**EASTERN NORWICH SCOUT COUNCIL**

**Annual General Meeting**

Saturday 8th June 2024 – 12:00

Old Catton Village Hall, Hall Drive (off Church St) Old Catton NR6 7DW

# Minutes

## 1. Introduction and welcome

Barry Manley (BM), District Chair, welcomed everyone to the AGM, thanking Paul Weeks for organising the facilities and especially welcoming Paul Bean Acting CC and Diana Buck to present the Terry Buck shield.

## 2. Apologies for absence

Marylyn Evans, Andrew Hawker, Nick Bannon, Adam Wegg, Lisa Randall, James

Page, Simon Busby, Alison Myers, Roger Childs, David Clemow, Dave

Montgomery, Sylvia Fruish, Gavin Warnes, Matthew Robinson

## 3. Governance topics

BM advised the meeting that the AGM will be run using the new recommended format given by TSA following the adoption of new rules to satisfy the Charities Commission. There is no need to continue with the older way of doing things. Members need to approve nomination rather than nominate people form the floor of the meeting. The old District Executive is now known as the Board of Trustees (BoT) and The District Scout council is all adults that hold roles within the district plus parents of all Explorer Scouts in the district.

1. Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 3rd June 2023 The minutes have previously bene published on the district website and were approved by a show of hands form those attending.

1. Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) The District’s constitution is the ‘bible’ as to how the district should be run the district constitution (Again the proposed constitution has been previous published on the District Website and is to be reviewed on an annual basis. BM also offered paper copies should anyone wish to receive one.

The new constitution was approved by a show of hands

1. Note the District’s financial year.

The accounting year runs from 1st April to 31st March each year

d./e. Approve appointed and community members of the District Scout Council

The BoT is to consist of between 5 and 12 members and BM suggested that there is an odd number in case of a split vote. At the present time the district has 14 members but in future this will include only one Youth Commissioner, Charlie Dunham is to step down for the time being due to other commitments. This will leave 13 members for the time being but as the new systems are developed some members will step sideways into other roles so it is proposed that 13 members remain for the time being.

This was approved by the members in attendance

f. Agree the quorum for future meetings of the District Scout Council (excluding this AGM)

BM proposed that a quorum is 15 members for the time being and this was approved by a show of hands

## 4. Review of the previous year

1. The District Lead Volunteer’s review of Scouts in the Eastern Norwich District

Please refer to the separate report below

1. Receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Trustee Board, including the annual Statement of the Accounts

Paul Weeks, The District Treasurer presented the annual accounts for the accounting year 1/4/2023 – 31/3/2024. Paul explained the4 accounts, confirmed that they have been examined and approved by the Examiner and the Trustees Board and noted that Decoy’s money is ringfenced within the accounts.

## 5. Making appointments

1. Appoint the District Chair, following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board

BM was nominated and approved by the meeting

1. Appoint the District Treasurer, following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board

Paul weeks was nominated and approved by the meeting

1. Appoint members of the District Trustee Board, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board The following members of the Trustee board were nominated and approved by the meeting:

Simon Alexander (Secretary), Joseph Pocock (DYC) Paula Humphrey, Colin

Goff, Gillian Hanley, Diane Newson, Brian Tucker, John Pond, Linda Manley,

Alan Bedder,

1. Appoint Independent Examiner

Rachel Goodchild has examined the accounts for the last 12-month period, and we are looking to appoint a new examiner for the current period and the meeting were asked to help find a suitable candidate.

1. Nominate representatives of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council

The following were nominated and approved by the meeting:

Joseph Pocock

Colin Goff

Barry Manley

## 6. Presentation by 2023 South Korea Jamboree Scouts

A video presentation for the Scouts who attended the Korean World

Scout Jamboree was played and questions answered by Emily Fenton

## 7. Closing remarks

The Terry Buck Shield was presented to Debby Walker by Diana Buck and Debby was thanked for her work during the year following nomination by her Group.

We also wish her well for her upcoming treatment.

The meeting was closed by BM at 1.00pm

## District Scout Council Members Present at AGM 2024

Paula Humphrey, Joseph Pocock, Daniel Wilkin, Gwen Wilkin, Simon Alexander, Barry

Manley, Linda Manley, Suzanne Childs, Kyle Hampshire-Smith, Paul Bean (Acting CC),

Rusty Carter, Trevor Kershaw, Debby Walker Leah Walker, Tim Brook, Gillian Hanley,

Malcolm Myers, Jolhn Percival, Diane Newson, Ivan Newson, Charlie Dunham, Sharon Payne, Diana Buck, Alastair McDougall, Simon Welin, Emily Fenton, Matt Failes, James Royal, Linda Iaccarino, Roger Graham-Leigh, Brian Tucker.

