Chelmsford District Scout Council
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Held on Sunday 15th September 2024 at 2pm in Tinley Building, Skreens Park

Present – Roger Cole (in the chair), Leanne Oscroft and Suzanne Ball (Co-Lead Volunteers), Richard Oscroft MBE, (District President), Councillor Janette Potter (Mayor of the City of Chelmsford), Jackie Galley (Mayoress), Bob Bye (County Lead Volunteer), Wendy Bye (County 4-13 Programme Team Lead) plus some 68 members and friends of the District Scout Council representing the following Groups/Units – 1st Chelmsford, 2nd Chelmsford, 5/9th Chelmsford, 8th Chelmsford, 11th Chelmsford, 14th Chelmsford, 15th Chelmsford, 24th Chelmsford, 25th Chelmsford, 26th Chelmsford, Bicknacre Priory, 1st Boreham, 1st Broomfield, 1st Danbury, 1st Ingatestone, 1st Sandon, 1st Woodham Ferrers, 1st Writtle, Network, ASU, Evolve ESU, Tsunami ESU, Conundrum ESU, Relentless ESU.

1) **Welcome** – Roger welcomed everybody including our guests Councillor Janette Potter (Mayor of the City of Chelmsford), Bob Bye (County Lead Volunteer), He reminded everyone that the Scout Association is currently in the process of introducing a number of changes to our movement – called Transforming the Volunteer Experience. He reminded everyone that the AGM documents have been available for some time on the Chelmsford Scouts website

2) **Apologies for Absence –** 2 members of the District sent their apologies.

3) Minutes of Annual General Meeting – held on 31st August 2023

a) Last year's AGM minutes which had been made available to all members of the District were **Approved and Accepted by a show of hands.**

4) Governance Topics

b) To adopt the Chelmsford District Scout Council constitution (based on the Scout Association "Model") which is posted on our website. Noted that with Co-Lead Volunteers, one will be ex-officio and one co-opted onto the District Trustee Board **Approved and Accepted by a show of hands.**

c) To note the District's financial year. **Noted as 1st April to 31st March.**

d) To Approve appointed and Community members of the District Scout Council. Proposed that the Guide Commissioners (north & South) be appointed. **Approved and Accepted by a show of hands.**

e) To agree the number of members that may be elected to the Trustee Board. Following good practice recommendations from the Charity Governance Code, The Scout Association's Policy Organisation & Rules (POR) states that Trustee Boards should have a minimum of 5, and no more than 12 Trustees in total. This includes ex officio and co-opted Trustees. It is proposed that as the remit of the Board in future will be more focused on Governance matters, the outgoing Trustee Board recommends that the board be reduced to up to 10 people. **Approved and Accepted by a show of hands.**

f) To agree the number of members from the District Scout Council to form a quorum. **Approved and Accepted as 12 members, by a show of hands.**

5) <u>Review of the Previous Year</u>

The 2023/24 Annual Report had previously been posted on the website together with a set of audited accounts.
Leanne ran through the District's activities over the past year. She covered both the results from the 2024 census together with the main activities and events from 2023/2024 using a slide show presentation. She then advised the District that Amy England has been appointed as District Youth Lead and was presented with her District scarf.
Roger reported that the Trustee Board had approved the Statement of accounts as shown in the Annual Report following their official ratification by the Independent Examiner. The main points were highlighted, and the District Treasurer was available to answer any questions.
The Annual Report and Accounts were **received and approved by a show of hands.**

6) <u>Appointments</u>

With regards to the Open Selection process for appointing Trustees this year. We discussed this at the TB and felt that whilst the Transformation process is still working its way through, that it might be wise not to appeal too widely outside Scouting for applications to the new TB. We did make an appeal through CVS as well as through local media and directly to our own members. We had one enquiry, but the outcome from this was not successful. At this stage Roger pointed out that under our new Constitution, Trustee appointments can be made for 1, 2 or 3 years.

He then handed the chairmanship of this meeting over to the District Lead Volunteer. Who advised that the recommendation to the District Scout Council is that Malcolm Taylor should be appointed as District Chair for a period of 3 years. She then handed back to Roger to carry on, after thanking him for his service over the last 5 years.

a) To appoint the District Treasurer. The recommendation to the District Scout Council is that David Clarke should be appointed as District Treasurer for a period of 3 years. **Approved by a show of hands.**

b) Appoint members of the District Trustee Board, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board. The recommendation to the District Scout Council is that the following should be appointed as members of the District Trustee Board.

