

Due to ongoing Covid19 restrictions and to comply with current guidance, the AGM will be held via teleconferencing

Preface Information

Since mid 2018 the background legal and financial affairs of Pocklington District Scout Executive Committee have been undertaken by Humberside Scout Council Trustees in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association (POR - 4.18g). The purpose of the EGM is to produce an interim report of activities, performance and the current financial status of the District Scout Council.

The acting Trustees work to comply with the duty in Section17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance as published by the Charities Commission. The public criterion was met under both advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Two key principles that demonstrate that scouting aims are for public benefit are: -

- 1 (a) Through the scout method young people develop towards their full potential.
- (b) The clear link between the benefits for young people and the purpose of scouting.
- (c) The safety of young people is taken very seriously and the benefits far outweigh the risks.
- 2 (a) The aim of scouting refers to young people and the beneficiaries are aged between 6 and 25.
- (b) Full scouting membership is restricted to young people who are willing to make the scout promise.
- (c) The Association does not exclude those in poverty from its benefits. The Association does charge a subscription to its youth members. However, the benefits of scouting are not restricted by the ability to pay.
- (d) Any private benefits from scouting are incidental other than to those as a beneficiary.

Objectives and Activities

The purpose of the Pocklington District Scout Council is to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals and as responsible citizens. This is done through a variety of activities in partnership with adults such as learning by doing, taking part in activities outdoors, taking responsibility for their own actions, sharing in prayer and worship and making and living at their Scout Promise.

The information collected in this interim report has been done so in challenging circumstances, not least the leaders and interim Trustees having to respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and varying H.M. Government guidelines. The impact of the virus is being felt across the Pocklington District as it is in many other scout districts across the UK. Local scouting continues to follow the guidance of national headquarters and the NYA.

To confirm at this time, nominations are not being sought to form a new District Executive Committee. This continues to reflect the earlier stance of both the Regional and County Commissioners. The County Commissioner is preparing to once again to identify a suitable person to fulfil the role of District Commissioner. A revised strategy in managing groups within the District may need to be considered if we are unable to find suitable candidates.

We can confirm that a lease has been agreed and is now in operation with the Pocklington Rugby Club. The County Trustees still have to finally formalise a lease with the Pocklington Scout Group. Unexpected delays regarding the health of the Pocklington Scout Groups solicitor have been identified and are now being addressed. Work continues to bring this matter to a successful conclusion.

Extraordinary General Meeting Agenda

1. To receive a report from the County Commissioner outlining the current status and activities of each Scout Group. This will include the initial impact on the Groups of the Covid19 Pandemic as it began in the final quarter of this review
2. To receive a report from the Givendale Camp warden outlining the current scenario of the District Campsite
3. To receive a consolidated financial report up to the period ending the 31st March 2020
4. To receive a nomination from a Group Scouter of the Pocklington District Scout Council to represent them at the Humberside County Scout Council
5. To appoint a scrutineer/auditor to confirm the financial statements
6. Closing Remarks

Agenda Item 1 – County Commissioners Report

Scouting in Pocklington District continues despite the lack of direct support that many other Districts benefit from and that is testament to the leaders that continue to support groups and sections within the Pocklington District. During the time the County have been overseeing the administration, we have made excellent progress with the Land issues that have been ongoing for a long time and with an end in sight it is time to look to the future of the District.

With this in mind, we are currently launching the search for a new District Commissioner to lead Scouting within the Pocklington area and we would encourage you to share this message far and wide and encourage people not only within Scouting, but those that may not be involved could well hold the experience and leadership that we need for the District.

Whilst recent times have brought new challenges for us as Scouts, we have been amazed by the way that our volunteers have taken to this and delivered Scouting differently. Be that a zoom meeting or just a different type of engagement. The benefits of Scouting to our young people in these times should not be underestimated and I thank you all for everything you have done to keep Scouting alive and the young people engaged, entertained and interested.

One of the key highlights in recent times from a volunteer perspective across the District is the number of training updates undertaken by our volunteers. Ongoing learning is as important to a role in Scouting as it would be in the workplace. Knowing that our volunteers have the required and updated training to undertake their roles ensures that our young people are kept as safe as possible whilst undertaking activities within Scouting.