**Reports:**

## Chair of Board of Trustees – AGM Report 2024

This new terminology (Board of Trustees) is the part of the transition of Scouting which is about to commence and is what all Executive committees will now be known as. We look forward to hearing more about the transition in the months to come as we modernise and drive the movement forward.

Some of the new process’s have caused additional work for leaders and I refer particularly to the Nights Away process and Risk Assessment. Much of this was the result of HQ reacting to an incident where a scout tragically lost his life on an outdoor activity in 2018. As the inquest concluded in April 2024, I fear there will be a lot more that leaders are expected to introduce to ensure the safety of our young people and adults.

For the District Team this has been extremely difficult year to try to balance the need for compliance without it being seen as the team being pedantic. We must all be seen to be doing our utmost to ensure the safety of everyone and I thank you for your patience.

Nationally, scouting is still recovering from the pandemic. Therefore, it was great to see on the January 2024 census that our numbers of youngsters have rallied to pre-pandemic levels. The younger sections were slightly down, but in line with national trends the Scouts and Explorer sections showed some growth. With the second squirrel section in the district opening very recently, it will not be long before these filter through to the older sections. However, we still suffer a shortage of leaders and are having to manage waiting lists in most of our groups. Hopefully, some new initiatives will see the district recruiting leaders over the coming years.

On behalf of the “Board of Trustees” I would like to thank the District Commissioner and her team and all the leaders and supporters of scouting around the district that offer our young people great opportunities and skills for life.

## Barry Manley – Board of Trustees Chairman

### District Lead Volunteer Report for AGM – 8th June 2024

Firstly, let me start by thanking you all for your contribution to Scouting in Eastern Norwich. As Barry has mentioned, we have maintained our youth members with some losses in Beavers and Cubs, but gains in Scouts and Explorers, and this is with the introduction of Squirrels to the District.

### Squirrels

Our first Drey opened in September 2022, and after the initial flurry of want to join, I believe the waiting list is still long at 45th Norwich, but it is being managed well, with them moving on to Beavers at the appropriate time. These Squirrels attended St George’s day, with Liam, breaking the Flag at the beginning of the day. Just after the Easter holiday, we opened our second Drey, this one being at GLP. Both Dreys have been invited for the day, to the Teddy Bears Picnic District Beaver Camp in June. We look forward to hearing/seeing their adventures in the years to come.

### Beavers

In the summer of 2023, the Beavers held a sleepover at GLP, with the theme of being under the sea. And earlier this year they attended a Beaver activity badge day in which looked at various countries around the world for their international badge. And we’re looking forward to Teddy Bear’s picnic camp, with the Squirrels visiting for the day.

### Cubs

The emphasis last year was to allow the groups/sections to run their own things without the district supplementing their programme except for Daylark, which some Cubs took part in March, but as a section we’re looking forward to District Cub camp at Eaton Vale, in July, this year’s theme build it/construction.

### Scouts

Following last year’s AGM, the scouts had their district camp at Decoy, where they enjoyed a mixture of land and water activities. Unfortunately, due to weather and leader shortage, we couldn’t run the night hike, but the first shooting competition without Slug took place, with his family coming along to present the trophy in his name. **Explorers**

We haven’t had much of a programme for explorers, but they often join in with Scouts camps/hikes. It is our hope to have a district camp for them this year. Many of them are young leaders with the younger sections and have attended various modules within the training programme, along with the district activities for the section they’re working in.

As a district, we celebrated the life of Colin Clarke, he was the life and soul of 45th Norwich, and as a true Scouter, he attended the County AGM, with wife Glynis, to be represented his Silver Wolf, he is sorely missed by the group, although Glynis now helps with the Squirrel section and his Scouting spirit will live on through members of his group and his family.

Although the year was quiet in terms of district events, I have still been extremely busy reading RA’s and approving the many camps, the sections put on. At the end of April, we held our bi-annual St George’s Activity Day, and despite the wind and rain, the young people had an amazing time, so a massive thank you to the small but mighty team for their herculean efforts to make the event run smoothly. Our thanks need to go to Norwich School for allowing us to use their field and this year the grass took a hit, where some activities, so thank you Tim and 8th Norwich, for allowing us to use your facilities. The district team are looking forward to a busy year ahead.

I would like to thank Barry and the Board of Trustees, for their work behind the scenes, Adam and Matthew for helping their sections where needed, Joseph and Charlie for their contribution to the team, but most of all to Paula (and Colin) for being my rock, when I doubt myself, and at other times too, I can’t believe this is my third year as District Lead, and I would like to thank my children Daniel, Matthew, Joseph and Ethan for sharing me with the district, as some weeks they barely see me (some might say that’s a bonus).

