

Wyre District Scout Council

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 12th September 2020 at 7pm

1	<p>Welcome</p> <p>The Chair (May Gandhi) welcomed attendees to the meeting including the County Commissioner (Craig Dewar-Willox) and County Chair (Carl Hankinson)</p>
2	<p>Prayer</p> <p>The Chair (May Gandhi) invited District Chaplain (George Ayoma) to open the meeting with a short prayer.</p>
3	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>The Chair (May Gandhi) invited District Commissioner (Jon Minshull) to read a list of apologies. Apologies were received from; Mayor of Wyre, Helen Mein, Hazel Brindle, Andrew Truelove, Muriel Freestone, Alan Campbell, Suzanne Campbell, Andrew Lees.</p>
4	<p>Procedure</p> <p>The Chair (May Gandhi) explained that the Exec have passed a motion that allows for the AGM to be conducted virtually.</p> <p>The District Commissioner (Jon Minshull) explained that the meeting will assume that people are voting FOR each motion and will therefore only ask for members who are AGAINST and then those who wish to ABSTAIN to do so using the chat facility in Zoom.</p> <p>Executive Committee Member (Neil Ralph) explained that the meeting was set up to minimise background noise and interference. This means that microphones were muted. They will be unmuted when there is opportunity to ask questions. Neil also explained that there is no AOB and members were asked to raise specific related questions in 'chat' or send to neil.ralph@wyrescouts.org.uk.</p>
5	<p>Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held on 27th June 2019</p> <p>The Chair (May Gandhi) noted that all documents, including the minutes of last year's AGM, are available on the District website listed under "AGM 2020" and accessible to all members of the District Scout Council.</p> <p>The Chair (May Gandhi) indicated that Cyril Crossley proposed that the minutes were a true record of the AGM held on the 27th June 2019 and this proposal is</p>

	<p>seconded by Marjorie Crossley.</p> <p>No members raised objections or abstained from this proposal.</p>
6	<p>Annual Report and Statement of Accounts</p> <p>The Chair (May Gandhi invited District Commissioner (Jon Minshull) to present the Annual Report to the Group Scout Council.</p> <p>The District Commissioner (Jon Minshull) noted that the annual report had been provided in advance of the AGM. The District Commissioner (Jon Minshull) went on to say:</p> <p>"It's clear to see from reading that I have inherited a fantastic group of volunteers who have a real passion to see young people given the best start in life.</p> <p>The annual report is filled with pictures of young people having fun and undertaking exciting activities at various events throughout the previous year including District Camp in June 2019.</p> <p>Wyre also had a number of members attend the World Scout Jamboree in the USA which gave young people in the district the opportunity to experience the unique experience of members from around the world, offering the chance to learn about cultures and traditions against the backdrop of fun and exciting programme activities.</p> <p>At the end of March, Ian Porteous completed his term as District Commissioner in Wyre. Ian has undertaken this role over the last ten years, leading our fantastic district, inspiring hundreds of young people who have benefitted from the great opportunities that Scouting has to offer. Ian has given great service in this challenging role and I am glad that we have been able to say thank you in the virtual world through a framed print of your kind words and generous donations. From all of the members of Wyre I would like to say a massive thank you to Ian for all that he has done.</p> <p>Along with Ian, a number of others decided that they would like to have a fresh challenge in Scouting and I would like to thank them for what they have given to the district. Members of the District Team, Mandy Ramsden (DDC), Alan Campbell (ADC Scouts), Clare May (DESC) and more recently Cyril Crossley (SASU Mgr) all who have significantly contributed to the District Team over a long period. Also, long standing GSL Keith Rawcliffe has decided to stand down from his role as Group Scout Leader at 1st Garstang and I would like to thank him for leading this amazing group. I am pleased that all of our friends will remain involved in Scouting in Wyre and I would like to thank them for what they have achieved in their roles.</p> <p>I have been pleased to appoint new members to the District Team and a number of Group Scout Leaders. Without naming them individually I would like to say thank you for taking up this challenge.</p> <p>In March, a global pandemic took hold and changed our lives significantly seeing us enter a period of lockdown where restrictions were placed on our lives. No one person has been unaffected by the pandemic and it has been a challenging time for our</p>

organisation – and a baptism of fire personally as a new DC.

I have been continually amazed at what our volunteers have achieved in this period, driven by the sheer determination to ensure that young people benefit from the great things in Scouting. We have seen our whole programme move online with us Zooming into a new world (see what I did there). We have achieved amazing things in this period, a number of Chief Scout Awards have been achieved from home, numerous virtual camps have taken place across the district, including the District Virtual Camp where we were joined by Tim Kidd our Chief Commissioner.

