

**CHESHIRE COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Space, Congleton
Tuesday 10 June 2025

MINUTES

Present:

Michael Rollinson	Chair of the Trustees Board
Dave Hopley	County Lead Volunteer
Luke Thornton	County Treasurer

Together with the Vice Presidents, members of Council and guests. **Total attendance 39**

1. Introductions and Welcome

Lady Redmond MBE, Cheshire Scout's President and Lord-Lieutenant of Cheshire was unable to attend the meeting due to prior commitments. Michael Rollinson, Chair of the Trustee Board, chaired the meeting in her absence.

Michael welcomed Jack Caine, UK Lead Volunteer for People and all members of Cheshire County Scout Council and guests to the AGM.

2. Apologies

Michael informed the meeting that there had been 69 apologies received, which are indicated on the Council membership list, which is available electronically to members of the Council.

3. Governance Topics

a) Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 11 June 2024.

Michael announced that the County Trustee Board had reviewed the minutes at their meeting held on 2 July 2024. The minutes were circulated electronically to members of the Council prior to the meeting. The Council's approval was then asked for and was given unanimously.

b) Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR).

Michael announced that the County Trustee Board proposed the model constitution from Chapter 5c of Policy, Organisation and Rules, in line with the recommendation from Scout Headquarters. A copy of this was available for review and inspection prior to this meeting, and copies are also made available at the meeting. Michael asked for the Council's approval to adopt the Constitution – all were in favour and the Constitution was adopted.

c) Note the County's financial year.

Michael asked the County Scout Council to note, as shown in the Constitution, the charity's financial year is 1 January to 31 December.

d) Approve appointed and community members of the County Scout Council.

Michael informed the meeting that the County Scout Council can admit other people to membership. Michael advised that Appointed and Community members of Cheshire County Scout Council are shown on

the Council Membership List, available for review prior to this meeting. These are to be admitted as members of the County Scout Council as well as the ex officio list in POR Rule 5b.3.2.6. The Council's approval was then asked for and was given unanimously.

e) Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board.

Michael informed the meeting that to follow the good practice recommendations from the Charity Governance Code, POR states Trustee Boards should have a minimum of 5, and no more than 12, Trustees in total. This includes ex officio and co-opted Trustees. The outgoing Trustee Board recommended that 12 people are appointed. The Council's approval for this recommendation was then asked for and was given unanimously.

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

Michael asked the County Scout Council to agree it's quorum; the minimum number of County Scout Council members that must be present at County Scout Council meetings. The outgoing Trustee Board had recommended that the quorum should be 35 people. The Council's approval was then asked for and was given unanimously.

Michael then called upon the County Lead Volunteer, Dave Hopley to present his review of the year.

4. Review of the previous year.

a) The County Lead Volunteer's review of Scouts in Cheshire.

Dave welcomed everyone and provided highlights from the 2024 Annual Review, which had seen a refocus on Programme, outdoors and adventure.

A huge amount of work has been completed at both County Activity Centres, led and managed by Luke Morby and his team who were thanked for all their hard work. The Cheshire Hike was sold out in 2024, despite the change of date and is already sold out for 2025.

470 top awards were presented at Celebrating Success in November and 16 Kings Scouts paraded at Windsor. Dave thanked Carol Frain and her team for their work with both the top awards and the DfE awards. 147 permits have been approved by Neil McAleece and his team, which ensure our volunteers have the skills required to lead outdoor adventures across the county.

Dave thanked all who had supported the Community Day at Tatton Park, attended by 70 young people and their parents from different communities and the Foster Carer's Day run in conjunction with Cheshire East Council. Dave spoke about the challenges of the new digital system and thanked John Duley for his tireless efforts.

Dave then presented Tim Owen with a Wood Badge, making 141 Wood Badges in total awarded throughout the year.

Dave reported on the growth in Cheshire, particularly in the Squirrel Section with 14 new Dreys opened in the year. Explorers have also grown, and the Young Leader target has been exceeded, thanks to the work performed by Dianne Blurton. Cheshire also continues to grow in relation to inclusivity with 11 Sections opened in areas of deprivation, with help from the Local Growth Officers. Cheshire is 86% towards reaching the 2026 target, set by The Scout Association.

Dave then reported on the new Scouts Strategy, running from 2026 to 2035 and the plans for 2025/26 in Cheshire, including Chamboree 2006 and planning for the World Scout Jamboree in Poland in 2027.

Dave thanked everyone in the room for the tremendous dedication and work they give to Cheshire Scouts.

Dave presented Nigel Flatman with a Silver Acorn Award and thanked him for his tireless work in the Support Team.

Dave presented Michael Rollinson with a Bar to the Award for Merit Award and thanked him for the support he has provided to the Board of Trustees.

Dave then handed the Chairmanship of the meeting back to Michael Rollinson, Chair of the Trustee Board. Michael thanked Dave for his review and for all the outstanding work he does for Cheshire Scouts.

b) Receive and consider the Annual Report of the County Trustee Board, including the annual Statement of Accounts.

Michael informed the meeting that the County Trustee Board had approved the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts and had received the report on the accounts from the Independent Examiner. Michael then called upon the County Treasurer, Luke Thornton to present the Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024. Luke presented slides of his report.

