



Walsall Scout Council Annual General Meeting

Date: 28/10/2024

**Venue: Pelsall Methodist Church, Chapel Street, Pelsall, Walsall.
WS3 4LN**

AGM Walsall District Minutes

Introduction and Welcome

Attendees:

Dan Phillips, David Rowley, Charlie Rowley, Thomas Durbin, Mary Mayo, Alistair Mayo, Ann Reeves, Joanne reading, Eddie Daniels, Hayley Hasketh, Lee braggers, John Perry, Shabbier, Lucy Sparrock, June Aubrook, Kathy Tony, Sue wright, Eliss Mayo, Sonia Linton, Alan, Nicky Adams, Ian Smewing, Claire dogget, Graham smith, Keith Given, Nick Chadd, Andy Lyndon, Tracy Lyndon, Wayne burrows? "G", Jake Durbin, Lynn Richardson on behalf of West Mercia County.

District Lead Volunteer (DLV): Dan Phillips

Chair: David Rowley

Apologies and absence

Louise Wilson, Karen Sparrock, Vicky Sparrock, Ade Campbell, Ian, Sandra Hewitt, Andrew Feildon, Louise Moreton-Yates, Shell, Paul Brandon, Amy Brandon, Jay,

Governance topics

- Minutes of last AGM

Walsall Districts last AGM was held in September 2023, minutes were not available to be approved but will be sent over in due course.

Approver: Sonia Linton

Secunder: Nick Chadd

- **Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR)**

All Current POR is available on the district website and approval of adopting POR was accepted. A copy was available to read to be read at AGM.

Approver: Eliss Mayo

Secunder: John Perry

- **Note the District's financial year**

Walsall Districts financial year has been circulated. Can we all make note that the chairty's financial year runs from the 1st April to the 31st March

All District Scout Council members agreed the charities financial year will run from the 1st of April to the 31st March.

– **Propose inclusion of Walsall North into one district of Walsall**

Following the dissolve of Walsall North Scout Distritc, we propse to merge Walsall North with Walsall District and to be known as Walsall District. There are practical reason for this merge and transition. We are going to move Walsall North groups into Walsall District. We proposed two options to the District Leadership Teams, this is the Group Lead Volunteers, Dan Phillips and other members, which were to move all of Walsall North into Walsall or to create a new district with a new name, which would involve transferring all assets from both districts into West Mercia County and then county redistributing the assets back to us. The vote was unanimous bar one vote for moving Walsall North into Walsall. We will move forward with the merge after this meeting during the trustee meeting. Following this, all groups will be moved from Walsall North to Walsall District, and we will close Walsall North down. The reason for doing this, is from an ease perspective. It will be a lot quicker to move all the assets from one charity to another, rather than transferring everything to county, then getting it back.

Commented [CR1]: @David Rowley

All District Scout Council members agreed to the inclusion of Walsall North to Walsall district.

- **Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board**

Next on the agenda is to agree the number of Trustees on the Trustee Board.

Following good practice recommendations from the Charity Governance code, POR states a Trustee Board should have a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 12 Trustees in total (ex officio and co-opted Trustees). The district council agreed on 7 appointed members to be on the Trustee Board. It is also to be agreed to hold 4 Trustee meetings per year. It is also to be agreed that 5 trustees must be present to hold a meeting.

Proposer: Eddie Daniels

Secunder: Andy Lyndon

- **Agree the quorum for future meetings of the District Scout Council (excluding this AGM)**

We are proposing to run an AGM we have a minimum of 15 members present for future meetings.

Question: "how many people are in the district?"

Response: "there are about 500 members in the combined district"

Proposer: Hayley Hasketh

Seconder: Sue Wright

Review of the previous year

- The District Lead Volunteer's review of Scouts in Walsall

Despite the challenges, we've had a triumphant year in Walsall. The return of face-to-face Scouting, a testament to our leaders' and volunteers' resilience and adaptability, has been a significant achievement. Their safe and successful delivery of varied and exciting programmes across Walsall is commendable and fills us with pride and inspiration.

The growth and recovery of groups and the broader district function have been crucial themes this past year. At Census 2024, we were back to 70% of what we were in 2020 for young people 6-18 – a significant achievement! With 323 young people, 16 young leaders, and 64 Section Leaders and Section Assistants, the numbers are a testament to our potential for further growth and fill us with optimism and hope for the future!

On the theme of Growth, I'm delighted that we managed to open a new Scout Troop at 62nd Walsall. I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the team there for their unwavering dedication in welcoming our ever-growing Scouting family. However, whilst overall, the district has dropped in young people since 2023 by 9%, there is definite potential to turn this around and start growing. Key challenges, as always, are round adult volunteers, which enable us to deliver what we do best and, ultimately, reduce our waiting lists. We are getting there, though, and the Census reported a 3% increase in leaders, assistant leaders and section assistants since 2023!

