**Forest of Dean District Scout Council**

## Minutes of AGM

## On 28th October 2021 at 7pm, Forest Hills Golf Club, Coleford

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| **ATTENDANCE** | |
| **PRESENT** | Mark Spiller District Commissioner/County Commissioner  Kat Holter County Youth Commissioner  Gary Law Assistant County Commissioner - Inclusion  Tom Rushton Deputy District Commissioner  Andrew Morgan-Watts District Chairperson  Paul Hill District Treasurer  Rosie Marks District Secretary  Archie Barrell District Youth Commissioner  Lily Hough District Youth Commissioner  Nick Penny District President  Brian Wingfield District President  Helen Williams District Appointments Secretary  Martin Williams Local Training Manager  Neal Harden District Executive Committee Member  Gareth Ovens District Executive Committee Member/GSL Royal Forest  Mark Westwood District Executive Committee Member /ADC Young Leaders/ GSL Aylburton and Lydney  Ang Healy ADC Cubs  Carol Rushton ADC Activities/ GSL Clearwell and Sling  Roger Gardner GSL 1st Cinderford  Matt Johnson GSL 1st Newent GSL  Derek Pavey District Scout Active Support  Trevor Heck District Scout Active Support  Roger Thorne District Scout Active Support  Anita Maxwell 1st Ruardean  Greg Moger 1st Cinderford  Emma Spiller Severn Steel Explorer Scout Unit  Mark Stapleton |
| **APOLOGIES** | Mark Westgate 1st Cinderford  Mark Bunyan 1st Staunton & Corse |

