

East Grinstead District Scout Council
Minutes of the 91st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held via Teams on Tuesday 10th August 2021 at 20:00

1. Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence:

Nick Hills, District Chairman, welcomed everyone to the second online AGM as a result of the Covid 19 Pandemic. He explained that there were no awards being presented and no special guests or dignitaries have been invited however we welcome guests from County. Invitations were sent to all the District members together with links for the supporting documents.

There are 25 members online and apologies had been received from Rachel Hammond, County Chair, and Holly-Mae Robinson.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 90th AGM held on the 29th September 2020:

The Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting were presented and accepted as a true record.

Proposed by Nick Hills and seconded by Mark Hammond.

3. To receive and approve the District Executive and Commissioners Annual Reports for the year ending 31st March 2021:

Copies had been circulated and were approved.

Proposed by Nick Hills and seconded by Tony Baulch.

4. To receive and approve the District Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2021:

Marcus Williams, District Treasurer talked through the accounts, copies of which had been distributed by Nick Hills. He explained that very little has happened over the last year with youth activities down by 80%. Support was also given to our tenant at the Wagg Centre and all insurances have been paid. The District also provided grants to support the Groups.

There were no questions and therefore the Accounts were duly adopted.

Proposed by Nick Hills and seconded by Peter Smith.

The Acting Chairman Nick Hills stood down from the Chair.

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

Robert Sawyer, County Commissioner who is acting as the East Grinstead 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 was proposed by Nick Hills to stand for another year as Treasurer. There were no other nominations from the floor. 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 Miles Price.

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 Nick Hills and Seconded by Rob Marsh.

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

Nick Hills, on behalf of the DC, proposed Mike Barty and Tony Harvey to the District Executive Committee, seconded by David Matthews.

10. Notice of Executive Sub-Committees:

Nick Hills explained that we seek to provide notice to the Scout Council of the various executive subcommittees that have been convened on behalf of the district executive committee.

a) Appointments Advisory Committee:

Nick Hills explained that both Ron Trumpeter and Jeff Dyson have stepped down from the AAC and Tony Harvey will take over as Chair. Allie Poole, Barbara Groat and Lynda Railton have agreed to stay on the committee and the team are now in the process of recruiting more people and are especially looking for younger members.

b) Policies & Procedures Committee:

As part of this committee, Peter Smith and Marcus Williams have helped with guidance notes and documents for Groups and their Executive and Leader teams.

c) Covid-19 Face2Face Risk Assessment Committee

This committee has not yet been disbanded pending any other changes to restrictions in the coming period. It is comprised of Tony Baulch, David Matthews and Peter Smith, who have worked incredibly hard on helping Groups and Sections return to face 2 face scouting.

Nick Hills thanked all of the sub-committees for their hard work.

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 Nick Hills.

12. Any Other Business

There was no other business to report with regard to the AGM.

13. Meeting Close

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

14. Reports & Addresses

Mel Fletcher thanked Ron Trumpeter and Jeff Dyson for their time on the AAC, which was a challenging task requiring a lot of understanding. Nick Hills then said that the number of years that both Ron and Jeff had put into Scouting was staggering and we are all hugely appreciative of their efforts.

Nick Hills then read an email from Rachel Hammond, County Chair:

“I would like to commend all the Leaders in East Grinstead for the sterling work that they have done to keep Scouting alive and well in East Grinstead during the pandemic. Thanks to their ingenuity and efforts you have been able to keep many young people engaged in Scouting despite the challenges.”

Nick Hills then echoed the comments above and said that the District could not operate without the support from everyone. On behalf of the District Executive he thanked all the Leaders, Assistants, Helpers, Parents and Group Executive members for their support especially over the pandemic which was a big challenge.

Connor, County Youth Commissioner, then thanked everyone for rising to the challenge. He enjoyed reading the reports of events that took place during the strange and difficult year. He enjoyed the District Pancake meeting on zoom and was pleased to hear that the District are actively looking for 18-25 year olds to join the AAC. He also advised that Miles Price has finishing as District Youth Commissioner in East Grinstead and will be joining the County team. He had promoted youth scouting in East Grinstead and we are currently recruiting for a new DYC.

Robert Sawyer then thanked Mel Fletcher for his 5 years as District Commissioner and thanked Nick Hills and the District Executive committee for their commitment and hard work. It has been a difficult year of scouting but so good to see how much online scouting went on. Looking forward to getting back to face to face scouting and for the County to support sections if needed. He reminded all that there are awards available to thank adults so please put forward any names and details.

A new District Commissioner is needed for East Grinstead and Robert asked if anyone is interested, or knows of anyone, to let the County know as this is a role open to all. He ended by thanking everyone for their time and said that the County are there if support is needed.

Nick Hills then closed the meeting and looks forward to meeting everyone face to face soon.

The meeting ended at 20.30