As groups come back together, we will continue to encourage our volunteers to ensure that their training is up to date and continues to be updated at the required intervals as defined in our rules. Please don't think of this as a burden, but simply a part of your role that ensures that we are able to demonstrate our ability to keep our young people and other volunteers safe whilst with us.

Thank you for everything that you do to support Scouting in Pocklington. Your time, effort and enthusiasm are very much appreciated. If I or any of the County Team can be of any assistance to you or your groups, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at any time.

Gary McCune – County Commissioner
Humberside Scouts

Agenda Item 2 – Givendale campsite Report (covers ongoing period up to September 2020)

Maintenance and improvements

The request for release of funding to re-roof hut was approved by Humberside County Executive committee following my report, but due to COVID restrictions on working parties, work delayed, temporary patch's holding as such may delay re-roofing till later this year or 2021

Grass cutting and general maintenance has continued throughout period, hut tidied up, floor painted with silver floor paint, yes not best of colour but was donated so no impact on budget!

Composting toilet installed in January and was used for a camp, plus was available for Wolds Challenge that passed the site, so despite not huge usage working well with no smell through summer, will just need to trial a bit longer, to ensure not misused i.e. other waste or plastic put in it.

I am hoping that having a composting toilet permanently set up will encourage more use, in particular mindful of females not wanting to attend meetings be them evening or day time, due to lack of appropriate toilet facilities in the past. I am hoping that this would make bookings for camps more popular.

COVID impact on Givendale Scout Campsite

No scouting use during COVID, risk assessment approved by District and first activity took place 14/09/2020

During COVID we have had a number of unauthorised campers and parties on the site, with increasing levels of litter and damage with each occurrence.

Unfortunately, despite undertaking more frequent inspections I have not yet found anybody camping on site.

3 Incidents have been reported to the Police.

23rd July 2020, 9th August 2020 and 13th September 2020 respectively,

The latest damage saw the small toilet hut 80% destroyed by fire.

Following the latest damage, a debit card was found on site. I traced the person on instagram and through links to other people he knew, we found photos of them partying at Givendale. All details were supplied to Police, their response, "while we can show that there were there, we have no proof of who caused damage". The individuals are not "known to the police" and patrols have been asked to pay attention to site, enquiries are ongoing.

We have had "unauthorised campers" in previous years but nothing like current level of damage or rubbish including camping gear left on site.

Longer term, I would propose reconfiguration of rear store at the same time as the re-roofing to be able to accommodate the composting toilet into the brick outhouse with secure door.

Looking forward

The county exec has approved the expenditure on behalf of the District and it will be used to repair roof and associated repairs, the cash account is empty due to no use in 2020. I would suggest that we need to discuss the ongoing funding scenario for the campsite. This is an asset held in the Districts name and needs to be appropriately resourced.

The better the facilities, while maintaining its unique location and basic appeal the greater the use the more the benefit to young people and the more income if attractive to out of area.

Finally, I am enjoying role and the time I have spent on the site over the last 3 years undertaking maintenance and improving the site for the users.

Let's hope that 2021 will see increased use, in particular camps.

Robin Hull

Givendale Warden

Agenda Item 3 – Financial Statements

Current Balance Sheet

Pro former Balance Sheet at 31 March 2020

Pocklington District Scouts

		£	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £
Fixed Assets			
	Tangible Fixed Assets		-
Current Assets			
	Cash at Bank	14,106	
An estimate of badge stocks held	Stock	120	
Pocklington Rugby Club monies held by County. These funds are subject to further legal fees being paid.	Debtors and Prepayments	2,393	
		16,619	
Current Liabilities			
Membership refunds owed to Groups who have overpaid. Work will begin shortly to identify the beneficiaries.	Creditors and Accruals	1,184	
		1,184	
Net Current Assets			15,435
Represented by:			
General Fund			15,435

Notes:

The balance sheet has been prepared using bank statements for the charity only.

The balance sheet was produced by Mrs Sara Husband, the former District Treasurer and has been reviewed by the County Treasurer.

This balance sheet has still to be reviewed by an independent scrutineer (Income/expenditure below £25k)

It has not been formally approved by the acting Trustees of the charity until the scrutineers are appointed and approved at the EGM.

