

**MINUTES OF THE 44th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LONSDALE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL held at the Banqueting Room, Town Hall, Lancaster on the 27 June 2019 at 7.30 pm.**

1. Mrs. Suzie Reynolds, District President, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Oliver Patterson, World Scout Jamboree participant, led the meeting in a brief reflection.
3. **Present:** Mrs. Suzie Reynolds DL (District President), Mr. F. G. Rice (District Vice President), Dr. Tony Andrews (District Chair), Mr. Craig Dewar-Willox (Act. County Commissioner), Mrs. Mandy Sweet (District Commissioner), Mr. Alan Hague BEM (District Secretary), Mrs. Jean Frew (West Lancashire County Vice President), The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Lancaster (Councillor David Whitaker), together with 56 members and guests as per the attendance sheets, which append these minutes.
4. **The Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Lancaster (Councillor David Whitaker)**, in welcoming members to the Town Hall, recognised the extent of the support given to our young people by the adult volunteers and congratulated everyone on another successful year.
5. **Apologies for Absence:** Mr. David Bateman, Mr. A. G. Boulton (District Vice President), Mr. Stephen Clarke (District Treasurer), Mrs Lorna Musgrave, Mr & Mrs Bernard Pendlebury, Mrs Mandy Seddon, Ms. Cat Smith MP (Lancaster & Fleetwood), and further recorded apologies as per the attendance sheets, which append the minutes.
6. **Approval of the Minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting held on 28th June 2018.** Proposed by Mr. Howard Greenwood and seconded by Mr Oliver Patterson. The minutes were approved by the Meeting, without objection.
7. **The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the period ended 31st December 2018.** **The District Commissioner** introduced the Annual Report, which had been issued to those attending the meeting and would be published on the District's website. It had been another excellent year in Lonsdale. The District had seen another period of membership growth, lots of top awards being achieved across all sections and hundreds of 'nights away' spent at our two outstanding activity centres. A very enjoyable District camp had been held at Bibby's Farm, which had been attended by many of the District's members, where new friends had been made, new skills learned and many new activities tried.

The 1st Carnforth Group had opened their new impressive 'Base Camp' headquarters – well done to the team for their superb fundraising efforts. In 2018 the Activities Team had been very busy and the District had seen more adventurous activity permits presented than ever before giving the District the opportunity to deliver more adventurous programmes to even more young people. The Explorer Section had started delivery of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award across the District with over 30 young people taking on the challenge. It was hoped that this would go from strength to strength with more and more young people having access to achieving the top awards.

2018 saw the launch of the new UK strategy 2023, 'Skills for Life', and the District's thoughts had turned to the Lonsdale strategy 2023. Mrs. Sweet thanked everybody who had had an input into drafting the strategy which was now being finalized.

Mrs. Sweet highlighted that when she was out and about visiting events she was always amazed by the commitment and enthusiasm of the leadership teams. Leaders had so much knowledge and so many skills to share with the young people, and each other, and we should be very proud of that. It had been gratifying that so many good service awards had been gained by adults in the District in 2018. These are small tokens and praise for the enormous amount of work that they do. We should not be afraid to shout about it - let's get out there and show the local community what we are made of.

In concluding, Mrs. Sweet stated that she could not end her report without mentioning her predecessor Craig Dewar-Willox who had stepped down at the end of five and a half years as District Commissioner. He had been an inspiration for so many people. He had worked tirelessly and unselfishly for the good of the District. He had helped achieve growth across all sections and had assisted many Groups with development projects. He had facilitated the opening of new Groups and new sections. His passion for Scouting and the good it could do was endless. He had left our District in a fabulous position. In thanking Craig for everything that he had done for Lonsdale District she wished him good luck in wherever his next adventure took him.

At the invitation of the District Commissioner Adam Buyers (Deputy District Youth Commissioner) outlined, as one example, what Scouting had done for him.

**The District Chair**, in the absence of the District Treasurer and in his role as Chair of the Finance Sub-committee, spoke to the District Accounts, copies of which had been made available at the meeting. He drew attention to the various constituents of the Receipts and Payments Account and concluded by reviewing the District's assets. He indicated that the full accounts had also been published on the District's website. He wished thanks to be recorded to Steve Clarke (District Treasurer) and to Ray Salisbury (the ACMB Treasurer) for their valued work in compiling them. The Chair stated that if there were any financial questions of a more complex nature or required research then the information would be provided as soon as possible after the meeting. There were no questions.

#### **Lonsdale District Scouts**

Headquarters: 3 Moor Street Lancaster LA1 1PR

President: Mrs. Suzie Reynolds DL District Commissioner: Mandy Sweet District Chair: Dr Tony Andrews

W: [lonsdalescouts.org.uk](http://lonsdalescouts.org.uk)

Registered Charity Number 1027167

The 2018 District Annual Report and Accounts were thus received and considered by the Meeting (no requirement for a vote).

**8. Extension of the Appointment of Mrs Suzie Reynolds DL as District President.**

Tony Andrews (District Chair) proposed the extension of the appointment of Mrs. Suzie Reynolds DL as District President for until new year's AGM.

