

Deal, Walmer and Sandwich Scout Council
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday 21st June 2025, 18.00
The Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory, Guildford Road,
Sandwich Bay, Sandwich CT13 9PF

MINUTES

- 1. Introduction and welcome:** Matthew Sims welcomed everyone and explained:
 - a. Heather Rowell resigned as District Chair in February 2025
 - b. Steven Wanstall, a past District Chairman, had applied for the role of Chairman and been appointed by the Trustees. From this point, Matthew handed the meeting to Steven to Chair.

- 2. Apologies for absence:** Apologies have been received from Charlie Horne, (District), Matthew Page (DYC), Alan Noake (LDV 14-24), Craig Nimmo (9th), Graham Baker (10th), Cassie Linsdell (20th), Heather Rowell (12th), Charlie Rowell (ADLV), Kevin Rackham (GLV 1st), Ian Mackenzie (District), Jayne Richardson (5th), Lawrence Smith (5th).

Present: Matthew Sims (DLV), Alison Sims (ADLV), Elizabeth Lukehurst (8th), Rob Lukehurst (8th), Ian Fletcher (GLV 7th), Emma Bodman (10th), Pete Bodman (District), Kate House (Treasurer), Cathy Betts (District), Chris Spencer (District Chaplin), Shirley Smith (ESU Aquila), John George (District), Mavis Marsh (GLV 5th), Peter Marsh (5th), David Davies (District Scout Council), Harvey Davies (Scout), Millie Fisher (Explorer), Lian Fisher (Explorer), Paul Betts (Dover District Chairman), Des Harris (County Chairman), Nirav Patel (County Lead Volunteer).

- 3. Governance topics**
 - a. **Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 13th June 2024:** Approved: Peter Marsh proposed, Mathew Sims seconded.
 - b. **Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR):** Adopted: Pete Bodman proposed, Alison Sims seconded.
 - c. **Note the District's financial year:** 1st January to 31st December.
 - d. **Approve appointed and community members of the District Scout Council:** No nominations to approve.
 - e. **Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board:** It was agreed a maximum of 12 District Trustees may be appointed to the trustee board.

- f. **Agree the quorum for future meetings of the District Scout Council (excluding this AGM):** A quorum of 10 was agreed for future District Scout Council meetings.

4. **Review of the previous year**

The District Lead Volunteer's review of Scouts in the Deal, Walmer, and Sandwich District: Matthew Sims, District Lead Volunteer gave an update on Scouting in the district over the last 10 months (10 months due to the accounting year change):

- There has been a small increase in Explorer membership. This is thanks to the efforts of Liz Lukehurst, Rob Lukehurst and Shirley Smith
- There has been a slight drop in Cub numbers, but we have been consistent in the District team, Group Lead Volunteers and Trustee Board
- There has been some great Scouting happening over the last 10 months and we hope this will continue.

Matthew then highlighted two significant things which have occurred since advertising the AGM:

- **Project Re-Draw:** County is currently running a review of the district boundaries. This project is called Project Re-draw and there is an online questionnaire available as part of the consultation on Kent Scouts website
- **Betteshanger campsite:** The Northborne Estate is looking to develop part of the estate. This development includes the site currently used as the district campsite. Matthew Sims and Pete Bodman are due to meet with Lord Northborne to discuss options.

Matthew Sims presented Chris Spencer a thank you gift for being the District Chaplin. After more than 25 years in Scouting, Chris is moving out of the area.

- a. **Receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Trustee Board, including the annual Statement of the Accounts:** Approved.

5. **Making appointments**

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

- With no other applicants, Steve Wanstall was appointed for 3 years from 2025

- b. **Appoint the District Treasurer, following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board**
 - Kate House was re-appointed (3 years from 2024)
- c. **Appoint members of the District Trustee Board, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board**
 - Alan Noake: Trustee. 3 years from 2024
 - Ian Mackenzie: Trustee. 2 years from 2024
 - Peter Marsh: Trustee. 2 years from 2024
 - Charlie Horne: Trustee. 3 years from 2025
 - Cathy Betts: Trustee. 3 years from 2025
 - Pete Bodman: Trustee. 3 years from 2025

Ex-Officio Appointments

- Matthew Sims: DLV, for duration of role
 - Matthew Page: DYC, for duration of role
- d. **Appoint the Scrutineer:** Vivienne Verne was appointed as scrutineer for the forthcoming year
 - e. **Nominate representatives of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council:** Alan Noake

6. **District Representative:** Des Harris, County Chair, Kent Scouts.

- a. Des thanked all volunteers for all they do to deliver Scouting in the District and making a positive difference to the young people.
- b. He also wanted to ensure thanks is extended to the parents and helpers who support the groups. He advised thanks badges are available from the office at Lower Grange Farm and if any team leaders would like some, just request some from the County Office.
- c. Des presented:
 - a. Young People Growth Awards to:
 - i. 1st Deal (Walmer)
 - ii. 2nd Deal (Sea Scouts)
 - iii. 5th Deal (Sholden)
 - iv. 9th Deal (Ash)
 - b. Adult growth Awards to:
 - i. 9th Deal (Ash)
 - ii. 20th Deal (Aylesham)

Closing remarks: Steven Wanstall thanked everyone for attending and advised the AGM will now be followed by a presentation from Shirley Smith, Milly Fisher and Lian Fisher who represented the district on the 2025 Network Expedition to Peru.

Following the presentation Nirav Patel, County Commissioner presented Shirley Smith the Commendation Award for supporting another leader suffering a medical emergency whilst on the expedition.