Item 4 – County Scout Council Representation

To receive a nomination from a Group Scouter of the Pocklington District Scout Council to represent them at the Humberside County Scout Council.

Item 5 – Appointment of Scrutineer

To appoint a scrutineer/auditor to confirm these and future financial statements

Item 6 – Closing Remarks

District Members will continue to have direct access to either the County Commissioner, the County team and / or the County Chairman should they wish to contact them outside of the EGM.

The County Trustees also wish to formally record their appreciation and thanks to Sara Husband for her continued assistance in producing the Pocklington District Accounts.

Group Reports

Stamford Bridge

It has been my pleasure to have been Group Scout Leader for Stamford Bridge for more than 5 years. The group has grown over that time and opened a second scout troop and second beaver colony.

We currently have the largest group in the district with 127 young people comprising 40 beavers, 44 cubs, 36 scouts and 7 explorers. We also have 12 children age 5 3/4 or older who will join beavers as soon as we meet again in person.

We have a good number of fantastic leaders and assistant leaders and continue with our rolling recruitment to gain more. We currently have 2 beaver leaders, 3 cub leaders, 5 scout leaders and 3 explorer leaders. The cub leaders and explorer leaders are the same 3 people. We also have a many occasional helper parents providing support.

Highlights of the year

The highlights of the year, in addition to the high-quality programme delivered each week by our dedicated leaders have included:

- Scout summer camp in Holland
- A group camp at Hebden Hey in West Yorkshire.
- Narrowboating for 4 weekends
- Sleepover at YHA National Forest for families
- Celebrations for 50th anniversary of Stamford Bridge Scout Group
- Beach Cleans
- Bag Packs
- Remembrance Sunday
- A camp at Raven Gill
- Survival Camp
- Cub Camp at Givendale
- Freezer camp -

Covid-19 impact

There has been no face-to-face scouting for some time and as such we have also had to cancel camps and other events. Our leaders work full time and have continued to do so during lockdown, as well as home-schooling their own children. Despite this, we have been busy online.

We have:

- produced activities which are shared on our closed Facebook groups
- provided badge work to be done at home
- joined in with the Hike to the Moon
- completed Facetime badge assessments for beavers, cubs and scouts
- Held a Camp at Home through zoom

We are in a stable financial position. The trust which looks after our scout HQ has sufficient reserves which mean we are not contributing to the upkeep of the building or utility bills for the duration of the lockdown. Our only significant remaining expenses during lockdown are capitation, equipment insurance and badges. We have no non-refundable exposure for pre-booked events. We are asking parents to pay reduced subs until we are back to scouting in person. 80% of parents can do this, so we are able to cover our ongoing expenses including capitation without recourse to reserves.

Finances

As a group we have a turnover of approximately £50000 per year and expenditure is always kept below that and we have healthy reserves. We bank online and have all accounts and transactions viewable by leaders online for full transparency. Receipts are submitted to the treasurer online and expenses are then refunded. We have a committed treasurer who monitors expenditure and ensures all records are kept for audit purposes.

Priorities

Each year I set priorities for the Exec and leaders for the coming year. Last year I set them as:

1. Recruiting explorers to allow us to reinstate a full programme from January 2020.
2. Recruiting additional beaver scout leaders.
3. Providing training opportunities for leaders for core training and adventurous activity permits.
4. Monitoring and actively reviewing programmes across our sections to ensure we provide the best opportunities to young people to develop skills for life, earn badges and face a balanced challenging programme with youth-led delivery.

Against these priorities we have been successful. We had our explorer unit running a full programme from January. We have recruited an additional beaver scout leader and we now have more leaders with Greenfield nights away permits, T2 hill-walking and narrowboating and we have rolling programmes across our sections.

For the next year the priorities will be:

1. Re-establish face-to-face scouting once rules and risk assessments permit.
2. Recruit additional leaders.
3. Ensure core training is up to date for all leaders.
4. Once face-to-face recommences, continue to deliver the high-quality programme of weekly meetings and additional events.