This proposal was seconded by Mrs. Mandy Sweet (District Commissioner).

The proposal was confirmed by the Meeting, without objection or abstention

- 9. The DC's Nomination for District Chair.** Mrs. Mandy Sweet nominated Dr Tony Andrews as District Chair. The nomination was confirmed by the Meeting, without objection or abstention.

- 10. Election of the District Secretary.** Mr Alan Hague BEM was nominated - proposed by Mr Jon Minshull and seconded by Mr Steve Sweet. The nomination was approved by the Meeting, without objection or abstention.

- 11. Election of the District Treasurer.** Mr Stephen Clarke was nominated - proposed by Mr Jamie Carbert and seconded by Mr Darren Phillips. The nomination was approved by the Meeting, without objection or abstention.

**12. DC's Nominations of Members to serve on the District Executive.**

The following were nominated:

Mr David Bateman

Mr Steve Mather

Mr Callum Seton ('Under 25' representative).

The nominations were confirmed by the Meeting, without objection or abstention.

**13. Election of Members to Serve on the District Executive.**

The following had been nominated for election/re-election:

Mrs Deborah Smith (representing the Beaver Scout Section)

Mrs Kerry Caldicott (representing the Cub Scout Section)

Mrs Rebecca Parker (representing the Scout Section)

Dr Howard Greenwood (representing Group Scout Leaders)

Mr Tom Wilkinson (representing Group Executive Committees)

Proposed by Mr Andrew Blenkinship, seconded by Mrs Catherine Marsh and agreed by all.

The Chair highlighted that there were ex-officio members of the Executive and that we met the required two representatives under 25 years of age.

**14. Election of Members of Lonsdale District to be Nominated Members of the County Scout Council.**

The Chair outlined the process, which resulted from a change in the County Scout Council Constitution in 2018.

The following had been nominated for election:

Uniformed leaders: Jamie Carbert, Darren Phillips.

Explorer Scouts: Will Cullen, Stuart Taylor

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Scout Network members: Lydia Maun, Robert Prescott  
Proposed by Tony Andrews and seconded by Mrs Tracy Seton.  
The nominations were approved by the Meeting, without objection or abstention.

**15. Appointment of Professional Staff.** The following appointments:

Independent Examiners – FellGills (Lancaster).

Solicitors – Holdens Solicitors, Lancaster.

were proposed by Mr Alan Hague, seconded by Mrs Rebecca Parker and approved by the Meeting, without objection or abstention.

**16. Acting County Commissioner's Address.**

Mr Craig Dewar-Willox delivered an inspirational and motivational address illustrating the power of Scouting based on his own experiences, a number of which he outlined. He stated that Lonsdale District was a strong District by any measure in terms of its programme, inclusivity and camaraderie. It was in good hands and he thanked all concerned: leaders, supporters and committee members for their contributions, which were appreciated. Top awards were being achieved and standards being maintained, which was a tribute to Lonsdale's leaders. The District had also featured significantly in County events. Having been its District Commissioner had been a great privilege.

Looking forward he had been selected to lead the West Lancashire Contingent at the forthcoming World Scout Jamboree in the USA and having served six years in committees it was a pleasant change to get back working closer to the young people in Scouting. His own attendance at the Thailand Jamboree had been a change moment for himself regarding the value of Scouting in the world and he encouraged leaders to think of their moment that would have the possibility to change young lives.

Concluding, he urged everyone to look to reach out to get more young people and adults into our wonderful movement and to leaders he intreated them to always assume the best of their colleagues.

Lonsdale was in a good place exemplified by the granting of rare 'Silver Wolf' awards to two of its leaders. Finally, he thanked the District President, Chair and District Commissioner for their invaluable support to him and to the District.

**17. Presentation of Certificates & Awards.**

The following award was presented by the District Commissioner:

**a. Good Service Awards:**

**Chief Scout's Commendation:**

Mr. Dave Squirrell (District Explorer Scout Commissioner).

**Silver Wolf:**

The District Chair introduced Mrs. Jean Frew, West Lancashire County Vice President who presented the Silver Wolf, the unrestricted gift of the Chief Scout for service of a most exceptional nature, to Mr. David Wilkinson (Scout Active Support Unit Manager).

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The Chair likewise presented the Silver Wolf to Mr. Alan Hague BEM (District Secretary).

**b. District Nights Away Shield.**

The District Commissioner presented this to 34th Lancaster (St. Chad's) Scout Group.

**c. The Peter Ellwood Memorial Award** - The District Commissioner outlined the reason for this award to recognise the contributions of an individual or group to the further development of Scouting locally. This was awarded to the 53rd Lancaster Scout Group.

**d. Young Person of the Year** – This trophy, presented by the family of the late Peter Hewitt, former District President and District Chairman, was awarded to Oliver Routh, Scout, 11th Morecambe & Heysham (Parish Church) Group.

- 18. Closing Comments.** The District President thanked all those who had supported the organisation and running of the meeting and James Phillips (Media Manager) for his work in designing the Annual Report. She also specifically thanked Tony Andrews for his dedicated work supporting numerous aspects of the District's work in his role as Chair. Members of the meeting were invited to adjourn for refreshments.