One story particularly inspired me - Oliver Jensen who raised money for the NHS and has been awarded the Commissioner's Commendation for his efforts.

It is these great behaviours in our volunteers that will see our organisation survive but not only that, continue to have a huge impact on the lives of young people at a time that it is needed most.

We are now able to start meeting again in a safe and controlled way and I am pleased to let you know that last night there were the first face to face meetings in the district since lockdown (2nd Cleveleys & 1st Thornton). Reports back from the leaders were that, despite some rain, the young people were full of smiles, excited to see their friends again and have fun.

It is now time to transition our organisation back to face to face Scouting, opening up each of our sections across the district such that we can offer the amazing opportunities and help support the development of young people in our communities.

At tonight's AGM we see further change with a number of executive committee members completing their terms and I would like to thank them all. May Gandhi has led the District Executive for the last seven years, supporting the District Commissioner and ensuring that the district has adequate resources to support the district. On their departure, Ian and May leave us with a new District Headquarters, an asset which will be used to support the whole district. A number of other members of the executive committee have completed their term and I would also like to thank them, they are Alan Campbell, Cyril Crossley, Daniel Murray and Andrea Kay (who I would like to thank for her work in helping us through a period of uncertainty amidst Covid-19). I would also like to thank Rob Woodhouse who stepped down from his role as Appointments Advisory Committee Chair.

Ramesh Gandhi has also decided to retire as President of Wyre District Scouts. Ramesh has been a huge advocate of Scouting and our District for many years. Thank you for Ramesh for all that you have done.

Lastly, Hazel Brindle has decided to step down as District Secretary. Many of you will know how much Hazel has given to the district behind the scenes, providing communications to us all, supporting the completion of census and many other tasks all from her home in Yorkshire. Hazel unfortunately can't be with us tonight, but I would like to thank her for all that she has done in the district.

Having talked for some time now, you will have realised what a significant period of

	<p>change the district has gone through. While change can feel uncomfortable it is also important to ensure that we maintain pace and relevance with the world and will ensure that we not only survive but prosper.</p> <p>Later this evening, I will talk a little about my vision for district. Until then I would like to thank each and every one of our volunteers for what you have been doing, its simply remarkable and I look forward to joining with you at your face to face activities in the very near future."</p> <p>The District Commissioner (Jon Minshull) invited District Treasurer (David Simpson) to present the Statement of Accounts to the District Scout Council.</p>
7	<p>Adoption of New Constitution</p> <p>The Chair (May Gandhi) explained that the Executive are recommending a change to the District Constitution to reflect recent changes to POR and recommendations from the Charity Commission. The revised Constitution has been available on the website and voting has already taken place and the result is a majority in favour of accepting the new constitution.</p> <p>The Chair (May Gandhi) indicated that Jan Townley proposed the changes which were seconded by Jon Minshull. No members raised objections or abstained from this proposal.</p> <p>The Chair (May Gandhi) passed on her thanks to Wyre District for the support that she and her husband had received in their respective roles and also wished the district well in the future. The Chair (May Gandhi) handed over proceedings to the District Commissioner (Jon Minshull) and left the meeting.</p>
8	<p>Nomination of Members to the District Scout Council</p> <p>The District Commissioner (Jon Minshull) indicated that members can be nominated to join the District Scout Council. These are people who are not currently members of the District scout council (and in some cases not members of Scouts) who would like to do more work for and with the District, which we will cover later in the agenda.</p> <p>The District Commissioner (Jon Minshull) proposed that Neil Ralph and Rosemary Dyson join the District Scout Council and indicated that this was seconded by Don Ashworth. No members raised objections or abstained from this proposal.</p>
9	<p>Nomination of District Chair</p> <p>The District Commissioner (Jon Minshull) indicated that the District Chair is the nomination of the District Commissioner and nominated Neil Ralph as District Chair.</p> <p>No members raised objections or abstained from this proposal.</p>