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| ITEM | |
|  | **Welcome**  The chair welcomed all to the meeting and asked for a minute of prayer or reflection as the meeting started. |
|  | **Gone Home**  A moment of reflection and thanks was observed in memory of Graham Cox and Andy Heaysman |
|  | **Minutes of Previous AGM**  The minutes of the 2020 AGM were circulated and accepted.  Proposed by: Neal Harden  Seconded by: Gareth Ovens  Accepted by the meeting |
|  | **Annual Trustees Report**   1. Paul Hill presented the annual accounts. Martin Williams expressed a vote of thanks to Paul Hill for managing the accounts through the difficult times caused by the pandemic. 2. Chair’s Report: See attached report 3. District Commissioner’s Report: See attached report. The DC thanked Gary Law for his role as DC and for his wisdom, creativity and leadership.   Proposed by: Martin Williams, Seconded by: Mark Westwood  The annual report was accepted by the meeting. |
|  | **Election of Ex-Officio Officers to the executive committee**  Andrew Morgan-Watts was nominated as District Chairperson  Proposed by: Mark Spiller  Seconded by: Matt Johnson  Paul Hill was nominated as District Treasurer.  Proposed by: Andrew Morgan Watts  Seconded by: Helen Williams  The meeting approved the nominations.  Rosie Marks is stepping down as District Secretary. The position is currently vacant. |
|  | **Election of Members to the District Executive Committee**   1. **Elected Members:** Mark Westwood, Neal Harden, Trevor Heck and Helen Williams were put forward for election. Proposed by: Andrew Morgan-Watts, Seconded by: Tom Rushton. The meeting approved the nominations. 2. **Nominated members:** Matt Johnson, Ang Healey, Tom Rushton and Martin Williams were nominated by Mark Spiller. Seconded by: Neal Harden. The meeting approved the nominations. 3. **Co-opted Members:** There were no co-opted member to be approved by the meeting. Martin Williams suggested co-opting a member to coordinate our celebrations of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee later in the year. This was agreed. 4. **Representative to the County Scout Council:** Appointment for this position was carried forward to the next Executive Committee meeting. 5. The District Chair invited all Group chairs to attend District Executive meetings. |
|  | **Appointment of Independent Accounts Examiner**  The treasurer proposedWilden & Co of Lydney as the independent Accounts Examiner for the coming year.  This was approved by the meeting. |
| 8. | **The District Youth Commissioners**  The District Youth Commissioners have been very active across the district in the following ways:   * Working with other DYCs across county. * Work on mock executives with young people. * Support to develop unit forums – enabling Young People’s voices to be heard * Supporting Mark Westwood with his programme for Young Leaders across District * Producing Oakleaf, the district newsletter. * The launch of new Youth Shaped badge, including resources to support its implementation. This will be a year round focus, rather than a specific month. It will come in the form of a segmented badge consisting of four sections. For the centre, the young person decides on a challenge. They then earn the outside segments through elements called ‘lead’, ‘plan’ and ‘represent’.   Ang Healey asked why there was not a Youth Shaped badge for leaders to encourage them to support young people. AMW proposed to ask the DYC to put this to national level. If not, there may be some potential for District or County to produce an adult badge.  AMW thanked the DYCs for their work. |
| 9. | **The County Representative**  Mark Spiller spoke in his role as County Commissioner.  Scouting in the Forest of Dean is special – so many good things are happening. The District Youth Commissioners are amongst the most active in the County – a great team who make a difference. Many individuals also help the County in different ways. Emma Spiller (wife to the CC and ESU leader), Martin Williams (a confidant and a leader in quality training and compliance), Mark Westwood (impacting Young Leader support at a national level), Gareth Ovens, Ang Healey – all have supported across the whole county as representatives of the district. Gary Law was also presented with a prize for most improved district on compliance whilst he was District Commissioner.  It has not been easiest 18 months – the need for compliance training, Covid, and the push to update and refocus on risk assessment (‘Let’s keep Scouting safe and fun’). However, we should be very proud of the programme on offer in the district, e.g. backwards camp and the cub cycle day. A huge thank you goes to all the District and to the individuals for the support and for programmes that inspire so many people. Keep it up!  Finally, the district would like to express a thank you to Gary Law as the retired District Commissioner. He stepped down during the pandemic, so we were not able to say thank you in person at the time. Thanks also to Rosie Marks for her support of Gary in this role and for her work as District Secretary. (Gifts and card were presented).  **Announcement of the new District Commissioner(s):** Two people will take over role, Mark Stapleton and Andy Clay. How this will be organised is yet to be decided but the team will be Team will be shaped and will be in place by 1st December 2021.  AMW asked the meeting to show their appreciation to Mark Spiller for his role as acting DC. |
| 10. | **District Presidents**  AMW invited the District Presidents to speak.  Brian Wingfield expressed the delight of being able to give many awards to leaders within the district. This has been especially good when awards are presented in front of their young people.  Nick Penny commented that he was looking forward to the next St George’s Day parade in Coleford in 2023, an event the Scouts always support strongly. He is very proud to be a president of the District and will happily support in any way needed. He thanked all leaders for all they do across the Forest of Dean |
| 11. | **Awards**  The following awards were presented:  **Commissioners Commendation Award:**  Rosie Marks  Paul Hill  Greg Moger  Martin Williams  Tom Rushton  **Long Service Award:**  Roger Thorne – 30 years  Mark Spiller - 25 years  **Wood Badge:**  Martin Williams – County Local Training Manager  **Good Service Awards**  Carol Rushton - Award for Merit  Paul Hill - Award for Merit  Neal Harden - Bar to the Award for Merit  Five other awards of merit were recently awarded at group meetings across the district:  Caroline Etheridge – Bar to the Award for Merit  Nick Miller – Award for Merit  Tracey Lashford – Award for Merit  Stephen Crick – Award for Merit  Diane Ruck – Award for Merit |
| 12. | **AOB**   1. Mark Spiller made attendees aware of a £700 grant available from Amazon. Groups, District Explorers and District Network are encouraged to apply. Deadline 4pm 29th October 2021 2. Volunteers are needed for the district appointments panel, especially females and young people. Please contact Helen Williams if you, or anyone you know can help. 3. A district administrators conference will be held on 6th February 2021. This is open to all GSLs, Group Chairs, Treasurers, Secretaries and committee members.   The meeting closed at 20.42pm |

**Approved as a true record of the meeting.**

**Signature of Chair Date:**