Focusing on Adults, a key area we need to improve in the district is supporting the Adults we have worked hard to recruit and retain. Whilst Transformation should make it easier to recruit and retain new adults, we also need to ensure our support offerings in the district are suitable, and we engage to ensure everyone gets what they need so they feel supported to offer a quality scouting experience to our young people. My thanks go to Sonia Linton (Support Team Leader) and Lee Bragginton (Support Team Member) for their continued support in this area with us joining up with Walsall North, which we will strive to improve further in the next year. By supporting our Adults, we should encourage natural growth. In addition to natural growth, thanks to the hard work and dedication of Lynn Richardson (County Lead Volunteer) in gaining the funding from Headquarters, West Mercia now has a dedicated Growth and Communities Officer, Clare Vas, and we have projects on the Growth plan to stabilise the groups who can use her support. We are genuinely grateful for Lynn's efforts. We also need to ensure we recognise all our Adults, and we will start to look more into who we can reward with Good Service Awards in 2024 and beyond.

International scouting was a highlight of 2023, with the West Mercia contingent attending the World Scout Jamboree 2023 in Korea. The young people had a tremendous experience and demonstrated great flexibility and resilience. In January 2024, our Group Lead Volunteers met with others from across the County to discuss Transformation and what will happen when we move into the new world. With critical themes around How we volunteer together, Welcome, Learning and Our Volunteering Culture, it is exciting to be part of the change and see how this improves our experience for new and existing volunteers and the broader movement. Thank you to everyone who is supporting Transformation.

We have moved from Executive Committees to Trustee Boards and sorted out other complex matters this year as part of Transformation. We have now managed to recruit a District Chair, David Rowley, and a full Trustee Board will be in operation following tonight's AGM.

My final thanks go to Andy Lyndon, who served as the district commissioner for over fourteen years and passed on the responsibility to me at the start of the 2024-2025 calendar year. Andy faced several challenges as District Commissioner, dealing with issues in different Groups and navigating the pandemic. However, with the support of the broader district team and Group Lead Volunteers, he ensured that the district continued to.

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

We are received the accounts, which have been distributed around and have been checked. There is one comment regarding the accounts. At the top the end date is wrong. The template was not edited, this will be edited before they're formerly put out.

Approver: Jake Durbin

Seconder: Sonia Linton

Making appointments

- Appoint the District Chair, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board

The selection process was conducted by an email being sent out by email, Pat was the only person who applied for Treasurer and David Rowley was the only person who applied for Chair, and we had 9 other applications for trustees. We have turned down two trustee applications due to leader conflicts with their existing roles. The people chosen will help us keep the governance and operations separate across the district.

All District Scout Council members agreed

- Appoint members of the District Trustee Board, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board

When choosing Trustees, I was keen not to accept too many current Scout leaders, as I know you all have so much to do with your role. This being said, I reached out to friends who are ex Scouts, or I know within the district and twisted their arms to come and help out. When we feel we need more, we will be opening applications back up. The mix of current and previous members allows us to make use of the wide range of skills available to us, and allow us to have a strong governance over the district.

Trustee Members:

- Ex Officio: Dan Phillips - DLV
- Ex Officio: Patrick McGill - Treasurer
- Ex Officio: Jake Durbin – District Youth Lead, Standing Member
- Chair of Board: David Rowley – 3rd Pelsall
- Member: Nicky Adams – 3rd Pelsall
- Member: Ian Smewing – Brownhills Scouts
- Member: Jayne Yates – Walsall Appointments
- Member: Eddie Daniel – Walsall Exec
- Member: Joanne Reading – Layperson ex 16th
- Member: Louise Brown – Layperson ex 2nd and 16th

Question: “what is the ratio of Trustees from Walsall to Walsall North?”

Answer: A recruitment was put out across both districts for Trustee Members, and these were the only ones to apply, so at the moment it is mostly Walsall North.

However, we do hope to integrate more in the future. We can only work on the applications that we had, and we only had one from Walsall.

All District Scout Council members agreed.

- Appoint the Independent Examiner

We are appointing S.W Edmonds as the independent examiner for our accounts, does everyone agree?

All District Scout Council members agreed

Awards for Walsall:

We must also recognise Long Service and the dedication and time given by our volunteers. I want to mention the below awards from this year:

- Tim Carver (3rd Walsall): Chief Scout's 5 years Service Award,
- Richard Hinton (3rd Walsall): Chief Scout's 5 years Service Award,
- Nathan King (3rd Walsall): Chief Scout's 5 years Service Award,
- Richard Clarke (20th Walsall): Chief Scout's 5 years Service Award,
- Liaqat Ali (58th Walsall): Chief Scout's 5 years Service Award,

- Nazia Rehman (58th Walsall): Chief Scout's 5 years Service Award,
- Sadia Tahir (62nd Walsall): Chief Scout's 5 years Service Award,
- Phil Tranter (4th Darlaston): Chief Scout's 5 years Service Award,
- Paul Brandon (6th Walsall): Chief Scout's 15 years Service Award and Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service,
- Ade Powell (3rd Walsall): Chief Scout's 15 years Service Award,
- Jacob Reeves (20th Walsall): Chief Scout's 15 years Service Award,
- Clare Doggett (20th Walsall): Chief Scout's 25 years Service Award,
- Brad Bradley (20th Walsall): Chief Scout's 25 years Service Award,
- John Perry (6th Walsall): Chief Scout's 40 years Service Award,
- Annabel Wise (20th Walsall): Award for Merit.
- Sandra Hewitt (3rd Walsall): Award for Merit,
- Eddie Daniels 20 Years Service Award