10	<p>Election of District Secretary</p> <p>The Chair (Neil Ralph) noted that Hazel Brindle is stepping down after many years as District Secretary. The District will launch a search process for a new District Secretary after the AGM and encouraged members to participate fully in nominating suitable candidates for the role. Until such time that a District Secretary is found the Chair will be the Acting Secretary.</p>
11	<p>Election of District Treasurer</p> <p>The Chair (Neil Ralph) invited nominations for District Treasurer, David Simpson had indicated that he was happy to continue in this role and no further nominations were received.</p> <p>David Simpson was proposed to serve as District Treasurer for the forthcoming year, this was seconded by Gareth Bates. No members raised objections or abstained from this proposal.</p>
12	<p>Approval of Members Elected to the District Executive Committee</p> <p>The Chair (Neil Ralph) described that in accordance with the constitution, it is a matter for the District Scout Council to decide the number of elected members (between 4-6). The Exec recommends 6; 1 of which is for a young person aged 18-25 (in addition to the District Youth Commissioner).</p> <p>The Chair (Neil Ralph) announced that the election has been conducted in advance of the meeting with each nominee being proposed and seconded by a member of the District Scout Council. No young person put themselves forward so this post will remain vacant. On that basis we have not met the requirement to have two 18-25yo on the Executive Committee.</p> <p>The Chair announced that Jan Townley, Nicky Dennison, Maureen Head, Marjorie Crossley and Len Wiseman had been elected to the District Executive. The election results have been published online and a link will be provided in the AGM minutes https://vote.electionrunner.com/election/ink_mPQ3g/results. No members raised objections or abstained from this proposal.</p>
13	<p>Members Nominated by the District Commissioner to the District Executive Committee</p> <p>The Chair (Neil Ralph) informed members that in accordance with the constitution, the number of nominated members must not be greater than the number of elected members.</p> <p>The District Commissioner (Jon Minshull) nominated Andrew Graham and Rosemary Dyson to serve on the District Executive. No members raised objections or abstained from this proposal.</p>
14	<p>Ex-Officio Members</p>

	<p>The Chair (Neil Ralph) clarified that some members of the district, due to the appointment that they hold, are ex-officio members of the executive committee and trustees. These are; District Commissioner (Jon Minshull), District Youth Commissioner (Luke Thornton from November), District Explorer Scout Commissioner (Andy Truelove), District Scout Network Commissioner (Gareth Bates).</p>
15	<p>Election of members of the District to be Nominated Members of the County Scout Council</p> <p>The Chair (Neil Ralph) advised members that each District can elect two members in each of the following categories: Uniformed Leaders, Explorer Scouts and Scout Network Members. It was advised that this has been completed ahead of the AGM.</p> <p>Nominated Members are; Andrew Truelove, Jan Townley, Rhiann Bevan, Jack Thompson, Issac Hill, Ashleigh Cooper. No members raised objections or abstained from this proposal.</p>
16	<p>Appointment of Independent Examiners</p> <p>The Chair (Neil Ralph) invited Treasurer (David Simpson) to nominate an Independent Examiner. David Simpson proposed that Howard Gebhard & Co continued as Independent Examiners, this was seconded by Jan Townley. No members raised objections or abstained from this proposal.</p>
17	<p>A Vision for Wyre Scouts</p> <p>District Commissioner (Jon Minshull) provided a vision for the District, where we are heading and a little about how we will get there. The vision is ambitious with the underpinning reason that we absolutely want young people to have the best start in life. The District Commissioner clearly illustrated the vision through a story focused on the experience of a scout who, having not had the best start in life, thrived as a result of the opportunities offered to her as part of the programme offered by Wyre. Returning to scouting after the restrictions imposed by coronavirus the District significantly enhanced its provision enabling a greater number of people to benefit from Scouting in Wyre. The District Team and Executive have been shaped to allow us to achieve our vision and also to support all sections and groups to work towards it. Help and support is there, I would encourage you to access it, we are one family and we all have the same goal, despite our background and history.</p> <p>Finally, the District Commissioner said that it's been an interesting start to life as a DC, but it has been made easier through seeing the amazing things that you have done in the last 6 months. He then thanked all the amazing volunteers for what they have done, what they are doing, and what they will do.</p>
18	<p>A Celebration of Scouting</p> <p>County Commissioner (Craig Dewar-Willox) started by thanking Ian Porteous</p>

	<p>for his ten years' service as District Commissioner in Wyre. Craig went on to describe the challenges which we currently face and the inspirational stories he had heard about the district during lockdown.</p> <p>Craig thanked all of the members of Wyre for all that they do and wished the district a successful year ahead.</p>
19	<p>A Vote of Thanks</p> <p>District Chair (Neil Ralph), provided a vote of thanks to all members of the district and formally closed the meeting.</p>

Neil Ralph
District Chair

Jon Minshull
District Commissioner