

Cambridgeshire County Scout Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 11th June 2025

Over Community Centre, Over

In Attendance

Chris Ward	(County Lead Volunteer)
Nigel Poulter	(County Treasurer)
Alan Sadler	(County Chair)
Jo McGowan	(County Administrator)
Ian Newbery	(Regional Lead Volunteer)
Rudy Boddington	(Girl Guiding Commissioner)

Plus 52 other members of Cambridgeshire Scouting (list of names in Appendix 1)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Alan Sadler welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the guests, Rudy Boddington, Commissioner for Girl Guiding, Ian Newbery, Regional Lead Volunteer, and Vice Presidents, Alex Alexander and Steve Taylor. He then went through the health and safety instructions.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from 68 members (list of names in Appendix 2), including Mrs Julie Spence, Lord Lieutenant (President), Claire Adams, Girl Guiding County Commissioner and Richard Hames, Vice President.

3. Governance Topics

a) Minutes of 2024 AGM

The minutes have been previously reviewed by the County Trustee Board at their first meeting after the previous AGM.

b) Constitution from POR

The model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) was approved.



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County Commissioner Chris Ward

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- c) County's financial year
The financial year of 1st January to 31st December was approved.
- d) Community members of County Scout Council
Approval was given to Girl Guiding County Commissioners for Cambridgeshire East and West
- e) Number of members appointed to Trustee Board
This was approved as 8 members plus 2 ex-officio members
- f) Quorum for future meetings
This was approved as 15 members.

4a. Review of the previous year - Chris Ward - County Lead Volunteer

Chris showed several photos throughout his presentation, which is available separately.

Four young people attended the Youth Forum in Oxford to discuss strategy for the next 10 years.

The County Leadership Team organisation chart was displayed, so that all attendees could see how the team was constructed and who was responsible for which team.

The census figures were discussed, Cambridgeshire showed a growth of 3.7% young people at 6,818, up 241 on 2024. Overall, 2,178 adult volunteers this is 30 down on 2024, this may be due to changes of role on My Membership. However, section facing adult volunteers increased. Six districts grew last year. Waiting lists currently stand at 2,320 across all sections. 1,001 Top Awards were presented in 2024, which is 127 (5.8%) more than last year.

From Census 2025 it is known that, in the next 12 months:-

38 groups are considering Squirrels

22 Groups would like support growing Beavers

18 groups similar for Cubs

14 groups similar for Scouts

5 of 8 Districts would like support to grow Explorer Scouts

The Sutton group has 15 new leaders since Squirrels started in 2022.

Programme Team

Di Philbey and Bob Groom lead the Programme Team established in 2024 to cover:-

Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs (age range 4 to 10.5) – Di

Scouts, Explorers and Network (10.5 to 25) – Bob

County Events, Di, Bob and others

Permit Assessment for Adventurous Activities

Mountain Activities Team – Tony Best

Water Activities Team – Simon Keen

International Activities Team – Conan Fryer

DofE Team – James Hutchings

Archaeology Team – Caoimhin O Coileain 'Coyote'

CamJam 2027 Team – Phil Garrett



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Programme Team events diary

20/21 & 21/22 June – B.i.T. – Beavers in Tents at Copley
11-13 July – CambsMAT Hillwalking, Ilkley, North Yorkshire
12 & 13 July – Squ.A.D. – Squirrels’ Activity Days, Copley
19 & 20 July – B.A.D. – Beaver Activity Days, Copley
26 July – 2 August – Black Country Canal Expedition, Explorers
12 – 14 September – Scout Challenge weekend, Boyd campsite, Henlow
27 & 28 September – Cub Challenge Days, Copley
26 – 28 September – CambsMAT Hillwalking, North Wales

The Chimera and Cromwell Explorer Scouts joined forces for a week long trip to Kandersteg in Switzerland.

CamJam 2027

- . The Core Team has been meeting regularly to plan for CamJam 2027, the Cambridgeshire Scouts International Jamboree.
- . Work has commenced on a preliminary site layout to start visualising how the event might take shape – though this will undoubtedly evolve as planning progresses
- . An initial budget is being developed based on an estimated young people attendance
- . At this stage, we’re not aware of any other Jamborees scheduled for summer 2027, which presents a promising opportunity for CamJam.

We intend to formally proceed with CamJam 2027. This will mean:-

- . Initiating contract negotiations with the venue
- . Confirming and securing the venue by finalising the contract
- . Engaging the Marketing and Communications teams to develop a comprehensive marketing strategy
- . Launching promotional efforts and beginning to accept expressions of interest from staff and contingents
- . Advertising to recruit for the key roles that need to be filled
- . Please get in touch if you would like to join the team.
Email: communications@cambridgeshirescouts.org.uk

Volunteering Development Team

Volunteering Development Team Leader is currently vacant

The tasks covered by the team and sub-teams are:-

Inclusion sub-team – Caroline Spaxman (helping Districts with learning around ADHD, autism etc.)