District

We appreciate the assistance that county have provided while there has been no District Commissioner in place. Nonetheless, we look forward to a new DC being appointed once lockdown is over and them in turn appointing local trustees allowing the district to develop.

Ben Barber

Group Scout Leader – Stamford Bridge

1st Pocklington

As with all groups it has been a difficult year with disappointments for each of the sections as we've had to cancel camps and visits, and of course cease face to face scouting.

While the leadership group is enthusiastic we have struggled with finding time to plan and implement online scouting. Few of our leaders have been furloughed, many are keyworkers (spot the volunteering gene) and almost all have reported an increase in workload from their paid roles.

When this is coupled with lockdown, screen fatigue and home schooling I would suggest we are behind other groups in terms of moving online.

We have therefore agreed with our exec committee that we will not charge subs at all for this term and will use reserves to cover the cost.

We have noticed that uptake is not high for the sections that have moved online, many parents report that our young people don't want to do online scouting as they are tired of looking at the laptop from schooling activities or they just feel shy.

In terms of finances the group has lost all income from hut rentals, but has had an associated reduction in utility costs. We have also been able to successfully apply for the rate rebate and, due to sound fiscal management; we have reserves sufficient to cover basic operational costs for 2 years.

We are still awaiting final resolution for the hut lease agreement. The proposed building works have been put on hold until we have a clearer view of the impact of Coronavirus in the longer term and we know what the membership fee increase will be.

Explorers

Pocklington Explorers participated in the Wolds Challenge this last February. The event was on 'home territory' in and around Pocklington. We placed a respectable 4th out of 10.

We conducted some service work at Givendale throughout the last year. Helping to paint the inside of the hut and clearing the grounds during winter camp.

Winter 'survival' camp was held mid February at Givendale. The Explorers enjoy the activities (cooking on alter fires, navigation hike) - but they are at their best when left to their own devices as a group. It's something that we note & embrace - Explorers gives them the time & space to chat and 'be', without the pressures of daily life.

We are greatly looking forward to the return of Explorers - as and when it's permitted.

Scouts highs and lows

Highs

- International Camp to Kandersteg Switzerland
- Fells Marathon - 3 teams entered two in the full competition and 1 in the Fells Lite competition.
- Winter Camp to Bramhope Camp site
- Wolds Challenge - 3 teams entered
- Up until the Covid19 lock down the Troop was doing well, strong numbers and a good number of Cubs moving up.

Lows

- Covid19 Lockdown
- Cancelling our International Camp to Brexbachtal Germany
- Cancelling our Spring Camp to Kielder Water
- Cancelling our Summer Camp to Snowball Plantation

Cubs

1st Pocklington Cubs enjoyed their annual trip to PGL in September, and the autumn and spring terms were full of the usual activities, including hikes, cooking in the hut, and the usual fun and games.

With Covid-19 we paused for half a term, but we have now emerged on-line.

Unfortunately, uptake has been poor on this, but those that have joined in seem to have enjoyed it. It isn't easy trying to think of entertaining things that will engage virtually, but we seem to have a way of making the badge requirements the centre of discussion, not just something we tick off because they've completed an activity that fitted in.

Getting each to talk about what they've done will hopefully help them with improving their confidence. The cubs that join in may become more aware of why they're earning the badge as a result of this.

Beavers

- Wide games and water fun at Givendale
- Archery
- PGL trip in October
- Guardians of Primrose Wood
- District Quiz
- Night Hike
- Sleepover and campfire cooking
- British Heart Foundation Carol Concert (All sections)
- Water issues
- Visiting to the gliding club

Siobhan Clarke

Group Scout Leader – 1st Pocklington

1st Melbourne

At Melbourne we currently only have a Cub Scout unit with approximately 15 Cubs, serving Melbourne, Seaton Ross and East Cottingwith and other small villages in our vicinity. We did in the not too distant past, about 5 or so years ago have an active Beaver, Cub and Scout unit but when the Leaders (who were a married couple) left we managed to only retain the Cub Scouts.

We have had continued difficulty finding support from people to join us at Melbourne, be it for committee roles for the Cubs, or the Scout Hut, or to join as Leaders so current Leaders and Assistants find themselves wearing many hats.