Luke spoke about the focused strategic areas being like the previous year, in that the team will continue automating key reporting and operational processes, including Bankline and Xero and improving links between volunteers and employees. Accelerate financial reporting and continue to consolidate numerous bank and investment accounts. Ongoing compliance work has taken place across both campsites, with a focus on enhancing activities.

Luke then went through the figures on screen and invited questions from the floor regarding the Trustee Annual Report and the Annual Accounts.

No questions were raised.

Michael thanked Luke for completing the Statement of Accounts and for all his work during the year.

5. Making Appointments.

Michael announced that the next part of the meeting would be used to organise the set-up of the charity until the next AGM and appoint a Trustee Board to oversee good governance for the charity over the next year.

a) Appoint the County Chair

Michael noted that he, as County Chair continues to serve for another year until 2027 in his first term of office as Chair and second as a Trustee.

b) Appoint the County Treasurer

Michael noted that the County Treasurer continues to serve until 2027 in their second term of office.

c) Appoint members of the County Trustee Board

Michael explained that during the year a Trustee resigned creating a casual vacancy and following an open selection process agreed by the Trustee Board, Andy Cox was appointed to serve until this AGM. The recommendation to the County Scout Council is he should now be appointed as a member of the County Trustee Board for a period of three years.

Michael asked the Council's approval for Andy Cox to be appointed as a Trustee to serve on the Board of Trustees for a term of two years, which was given unanimously.

Michael then explained that during the year the Trustee Board Co-Opted Glen Dugdale to Chair its Activity Centres Sub-Committee. The recommendation to the County Scout Council is he should now be appointed as a member of the County Trustee Board for a period of three years.

Michael asked the Council's approval for Glen Dugdale to be appointed as a Trustee to serve on the Board of Trustees for a term of two years, which was given unanimously.

It was noted that the County Lead Volunteer and County Youth Lead are ex-officio members of the County Trustee Board.

It was noted that John Duley and Philip Cox continue as members of the County Trustee Board for another year until 2026, and that Benjamin Savage and Nung Sirisot continue for another two years until 2027.

Michael thanked the Trustees, and the Trustee Board Administrator Sam Davies, for their work during the year and Jake Vickery who is standing down this year having finished his agreed term of office.

Chair notes that co-opted members of the County Trustee Board are appointed by the County Trustee Board themselves at one of their meetings, and not the AGM.

d) Appoint Vice Presidents

The current County Scout Council Vice Presidents were noted.

Michael advised that no new appointments are proposed this year, but paid tribute to Ray Salisbury former Vice President who died earlier this year after a short illness.

e) Appoint the Independent Examiner.

Michael asked the Treasurer, Luke Thornton to propose the Independent Examiner.

Luke proposed Stacy Mason of Chittenden Horley Chartered Accountants and Charity Specialists.

Michael confirmed that Stacy Mason of Chittenden Horley Chartered Accountants had been proposed, seconded and is qualified for the role. Michael then asked for the Council's approval for the appointment of the Independent Examiner. This was approved unanimously.

f) Elect Representatives of the County Scout Council to represent the County on the Council of The Scout Association

Michael advised under rule 6.5 of Policy, Organisation and Rules, the County Scout Council need to elect two members and two 18-24 members as County representatives to the Council of The Scout Association, in addition to the County Lead Volunteer.

It was noted that Oliver Chambers continues for another year as a member and Charlotte King continues for a further two years. Toby Abbott and Ellie Wallington continue for a further two years as 18-24 members.

6. Guest Speaker

Michael then invited Jack Caine, UK Lead volunteer for People to give an address.

Jack began by thanking Cheshire Scouts for the work they do for Groups and Young People, as Jack is also the Scout Leader at 1st Tarporley in Cheshire. He spoke about the venues and events that both the Districts and the County offer such as Tatton Park, Queen Charlotte's Wood and Cheshire Hike and the amazing value they add.

Jack thanked everyone for their support regarding the problems with the new digital membership system, which once working as intended will give time for focus on the volunteering experience.

Jack reminded everyone about the 14 July deadline for the new Safety Training module.

Jack then provided some national figures –

600 Gold DfE awards were presented recently at Buckingham Palace.

There have been 166,920 hours of community service logged which equates to £1,068,212 worth of social value across the UK.

400 King Scouts were present at Windsor, 16 of which were from Cheshire.

3000 members will be taking part in international trips over the summer.

Jack then spoke about how members must not forget why we are here, what we are doing and the impact it has on so many young people and our volunteers. He thanked everyone for their hard work and commitment and requested that we continue doing what we are doing.

Jack finished by saying that he is really looking forward to attending his very first Chamboree in 2026.

7. Closing remarks.

Michael thanked Jack Caine, UK Lead volunteer for People, for his address and thanked the County Scout Council for attending the meeting. He gave particular thanks to John Duley for his work relating to the new digital membership system and reminded all to complete the Safety Module before 14 July.

Michael informed the meeting that the new County Trustee Board will meet at 7.30pm on Tuesday 1 July 2025 and that the 2026 Annual General Meeting of the Cheshire County Scout Council will be held on Tuesday 9 June 2026 in Mersey Weaver District.

Michael then declared the meeting closed.

Minutes prepared by: Sam Davies, County Office Manager and EA

Date: 18/06/2025