Welcome & Attractions - vacant

Learning sub-team – Lynne Radbone

Award winning – ‘Resus Ready’ First Aid Team

Delivered First Aid learning to volunteers and Young Leaders, ensuring course availability across the County

Moved from Training to Learning. For many this has been from Getting Started to Growing Roots



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Continued to manage mandatory Safety, Safeguarding and First Aid compliance

Recognition sub-team – Tony Rogers

Kings Scout Awards:-

Andrew Gregory – Crafts Hill
Russell Challis – Crafts Hill
Caitlin Riley – Cromwell
Chris Rouke – Peterborough
Daniel Carlton-Binmore – Peterborough
Sebastian Parton - Newmarket

Roll of Honour 2025

County –
6 x Chief Scout's Commendation for Meritorious Conduct
5 x Chief Scouts Personal Award
1 x Award for Merit
1 x Bar to Award for Merit
2 x Silver Acorn
2 x Silver Wolf
Cambridge –
1 x Chief Scouts Commendation for Good Service
6 x Award for Merit
Crafts Hill –
3 x Chief Scouts Commendation for Good Service
Cromwell –
7 x Chief Scouts Commendation for Good Service
4 x Award for Merit
Ely
8 x Chief Scouts Commendation for Good Service
2 x Award for Merit
Hinchingsbrooke –
5 x Chief Scouts Commendation for Good Service
Newmarket –
9 x Award for Merit
Peterborough –
31 x Chief Scouts Commendation for Good Service
6 x Award for Merit

Copley Tea Party

2 x 40 years Long Service Awards
2 x 50 years Long Service Awards
2 x 60 years Long Service Awards
6 x Silver Acorn Awards
1 x Bar to Silver Acorn Award
6 x Silver Wolf Awards



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Support Team

Colin Daniels - Administration – Jo McGowan
Property & Equipment
IT/Digital
David Briston - Finance – Rachel Sugden
Communications and Media team
Community Engagement

Transformation and Go-Live Support Team

David (Transformation Lead) and Colin have also led the County Go-Live Support Team since 2024 and continue to do so. This has covered:-

- Setting up the new organisation structure
- Managing the change from Executive Committees to Trustee Boards
- Logging into My Membership and My Learning
- Adding New Members, including Disclosures
- Reporting for Lead Volunteers through Data Explorer
- Managing Accreditations
- Introducing the Welcome Conversation

As well as lots and lots of troubleshooting

Thank you to all our volunteers

It is you, our volunteers, that make Scouts such an exciting and life changing movement for young people. What you deliver is simply incredible and you should be rightly proud of everything you achieve. Personally, I am proud to call myself a Scout and I hope you are too. What we can achieve together in Cambridgeshire is remarkable and I am looking forward to seeing this continue in future.

4b. Receive and consider the Annual Report of the County Trustee Board, including the annual Statement of Accounts.

Alan thanked Nigel for his fantastic job with the accounts. A pie chart showing County funding was explained. Most events are self-funding and most learning is on-line.

When Chris became County Commissioner the membership subscription was £11, last year it was £8, this year it is £7 and will be reviewed next year.

No questions were raised on the accounts.

Alan thanked the leadership team and Trustees for their support and service over the previous year.

5. Making Appointments

- a) Following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the County Trustee Board, the meeting was asked to:-
 - a. Appoint two new members of the County Trustee Board



James Hughes – a Chartered Surveyor, working primarily in Central London where he has held roles with a number of multinational property consultancies. A keen outdoorsman, James spends much of his free time hiking and mountain biking. He has a particular fondness for Snowdonia, having grown up in North Wales. He now lives in Cambridge with his wife and their nine-year-old son. He brings both his professional acumen and personal passion to his role as a trustee.

Paul Finon brings his skills in safeguarding, strategic planning, and stakeholder engagement to the table. As a senior manager in children's services, a former scout, and a father of a scout in Ely, Paul is deeply passionate about the positive impact that scouting can have on young people's lives. His professional background has equipped him with extensive experience in managing and developing services that support the well-being and growth of children, adolescents, and families.

Meeting approved appointment of Paul Finon and James Hughes for 3-year term.

Alan thanked Colin Daniels who has stood down as a County Trustee.

- b) Julie Spence, His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant was re-appointed County President, together with Vice Presidents, Alex Alexander, Richard Hames and Steve Taylor.
- c) Bradshaw Johnson were appointed the Independent Examiner
- d) Colin Daniels and Ana Ward were elected as representatives of the County Scout Council on the Council of the Scout Association

6. Updates by County Team members'

VE Day 80 Concert: The Nation Remembers – apologies were received from Peter Graham Peter Graham (Cromwell) and Glen Vincent (Peterborough) led a contingent of 8 Cambridgeshire young people at the VE Day 80 concert at Horse Guards Parade, London on Thursday 8th May 2025. The King and Queen were in attendance and the audience included 2,500 young people representing uniformed youth groups, including Scouts and Guides. This trip was put together with only one weeks notice, 45 young people applied and tickets were issued via ballot with equal number of scouts, explorers, boys and girls. They wore their uniform and wore silly hats. Photos of event was shown.