I’m going to end this report by saying it’s an honour to be your lead volunteer but as I’ve reported of late, the workload can be overwhelming particularly as a single mum, with this in mind, I have told David (CLV), Eastern Norwich Board of Trustees and my team, I have set the date for when my term as lead volunteer will end, this being 30th April 2026, which I know is two years away, but gives me some time to look for a successor, and please don’t look to Paula, as she has already said no. We both wish to continue with the Young Leader training, and will possibly look at other roles too, as yet we don’t know where.

Thank you for what you do for Scouting, in Eastern Norwich and further afield, it is truly appreciated by the young people and myself, together we are giving Skills for

Life.

District youth lead volunteer report 2023-2024

### Charlie’s Report

This has been my first full year in this roll and a very busy one at that.

I have tried this year to get around most of the groups in Eastern Norwich for those of you that in groups that have seen me this year I am sorry you are all on the list and I will get around everyone at some point.

Most of this year I have spent trying to understand all of the you shape badges there is now one for every single section with the Squirrel ne only having launched this year back in April all the you shape awards are made up of 4 badges all have which have the same name thought out all of the sections and they all are very different to earn I have mainly been looking at my own group and seeing where the hole are in the sections and which ones are the hardest to earn

I am currently working on something at the scout section in my own group which hopefully if it works I can then help all groups that would like to have it roll it out in their own sections. This hopefully happen in later this year probably in September. The rest of this year we have been at most of the district events and some of the county event

Starting off with the District scout camp at decoy broad

I have attended 2 of the county events in the past year one being Norfolk 24 it was great to be at this as it is the first time this has been run there were a few units there from Easten Norwich and they loved it Is happening again this year and is bigger and better than ever places are running out fast so if you’re not signed up get in fast. The other being BPA all thought this was a very cold and wet night in February Zone 6 was a great laugh and all of the teams that went in from Eastern Norwich done really well in the wet and the cold.

### Joseph’s Report

I have helped out at Module A for 45th Explorers where I talked about risk assessments, how we make them, what they are used for helping run this has allowed the explorers to be covered If they ever want to become young leaders within a section.

I also helped at 45ths family camp on Saturday 25th May running archery as Andy had only recently got his archery permit along with Daniel which went well, and everyone seemed to enjoy the day I even had a game of lasertag along with some of the other leaders from the 45th.

I have also added the risk template to the website I under the about tab, then links and it will be near the bottom of the page.

The district meetings that I have attended is the Squirrel’s, Beavers and Cub Meeting held at the 15th along with going to the Scout Explorer meeting which was held at the

35th’s HQ.

### Both Attended

We have also both been at all of the young leader training event thought out the year holding 2 multi modules weekend and also some standalone module A and we held

a module K we have also manged to get a few young leaders there belt this year which is great hopefully many more to come this year.

We both also helped at daylark this year this was great event many thanks to the people that organised it can’t wait for next years.

We have also been on the planning committee for St Georges day I have also done some you shape stuff about St Georges day while at the event and after with beavers all across this district while I had some of them out on the water on the day and with some of the scouts from 1st Blofield and brundall soon after the event. We will use all of this info to make the next event better.

We have also been to District youth commissioners’ meetings this is where all of the Districts youth commissioners in the county meet up and discus all of the things that we have been up to where we are all getting on well and not so well. Theses are great to be at and really helps us all to get new instead on what to do next.

## Local Training Managers Report 2023/24

The County continues to operate with a depleted training team, but despite this, the district has continued to offer support and encouragement for leaders to complete their training modules with the ultimate goal of obtaining their Wood Beads. The new learning process known as the “Learning Tree” is in its infancy. It starts with *Growing Roots* for getting stated and progress’s to *Branching Out* for further development. The old Wood Badge scheme will be phased out during 2025 and I strongly urge those who have started their Wood Badge to complete it as soon as possible. You can contact me or your Training Advisor to help with this.

The district continues to offer first aid training based on the demand from leaders. We will accept qualifications from external trainers, but this must include a syllabus to ensure the Scout Association requirement are being met for infantile CPR and illness etc. We now have a good compliance rate but cannot relax this as our DC frequently has to suspend leaders for not having the basic modules and safety safeguarding, first aid and a current DBS. It is your responsibility to keep these up to date and you will receive reminders from Gilwell if you keep your e mail address current on Compass.

My involvement with the District Appointment Committee enables me to meet new leaders and introduce them to the training scheme. This ensures that we get commitment to undertake the training, and this is improving our success rate of trained leaders.

With a view to a new adult database on the horizon, I have spent many hours updating the current Compass system to ensure that when the transition date comes upon us, the information we transfer is correct and up to date. I urge leaders to look at their record frequently and if anything needs correcting or updating, to let me know.

## Barry Manley – Volunteer Development Team

