



West Yorkshire County Scout Council Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Thursday 18th September 2025

1. Chairman's Welcome.

The Chair Mark Stageman extended a warm welcome to scout council members, parents, young people. Documents for the AGM have been available on the web for the last month via the QR code shown around the room and on the slides. In addition hard copies are available at the back of the room for anyone who wishes to take a hard copy.

2. Reflection.

Given by Toby Hammond – Lead Volunteer

3. Apologies for absence.

Rt Hon Kim Leadbeater	Lord Mayor of Bradford	David Sowden (Spen)	David Sowden (Bingley)
Trevor Watson	Jamie Armitage	Graham Peacock	Elaine Clough
Ian Clough	John Reynolds	Wendy Flatters	Richard & Leslie Hirst
Joanne Ward	Chris Jay	Darren Hewett	Oliver Rhodes

4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 19th September 2024.

Proposed as an accurate record by Craig Ellis and Seconded by Toby Hammond.
Approved by the meeting.

5. Governance and Constitution.

a. Constitution

The trustees proposed small changes housekeeping changes to the constitution to remove the transitional period as follows (removed text is shown with line through):

~~“West Yorkshire Trustee terms will be 3 years but phasing in on a rolling basis from Sept 2024 to ensure there is a rolling change of trustees in future years rather than individual years with all trustees changing.~~

~~This will roll out as follows:-~~

~~In September 2024:-~~

- ~~• 1 Youth 3 year term, 1 adult 3 year term,~~
- ~~• 1 adult 2 year term and 1 adult 1 year term~~
- ~~• Chair – 1 year term~~
- ~~• Treasurer – 1 year term~~

~~All following years Trustees will be appointed for three years (or the maximum allowed amount of up to three years based on time already served ie if a trustee has served 7 years they will only be appointed for 2 years as the overall maximum continuous term is 9 years.”~~



These changes are proposed by: Linda Malloy on behalf of the trustees and seconded by Oliver Rhodes on behalf of the trustee board.

Approved by the meeting.

b. Scout Council Quorum.

The outgoing trustee board recommends the quorum for future meetings should be set at 36 people.

Approved by the meeting.

**6. The Annual Report and Accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2023
(Financial Year runs April to March)**

The chair stated that the next item on the Agenda was to receive and consider the annual report and accounts. Under the bye laws of the Scout Association these are required to be formally approved and adopted by the Trustees which has been undertaken at their meeting in July and signed in August. They have been independently examined by Gibson Booth. These are then presented to council tonight.

Council is not required to formally approved but we are required to present to the council for questions.

Income in 2025 was less than 2024 primarily due to the Jamboree and Canada income taking place in 2024. Expenditure for the year was up again primarily due to the International trips whereby Jamboree income came out in 2024 but the bulk of the Canada income came out in the first month of 2025 (whereas the income had come in in the previous year). This leads to a deficit this year of £64k (compared to £8k last year) but with a bank balance of £406k

Income is mainly made up of Donations and legacies £11.3k, Charitable Activities £186k, Other trading activities £69k, investment income £1.2k. Whereas expenditure comprises : Activities and events £36k, Gangshow £19k, International trips £108k, other activities £22k

7. Appointments

a. Appointment of the County Chair.

The County Lead Volunteer explained that following an open selection process earlier in the year the trustees would like to appoint Mark Stageman as the County Chair for the next three years.

Approved by the meeting.

b. Appointment of the County Treasurer.

The County Chair again explained that an open selection process was agreed by the Trustee Board following Sue Caseltons stepping down at the last AGM and as a consequence Linda Malloy was proposed by the Trustees as the County Chair for the next three years.

Approved by the meeting.

c. Appointment of the County Trustees.

The County Chair again explained that an open selection process was agreed by the Trustee Board for the one vacant position and Howard Fishwick was proposed to be appointed for 3 years

Approved by the meeting



d. Appointment of the Independent Examiner.

The County Trustees propose Gibson Booth continue as the Independent Examiner for another year.

Approved by the meeting

e. County President and County Vice President Appointments.

No changes proposed this year.

f. Representatives to the Council of the Scout Association.

This year there is no election to the Council with the following elected last year for a three year term

Vicki Pearson – Adult Member

Beth Halligan – Youth Member

8. Lead Volunteer – Toby Hammond

Toby reflected on taking over stewardship of the county, highlighting a welcoming atmosphere across local groups and celebrated the passion and commitment of volunteers delivering scouting for young people.

When looking back at the past year, there is a lot to be proud of. Toby expressed thanks to Ian Womersley for his stewardship for the last five years and talked about our Growth Officer Zaheers work in the Muslim Scout area. Toby shared that Keighley District was looking at a possible future Hospital Scouts and that numbers across the county were nearly back to pre-pandemic levels.

Toby emphasised the youth-shaped programmes and exciting events that had taken place this year (Yorkshire Three Peaks, Deep, Dawn till Dusk, Sundown), driving great growth.

Toby noted the importance of expanding Squirrels to every group across the County and asked Groups to look at how they could start in they didn't already have one.

Toby acknowledged the new team at Bradley Wood, led by Elaine, Carey, Ian and volunteers, for their excellent progress and great work at Bradley Wood.

Toby mentioned Green Withens giving valuable opportunities to young people.

In the international arena, circa 250 young people engaged this summer in international trips across the County (200 last year). At a County level we currently have Leaders involved in recruiting for the Canada trip, jamboree preparation, and flag ceremony tonight for the Peru Trip.

Recruitment of new leaders continues for Canada on Sunday.

Toby reflected on a summer of AGMs, with a warm welcome and thanks to DLV and teams for all their work in supporting scouting in Districts.

Toby recognised the increased focus on safety and governance, with strong efforts from volunteers this year to ensure we are compliant.

Toby highlighted the improved county governance progress over the last five months, thanking Mark for stepping up as County Chair to lead this vital work and to the trustees for their contributions.



9. UK Lead Volunteer – Carl Hankinson

Carl thanked all volunteers for their support and contributions for the year and talked about the importance of scouting now more than ever in a divisive world. Young people getting the opportunity to experience new cultures through international travel and to be part of a global movement of a family of scouting is so important.

Carl talked a bit about the new strategy, highlighted the work undertaken on safety this year and how UK scouting was UK leading in the charity sector in terms of compliance.

Carl highlighted that scouts was seen as a trusted partner that would deliver when asked giving the example of the days activities for squirrels in Windsor with our joint president the Princess of Wales, the First Lady and the Chief Scout Dwayne Fields.

Carl talked about the new chief scout Dwayne and the work that was being undertaken by him for scouting.

Carl thanked everyone for everything they do in scouting

10. County Chairs Close & Date of Next Meeting

The meeting closed

Date of Next AGM: 7.30pm Thursday 10th September 2026.