

East Grinstead District Scout Council
Minutes of the 90th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held via Teams on Tuesday 29th September 2020 at 20:00

1. Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence:

Nick Hills, District Chairman, welcomed everyone to the first online AGM. He explained that there were no special guests or dignitaries and no awards would be presented. Invitations were sent to all the District members together with links for the supporting documents.

Mel Fletcher welcomed two members from County.

There are 28 members online and apologies had been received from Lynda and John Railton, Andy Ruxton, Jeff Dyson and Tony Harvey.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 89th AGM held on the 16th July 2019:

The Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting were presented and accepted as a true record.

Proposed by Peter Smith and seconded by Denise Baulch.

3. To receive and approval of the District Executive and Commissioners Annual Reports for the year ending 31st March 2020:

Copies had been circulated and were approved.

Proposed by Rob Marsh and seconded by Tony Baulch.

4. To receive and approve the District Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2019:

Marcus Williams, District Treasurer talked through the accounts, copies of which had been agreed by Nick Hills, Mel Fletcher and an independent examiner. There were no questions and therefore the Accounts were duly adopted.

Proposed by Denise Baulch and seconded by Tony Baulch.

The Acting Chairman Nick Hills stood down from the Chair.

5. To receive the District Commissioner's nomination for District Chairman:

Mel Fletcher, District Commissioner thanked Nick Hills for his work as District Chairman and was pleased to say that Nick had agreed to continue in the role. As there were no other nominations, Nick then resumed Chair of the meeting.

6. Election of District Treasurer and District Secretary:

Marcus Williams had agreed to stand for another year as Treasurer. There were no other nominations and therefore the election was proposed by Nick Hills and Seconded by Peter Smith.

Nick Hills explained that the District were content to operate without an elected Secretary and confirmed that Diane Ward will continue as Minute Secretary and as she will not be a trustee in this role, there was no need to elect.

7. To agree the number of elected members to the District Executive Committee:

The District Executive committee had proposed that up to three people from the membership of the District Scout Council should be elected.

The number of elected members to be three was proposed by Nick Hills and seconded by Rob Marsh.

8. To receive nominations of members from the floor to the District Executive Committee:

Three nominations had been received for Brian Riches, Peter Smith and Tony Baulch. As there were no other nominations they were proposed by Steven Hammond and Seconded by Miles Price.

9. To receive the District Commissioner's nominations of members to the District Executive Committee:

Mel Fletcher proposed Mike Barty, Lloyd Rose and Tony Harvey to the District Executive Committee, seconded by Owen Cheesmur.

10. Executive Sub-Committees:

a) Appointments Advisory Committee:

The following had been proposed; Ron Trumpeter (Chair), Jeff Dyson, Allie Poole, Barbara Groat, and Lynda Railton.

b) Policies & Procedures Committee:

The following had been proposed; Peter Smith (Chair) and Marcus Williams.

c) Covid-19 Face2Face Risk Assessment Committee

The following had been proposed; Tony Baulch and Peter Smith.

All were proposed by Andrew Fox and seconded by Mark Hammond.

11. To appoint an Independent Examiner:

Andrew Smith has acted as Independent Examiner for the Accounts in accordance with POR and the Charities Act and has agreed to continue in this role.

Proposed by Marcus Williams and seconded by Tony Baulch.

12. Any Other Business

Nick Hills said that normally at this point we would present the various district awards. However the executive might try to move the presentation of awards to St George's day. Hopefully we will be back to F2F scouting by then and as the young people attend it would be good to present the awards then. No nominations had been received but the District will get a message out to the Groups/sections/adults on how to make nominations.

13. Reports & Presentations

a) The District Commissioner, Mel Fletcher reports:

Mel thanked all for taking time to join us this evening for the East Grinstead Scout Council 90th AGM – a very different event this year to any that we were planning when it was discussed in the January Committee meeting.

This AGM report looks back on the year of scouting, of which only the last couple of months were affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic and the unprecedented situation of Scouting having to be done virtually, I am sure that this will be the main point of next years AGM, but before I move on, I would just say a thank you to all the leaders for adapting and delivering scouting virtually.

I would just like to take some time to reflect on the 2019/2020 year:

The year contained many of the highlights that Scouting is known for, the Beavers attending Go Beavers at Blacklands, the cubs attending Cosmic Capers Camp at Ardingly, Scouts attending many weekend and week camps across the country, Explorers supporting events such as Gilwell 24 and locally, Operation Triangle night Hike. All these events seem so long ago and we look forward to getting these back on the calendar to get the young people Scouting again.

The district had a great representation at the World Scout Jamboree in North America. We would normally ask for a feedback session from the attendees at our AGM, let's hope we can get them back to next year's AGM.

The Census numbers in the district showed that there is a slight drop in overall membership in the district and the biggest reduction in the district team. This means we have vacancies in some of the key roles such as ADC's Beavers – adult recruitment is a common theme of every years report,

I hope that maybe the current pandemic will make people see the value of scouting and may just bring more adult help as we all work from home more and maybe, just maybe have a little more time for our community.

One of the key changes that we are seeing and being communicated from HQ, and therefore we need to be very aware of locally, is the increase in Training.

Governance and Risk Assessments that the Scout Association is requiring to ensure that all the events and activities that we deliver remain Safe and Compliant in todays world.

Whilst we have seen this over the last 12 months, this will and is becoming absolutely mandatory if we as adults wish to continue to deliver scouting in a safe environment for young people.

I would like to finish my report with thanks to all the district team who support and enable scouting in the district, many hours are spent supporting the groups and ensuring we are delivering the best scouting we can within East Grinstead.

Specifically, I would like to personally thank David Matthews who pulls together the district report, works tirelessly on the Census numbers and battles continually with the changing needs of the Training Syllabus. He takes a lot of workload that, without him, would drop onto my shoulder, Thank you David.

Nick, Mr Chairman, I would also like to thank the committee for pulling this AGM together online and to Marcus, our Treasurer, ensuring that we remain compliant with our accounting processes during a time when we cannot meet F2F. Thank You.

As we continue to work through these interesting times, I look forward to meeting with you Face 2 Face again in the near future as I start this, my last year in the Role as DC.

Thank you for listening to my report and I would now like to offer to our guests from County to raise their hand if they would like to say a few words and we can virtually pass the mike to you.

b) Other speakers

The County Chair, Rachel thanked the district for the amazing job they are doing to keep activities online for the young people. Virtual camps and campfires sound fun. Thank you's also to all the group executives for taking care of the groups and continuing with the appropriate risk assessments as we return to F2F scouting.

Andrew Swain is the new Health & Safety Advisor. 300 members within the County need to update their safety training. County will help in anyway possible.

Well done to Mel who works so hard for the district and thanks to all for everything you do.

Suzanne Few offered her thanks to the Go Beavers team – hopefully Go Beavers 2021 will go ahead. Thanks to everyone and the core district team for having to adapt. As we return to F2F scouting we must be inclusive to all young people and adults. Please ask if support is needed.

Phoebe, DYC – Mel and the District are really positive.

14. Meeting close

Nick thanked everyone for attending the first online AGM and for their continuing efforts.

The meeting ended at 20:35.