To be appointed for a period of 3 years - Rick Balding and Co-Dist/ Lead Vol Leanne Oscroft

To be appointed for a period of 1 year. Danyel Horner and Andy Missen
And to note that the Co-DLV Suzanne Ball is an Ex Officio member of the Trustee Board as is the new District Youth Lead – Amy England. **Approved by a show of hands.**
These Trustees together with the Chair and treasurer bring the Board to a total of 8 people. The Board may also co-opt trustees and previously have co-opted someone with responsibility for Safety and Safeguarding. It will be up to the new Board to continue to make that appointment if they so wish.
Roger then thanked those who have agreed to be Trustees as well as thanking all our current Trustees for their work during the past year and, in particular, those trustees who are now standing down – Bruce Knight, Nicola Hills, Chris Harpley and Steph Bendall - and thanks too to Kris Reynolds our Communications and Media adviser and Yan Guo who has helped with finance matters.

c) To Reappoint District President and/or Vice Presidents. Chelmsford District have been fortunate in having had Richard Oscroft MBE as our president for a number of years and Roger asked for approval for Richard to continue as our President. **Approved by a show of hands.**
d) At this point the District Lead Volunteers requested approval to appoint Roger Cole as District Vice President **. Approved by a show of hands.**
e) To appoint the Independent Examiner for 2024/2025. Community 360 have been our Independent Examiners for the past 9 years and last year we experienced a few problems. However, this year their service was greatly improved, and they even reduced their fees. It is proposed to reappoint 360 for Independent Examination of the accounts. **Approved by a show of hands.**
f) To nominate representatives of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council. With your approval, Kris Reynolds is nominated as the District's representatives on the Essex County Scout Council. And as Roger also put his name forward to join the County Scout Council on behalf of the District. **Approved by a show of hands.**

7) **<u>Guest Presentations</u>**
a) Bob Bye commented that he is often asked if Scouting is still relevant, and what we had done and achieved this past year shows that it still is, and it's more relevant following Covid on both young people but also the adult leadership teams. It goes to show what we do on a weekly basis helps improve life for not only the young people but also the adults as well. He congratulated us on not only our growth in youth membership but also adult recruitment coming away from the Covid losses. He mentioned that going through Transformation will not change what we do with the young people will not change, the only changes are at management level and what we call ourselves and how we record training etc.
b) Councillor Janette Potter Commented that "Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development empowering them to make a positive contribution in society. Chelmsford District Council existed to develop Scouting and support Groups and Units to further that development to provide scouting to those young people who want to join". Well, that's what it says on the internet.

Here today Chelmsford District Scout Council has proved that it does, but it's also down to the chosen leaders in the District who under guidance and the rules of the Scout

Association go out and meet and greet young people of today to encourage them. Not an easy task, being up against the TV, PlayStation, laptops, and fellow school children who don't think it's a cool thing to be a Scout. But surely one of the main things a new Scout learns is to accept those who are not interested and realise what others are missing by not being a member. Nobody is born a leader, they grow progressively over the years and being helped along the way by the older generation showing the younger generation how to make a positive contribution to society. To all the Leaders of this District well done.

8) **Closing Remarks**

Roger again highlighted the growth of the movement across the District, mentioning that there is pressure in all sections. He appealed to our guest councillors to consider that, with Chelmsford growing with many new housing developments, that provision for adequate facilities for youth clubs, Scout Groups, community groups etc always be included in such developments.
Roger acknowledged and remembered Mike Hiom, Ed McCall and Sandra Brogan who have "Gone Home" this past year.
Roger closed the formal part of the AGM and handed over to Suzanne and Leanne to give awards to the following adult members of the District.

Wood Badge to Gwen Hudson and Rebecca Bentley
5 year award to Greg Mond, Sarah Ryn, Faith Stansfield and Mark Povey
15 year award to Charlotte Ball and Stephen Eatley
20 year award to David Clarke, Kevin Bishop, Alexander Halstead and Colin Reynolds
25 year award to Melaine Collett, Peter Wilkes and Lee Chandler
40 year award to Mavis Burton, Gary Steggall and Martin Davison
Chief Scout Commendation for Good Service to Kevin Bishop, Ian Wright and Amy England
Award of Merit to Stephen Randell, Rebecca Bentley, Paul England, Jason Jeffery, Brian Catt, Maxine Bloom and Arnold Bloom
Bar to Award of Merit to Catherine Butler, Fiona Walker and David Fenton
Bar to the Silver Acorn to Alison Cook

The Chief Scout's Personal Award had been presented to Isla Packard, Laura Passfield, Layla Arslam and Poppy Moore on Friday night at an award ceremony for the youth of the District These four young scouts, who whilst on County Backpack came across a lady who had fallen and broken her ankle. Using learnt "Skills for Life", they called the ambulance, reassured her and stayed until help arrived.