

Midlothian District Scout Council
Annual General Meeting
Thursday 29th October 2020
19:30 Via Zoom

Minutes

Present

Alistair McNeil, Richard Fairbairn, Callum Anderson, Jo Whiting, Brian McGuff, Simon Cocker, John Hiddleston, Lesley Hiddleston, Calum Munro, Caroline Duncan, David Pugh, David Storey, Donald Marshall, Erika Pryde, Fraser Waugh, John Cannon, Karen Wightman, Mac Fairley, Margaret Anderson, Nell Nash, Paul Davidson, Peter Hyde, Richard Callander, Roy Nimmo, Ian Sharp

Apologies

Damian Smith, Bob McGregor, David McFarlane, Colin Harrison, Jenny Harrison

Welcome

Alistair McNeil welcomed everyone to the meeting, a special welcome was given to Lord-Lieutenant of Midlothian - Richard Callander LVO OBE TD who had accepted our invitation to serve as honorary vice president on the retirement of Sir Robert Clerk earlier this year, Deputy Regional Commissioner – Simon Cocker and Regional Chairperson John Cannon

Minutes of AGM from 2019

Proposer: Jo Whiting

Seconder: Ian Sharp

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

District Chairperson's Report – Alistair McNeill

Alistair highlighted the work done by Leaders and Executive members to keep Scouting going in the current circumstances and thanked everyone for all that they had done.

District Commissioner's Report – Richard Fairbairn

Well it's been quite some year. When I took on the role as District commissioner I don't think I could have ever seen the future that was ahead of all of us.

However Scouting has adapted to continue to give young people skills for life. I think everyone in this meeting should be proud of what we've all achieved at times very trying circumstances.

All of us have learned a lot we've learnt about zoom, nope I hadn't heard of it either. We've learned many new skills from the comfort of our own home.

What we've done together has been a fantastic distraction for many people, and in these times that's very, very important.

Ultimately, there was deep regret on the cancellation of Blair Atholl, Scotjam, The Howling and the postponement of Eurojam. We did also have a booking at Fordell Firs in September for a District Cub Camp, we will revisit that at a future point.

The District in some form or another has taken part in 2 Regional Virtual Camps the the SES Sleepout and SES Longest Day Sleepout. Camp at Home, Virtual Scotjam and Blair everywhere. Hike to the Moon, The Great Indoors. I'd like to thank all those that organised these virtual events.

I think the highlight for the District was when we managed to involve 300 Midlothian young

people from all our groups in MidJam. It took ideas from other virtual camps and got a very high level of engagement, due to our relentless social media interaction, full task list. Just don't seek out the Campfire on YouTube.

I'd like to thank the team that put it together Mac Fairley, Jo Whiting, Eoin Neil and Declan Lane

The badges for this are being distributed

Midtrek Initiative – I'd like to thank Brian McGuff and Jo Whiting for putting this together we are working on getting the data in, so we can produce the badges. I think it's fair to say that this hasn't progressed as quickly as ideally we would have like. I felt that we all needed a holiday in some form, and worked commenced on COVID Risk Assessments after that.

I think it's important to highlight all the work that all our volunteers have made throughout the year, but particularly at this time and I'd like to sincerely thank you all for all of that.

We must always emphasise that not everyone is able to come back to Face to Face Scouting right now, there is no pressure.

I am however pleased to report that majority of our sections are now back Face to Face with the option of indoors. It's been a lot of hard work from many people, and I'd like to thank them all for that.

We are in the fortunate position of half of our groups owning their own hall, that has been key. There are challenges remaining with the other halls which we are working on.

I would like to pay tribute to Margery Naylor, who recently stood down as Regional Commissioner due to ill health. Margery was always extremely helpful in my 1st year in this role. I'm sure we'd like to wish her all the very best.

I'd like to mention the sad passing of Ken Thomson in May. Ken had a very special link with Midlothian, living in Eskbank and being Head Teacher at Lasswade High School, until his retirement.

In his role as ARC Training, Ken was always generous with his time with Midlothian Leaders.

Others that have Gone Home

Bill Cunningham who previously a Scout Leader at 14th Midlothian Bonnyrigg

Jim Finnie who previously the Group Scout Leader at 11th Midlothian Penicuik

There is no doubt, this coming year will also be a challenge, but one thing is for sure. I'm certain that working together we can get through this.

Richard introduced Simon Cocker Deputy Regional Commissioner to say a few words:

Simon echoed Richards sentiment about Margery Naylor, having to step down as Regional Commissioner due to ill health.

He was happy to hear of so much going on in Midlothian, despite the restrictions, and he highlighted how 2 socially distanced DOE Expeditions had went ahead.

Treasurers Report

The Receipt and Payments and Statement of Balances was displayed on the screen

There were no questions

Proposed: Brian McGuff
Seconder: Lesley Hiddleston

Election of Office Bearers

Chairperson: Alistair McNeil
Proposed by Richard Fairbairn
Seconded by: Erika Pryde

Secretary: No Nomination

Treasurer: David McFarlane
Proposed by Richard Fairbairn
Seconded by: Donald Marshall

Election of Executive Committee

Ex-Officio Members

District Commissioner – Richard Fairbairn
District Scout Network Commissioner – Callum Anderson

Elected members

Roy Nimmo
Donald Marshall
Ian Sharp
Alistair Burnett
Lesley Hiddleston
Jo Whiting
Karen Wightman
Brian McGuff

Proposed by Erika Pryde
Seconded by: Callum Anderson

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Graham Dyer
Proposed by Brian McGuff
Seconded by Richard Fairbairn

Appointment of Representatives to Regional Scout Council

Brian McGuff and Jo Whiting were appointed

Any other business

There was no other business

Date of Next Annual General Meeting

To be confirmed