County Youth Lead team – Sophie Hallet

Ana Ward, James Metharam and Sophie Hallet are the County Youth Leads, appointed in 2024. Their remit covers:-

- Becoming more youth shaped and express more young peoples views
- Engaging District Youth Leads and 18 to 24 year olds
- Representing young people on the County Leadership Team and our Trustee Boards.

Planning to hold a camp in 2026 for 18-25 year-olds.

Helping with appointment of District Youth Leads



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Plan to attend District and County events to encourage young people about to turn 18 to join Network and stay in Scouting

Note:

Ana Ward holds the ex-officio role on the County Trustee Board

Sophie Hallet and James Metharam represented the Youth Leads at the Summit 25 conference in January 2025

7. Address by Regional Lead Volunteer – Ian Newbery

Ian thanked everyone for all the good work they have done for Scouting in the past year. He noted that young people are still suffering with their mental health following the pandemic. It should not be underestimated the effect this has had on young people's lives.

It has been a tough 12 months for management roles and everyone is still working through the Prevention of Future Death guidelines.

Compliance has been focussed on this year with safety and safeguarding taking priority. It is appreciated how difficult this has been. Nationally Scouting is 1% non-compliant.

As everyone knows a new system was introduced and this has been a challenge and work is ongoing, Nights Away is working well. What really matters is the young people and growth in numbers across Cambridgeshire is excellent. Squirrels has helped with new adults joining.

Ian added his thanks to everyone in the room and appreciates the hours of work this involves and everyone should be proud of everything they do. He thanked Alan for his work with the Trustees and acknowledged how hard Chris works towards Scouting in Cambridgeshire.

8. Awards

Chris asked Ian Newbery to make the following award presentations:-

Alys Turner, 1st Doddington – 10 years Long Service

Rhys Davies, County Trustee – 10 years Long Service

Giles Williams, 1st St Mary's Over – 15 years Long Service

Deb Deardon - 25 years Long Service

Simon Keen, Water Activities Lead – 25 years Long Service

Chris Huddleston, 1st Needingworth – 40 years Long Service

Deb Thomas, 1st Trumpington – Chief Scouts Commendation for Good Service

David Wood, 11th/9th Cambridge - Award for Merit

Lynne Radbone, Learning sub-team Leader – Bar to Award for Merit

Bob Groom, Programme Team Leader – 25 years Long Service and Silver Acorn

9. End of Formal AGM



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Alan thanked everyone for attending, the meeting then adjourned for tea, coffee and cake.

Appendix 1 – List of attendees

Aidan Joy	Alys Turner	Anthony Claydon
Anthony Rogers	Cheryl Taylor	Chris Huddleston
Conan Fryer	David Briston	David Martin
David Robinson	David Wood	Deb Thomas
Deborah Dearden	Di Philbey	Ed Sowell
Elaine Chamberlain	Elvar Sigurgeirsson	Gary Claypole
Giles Williams	Graham Smith	Greg Jones
Haneefa Cox	Ian Braybrooke	Ian Douglas
James Hughes	Jane Warren	Jeremy Alexander
Jeremy Racher	Jo McGowan	Jon Dearden
Keith Hon Kee Lau	Lynne Radbone	Marina Deller
Maxwell Paines	Michael Philbey	Michael Wenham
Norman Flatt	Paul Finon	Pauline Paines
Penny Bull	Phil Garrett	Rachel Sugden
Rhys Davies	Richard Martin	Rikki Bilverstone
Robert Groom	Robert Jackson	Simon Keen
Sophie Hallett	Steve Taylor	Stephen West
Tom Law	Will Bull	

Appendix 2 – List of apologies

Ann Jones	Anne Appleby	Anthony Best
Barry Hussey	Barry Sheard	Bethan Rodden
Caroline Spaxman	Christopher Clarke	Claire Adams
Claire Griffiths	Colin Daniels	Craig Short
Elaine Ward	Frances Sewell	George Devine
Jackie Daniels	James Hutchings	James Metharam
James Rodden	Jamie Ward	Jane Carter
Jo Christopher	John Taylor	John Tidy
Jonathan Harwood	Kay Broad	Kevin Stoud
Lee Mason	Liz Shaw	Madeleine Roberts
Marc van Niekerk	Mark Clements	Martin Hall
Matt House	Michaela Morleo	Musthafa Ahamed
Natalie Brittan	Neil Bulman	Neil Eccles
Nina Doughty-Colbert	Paul Warrington	Peter Clarke
Peter Popham	Ramona Lilley	Rebecca Polson
Rhys Thomas	Richard Hames	Sabine Buchholz
Samantha Sharp	Sarah Anthony	Steve Graham
Steve Greenwood	Steve O'Keefe	Steve White
Steven Tupper	Stewart Grant Barlow	Stuart Byrne
Sue Best	Sylvia Radley	Teresa Stow



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Tim Burgess
Tracey Street
Zuzana Stochlova

Tom Boughton
Vanessa Cann

Tony Best
Wendy Roe



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