the County Trustee Board, including the Annual Statement of Accounts. The County Trustee Board has approved the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, and received the report on the accounts from our Auditors Monahans. The Report and Accounts comply with the requirements of the Charity Commission and the Scout Association.
Copies were available in the room, also on our web-site.
Unfortunately, Richard Holmes our Treasure is unable to be here tonight due to family illness so has asked the Chair to give the report.

Whilst it has been a challenging financial year, overall the County maintains sufficient reserves and resources to continue to provide and grow Scouting in Wiltshire.
We had a loss this year of over £70,000. Part of this was the development spend of £50,000, funded from reserves, and in line with the Board's approved and ongoing commitment to development, which is leading to the significant sustainable growth in the County and Scouting, in both young people and adult volunteers, especially in areas of reduced provision and privation – of which you will hear more later.

The Wiltshire Scout Centre also made a loss for the first time in many years of £23,000 [before depreciation] where we saw a reduction in income from lettings of over 20%, combined with a significant increase in costs, largely utility costs, with electricity charges having more than doubled over the last two years, mainly due to increased unit costs and standing charges, similar to what we all are no doubt experiencing.

The Board is engaged in supporting the Wiltshire Scout Centre and its viability, through seeking increased bookings and cost reviews, to mitigate the position. This has led to an increase in hire charges to reflect the increases on costs, but charges still represents good value when compared to similar facilities. Also noting that Wiltshire Scouts continue to receive a discount on booking charges.

The Board will continue to actively monitor the situation and confirm their long term commitment to the Centre as it considers all appropriate options.
In addition, this year we also had to take the step of increasing the membership levy to £7.50 per young person, with a further planned increase next year to take the levy back to what it was pre pandemic and, as such, a more sustainable level.

We have not received any questions for tonight ahead of the AGM, but I would now like to invite any questions from the floor.
There were no questions.

Finally I would like to end by thanking Richard and Paul Ingram, our Treasury Administrator, for all the work they have done in the year to support, and to prepare the accounts.

b. The County Lead Volunteers Review

The County Lead Volunteer read though his Report, which was available on our web-site or by using the QR Code. Steve added that the evening was very special to him, as after 10 years as County Commissioner and recently as County Lead Volunteer, it was his last County AGM. Each year had got better and better in Scouting in Wiltshire.

The CLV then introduced a Presentation by members of the 1st Pewsey Scout Group on their visit to Kandersteg International Scout Centre, based in the heart of the Bernese Oberland in Switzerland. . The Group introduced themselves and talked through their journey and many varied experiences on the visit.

The CLV then introduced a Presentation by members of the Growth Team, Mel, Anna and Cathy. They talked about the Projects they had been working on around the County. Their focus is on opening more new Sections, recruiting and promoting Young Leaders and attracting more adults from across our communities.

	Steve gave a big thank you to the Team. Also extra special thanks to Stephanie for her support and guidance over many years, managing the LGO Team in Wiltshire. He wished her all the best in her retirement and presented her with a bouquet of flowers. The Chair thanked the CLV and those who had given a presentation, adding that as we have heard, this will be Steve's last AGM as CLV, but hopefully it will not be the last AGM he attends here! I would like to take this opportunity to thank Steve for all his work as CLV over the last ten years, personally and on behalf of the Board. I am sure he won't mind me saying but it is obvious to many that Scouting is one of Steve's great loves and passions and one he has dedicated much of his time to over many years. He is an advocate of what we do, trying to make sure we do things right, and always for the ultimate benefit of the young people. We look forward to working with Steve in whatever capacity he decides for his continuing Scouting journey, but I would like to make a small presentation on behalf of the Board to mark this occasion. As many of you are aware, Wood Beads are presented to leaders on completion of their training. In the early days of Scouting the wood came from the oak trees at Gilwell, the Scouting Headquarters, but this has not been the case for very many years. Now, periodically a very limited number of special edition wood badges are made from Gilwell Oak and I would like to present a set of these to Steve and hope he remembers us when he wears them. The Chair then handed over to Kate who presented a small gift to Steve on behalf of the Team. Steve then invited our President to present a Bar to the Award of Merit o Sue Dempsey.
7	**Regional Lead Volunteer's Remarks** Graham thanked everyone for attending and stated that it is always a pleasure to see all his colleagues in Scouting. He thanked Steve for all that he had achieved during his 10 years in post and wished him well for the future.
8	**President's Remarks** Our President, Dame Sarah Troughton stated she was proud to wear the Scout Necker and honoured to be President. She was sad to say farewell to Steve, who is an inspiration to the Scout Youth Movement, and did not realise he had been in post for 10 years. The President was thanked for her ongoing support and presented with flowers by Chair.
9	The Chair thanked everyone for attending and also everyone who had contributed to the event.
10	**DATE OF NEXT A.G.M. – Wednesday 15th July 2026**