

STAFFORD DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 9th June 2025 meeting notes

Chair Roland Smith outlined housekeeping arrangements

1.Welcome

The District Lead Volunteer, Sue Hewitt, thanked everyone for the good turnout (**72**) and introduced Chair Roland Smith.

The Chair welcomed Mayor Councillor Jenny Barron, County Lead Volunteer Richard Williams and County Chair Liz Smith to the meeting.

2.Attendance and Apologies

See attached attendance sheet.

Apologies

Paul Askey, Elizabeth Smith, Geoff Wheat, Cate Wheatley, Hayley Cropp, Sarah Phillips, Gemma Phillips, Lydia Hilton, Hannah Ward, Darren Hordern, Sam Scriven, Adrian Dickson, YL's Nathan Dalmeda, Owen Daniels.

3). Minutes of 2023 AGM

The notes from the Annual General Meeting of 24th June 2024 were published on <https://www.staffordscouts.org.uk> prior to the meeting. Approved.

4).Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5).Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

6). Adoption of model constitution

Chair proposed Stafford District Scout Council adopts the Scouts model constitution as per POR.

Link: <https://www.scouts.org.uk/por/5-local-governance-and-finance-of-groups-districts-counties/>
Approved.

7a.)Receipt of the Annual Trustees Report

Report published on <https://www.staffordscouts.org.uk> prior to the meeting.

No questions. Taken as read.

7b). Annual statement of accounts

Report published prior on <https://www.staffordscouts.org.uk> prior to meeting.

No questions. Taken as read.

8). Election of officers

Chair nominated as President Mayor Jenny Barron (Honorary position)

Vice President - Jeanette Low, John Eggington, Keith Low. Approved.

District Treasurer - Chair proposed continuation of Sharon Hill in role. Approved.

9). Appointment of members of Stafford District Scout Council Trustee Board

Chair introduced appointees:

Sharon Hill

Jack Blakeman (ex officio)

Continuation of 3 year term for Graham Smith, Andrew Preston, Paul Askey, Steve Smith and Andy Clode. New appointees Cathy Hordern and Gemma Phillips.

Trustee Board is set at 11. Approved.

10). Vote of thanks

Chair thanked Roland Skelton, Independent Examiner of the Accounts for 2025 and proposed Roland, who is willing to stand again, for 2026. Approved.

11. Address

President:

Thank you to all the volunteers and I look forward to being your president. Over 900 children are being given a good start and support.

Sue Hewitt – outgoing District Lead Volunteer:

Thank you to everyone for the last 10 years and just a big thank you to all.

Sue

District Lead Volunteer

Chair:

Before we go into my report I would just like to take a moment to reflect on the passing of our previous Chair Nick Lloyd who sadly passed away earlier on this year. Nick gave many years' service to Scouting both at Group level and latterly District Level, certainly from my perspective giving good guidance on the roles and Duties the District Chair requires, for that I will be eternally grateful.

Yet another busy year for Stafford District, the Carol Concert was well attended and a great success, we then had our Gang Show earlier on in the year, we appreciate this is a challenging event and this year the content was brought more up to date and the comments I received back was that it was a really great success, so a very big thank you to the organisers, the front of house team and all who actually performed in the show.

St George's day parade and service went to plan, and it was great to see such a good attendance from our younger sections, the overall attendance was slightly down on last year, but with all scouting events we go with what we have.

Sherratts Wood continues to thrive with good attendance both from within our own district, and bookings from outside the district, this year it celebrates its 25th year since formation back in 2000. Also this year we have been able to undertake indoor shooting with the opening of the new indoor firing range, so a big thank you to both Kevin and his team for running and maintaining the facilities.

The Kayak centre located at Stafford Boat club has also been well utilised with a continual stream of bookings throughout the year, this is proving to be a very popular venue, so again our thanks go out to the instructors who facilitate the events taking place.

One of the biggest challenges we have been faced with this year has been "Transformation", some of you from what I understand have found it challenging, whilst others have seemed to have settled into it well, suffice to say we will be requesting feedback from units on how they have coped generally and if they consider that additional training would be of benefit, in which case we

will aim to facilitate some group training sessions where you can bring your devices and go through your specific areas of concern.

Trustee Boards, it is good to see that most groups have come to terms with the introduction of Trust boards, we appreciate that a lot of groups Trust Boards are mainly made up from operational Scouters and helpers, for which we are obviously grateful, we should however where possible be encouraging members outside of scouting onto the Boards, ideally individuals who have skillsets within business and finance where possible, I fully appreciate that encouraging fresh faces into these roles is a difficult one. I would also like to thank the groups that have invited me to their AGM's. In closing I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the District volunteers and Trustees for the support they have given to both myself and Sue over the last 12 months. And specifically give Sue a massive thank you for her 10 year service as both DC and more recently DLV.

Roland Smith Chair Stafford District Trustee Board

12). Presentation from Tom Kent, Explorer Scout, canoeist and kayaker.

Tom shared his journey and progress with a slideshow.

13). Presentations from the District and County Lead Volunteers

Long service, Wood Beads, D of E and Chief Scouts awards presented.

County Chair presented an award from the High Sherriff of Staffordshire in recognition of the service given by Stafford District Scouts "Thank you to all volunteers for everything you do".

14). Scouting Update by Richard Williams; County Lead Volunteer Staffordshire Scouts

Thank you to all. Stafford is an amazing district; does so much and should be proud. Everything you do has an impact on peoples lives.

The new system hasn't landed as we wanted but work is in progress to make it more useful and will improve. Safety Training module needs to be completed by 14th July.

Sue is stepping down and deserves a rest. They started as a team of 4 and Sue valiantly carried on. Stafford is amazing and I don't have any issues and am grateful. Thank you for your 10 and a half years, the next 10 are big shoes to fill.

Richard presented Sue Hewitt with a 30yr service award and flowers from Liz Birch.

The Chair presented Kevin Hewitt as the new District Lead Volunteer and thanked Richard Williams.

15). AOB

No AOB.

16). The Chairman closed the meeting

Everyone thanked for attending and invited to the Oak Room for refreshments.