Currently we have 1 as GSL, although I am considering standing down at the end of July for personal reasons, Richard Chapman as Cub Scout Leader and 3 others who assist him as uniformed assistant leaders (all parents). In September 2019 we did have 1 Leader and 5 assistant leaders, but two of the assistant leaders are no longer able to commit. We have reasonably good attendance from the parents who are provided with a parent helper rota each term.

Richard was planning to step down from Cub Scout Leader in September 2020 after a year of working with the Assistant leaders who by this time would have time to pick up the knowledge and skills to run the unit. Richard had planned to move to be an assistant Scout leader at HOSM, however after discussions with Peter Kirby and Jim Cadwallender is considering setting up a Scout unit at Melbourne, but to do this Richard would like to shadow the scout groups in the area – Eg Pocklington, HOSM, and Market Weighton to pick up the knowledge and skills to run a Scout unit. Corona Virus has skewed these plans, and Richard will continue to assist at Melbourne Cubs to allow a full 3 terms shadowing for the new leaders, stepping down shortly after Christmas 2020. With a view (pending recruitment of another scout leader and young people) starting Scouts after Easter or after the summer holidays in 2021. He will all consider taking on the role of GSL.

We are also the only ones along with 2 ladies from the Girl Guiding (Rainbows, Brownies and Guides) team who rent and use the Scout hut, who keep the hut running and pay the bills, etc. Due to having such a small team it is hard for them with busy home lives to dedicate even more time into trying to raise enthusiasm in the local area in encouraging people to join us and help continue Scouting in Melbourne. As well as co-ordinate and run fundraising activities to help bolster funds for the hut. Currently money coming into the Scout Hut account is from approximately £450 rent per year from each of the units, Cubs, Brownies and Guides which does not always cover costs. However, the Hut does have sufficient reserves to survive the suspension in Scouting and Guiding should it continue beyond September.

Coronavirus

All the leaders are workers in Key industries and have struggled to actively continue scouting to date for the Cub unit. We are planning to resume in a small scale with some on-line sessions for the continuation of the summer term.

Highlights

The highs for the Cubs unit. (I don't want to be seen as being negative about everything!!)

- New fire doors grant.
- We have also had a grant in May 2020 from ERYC which we intend to spend on new flooring for the hut.

Debbie Bruce and Richard Chapman

Group Scout Leader and Cub Scout Leader.– 1st Melbourne

Market Weighton

As a Group, Market Weighton had a fantastic end to 2018-2019 school year, with many attendees of a range of group activities such as St Georges & Remembrance Parade.

The 2019-2020 school year started brilliantly, with a family bonfire event, the District carol service and a group Christmas party.

Then came the disappointment of having to cancel camps and visits, and eventually cease all face to face scouting at Market Weighton.

While the leadership team is passionate about the group, many of our leaders are keyworkers and have worked tirelessly throughout lockdown. When you combine this with having to undertake their own home schooling, it was decided that online scouting would simply be too much on top of everything else. We look to introduce online scouting from September 2020.

Beavers

Market Weighton Beavers undertook a range of badge work between March - July 2019, from the disability badge to their Global issues badge. They had an outdoor camp in a field belonging to one of the parent helpers, and undertook fire lighting, cooking pizzas and archery. Beavers ended 2019 with an end of term party, followed by a 3 day summer camp at Walesby Forest.

The new school year began with a trip to Givendale campsite for an evening of fire lighting with flint and steels, and a treasure hunt around Market Weighton. These were swiftly followed by a well-attended remembrance parade, and the Beavers annual Christmas camp - complete with a visit from Father Christmas! January 2020 saw the Beavers begin their fitness badge, and the last bag pack before the dreaded lockdown! Beavers decided not to run any online sessions, but instead provided the children with an at-home challenge pack, packed full of fun challenges they could do with their families.

Cubs

MW Cubs gave out a staggering 305 badges up to lock down, to reward the young people. March - July 2019 saw the Cubs visit Raywell, and Givendale to work towards their outdoor and teamwork challenge awards. They also attended the District Cub camp at Melton and went to Inflatation for their end of year 2019 treat and spent a week at Walesby Forest for their summer camp.

They had a really good start to the new school year with 2 visits to Givendale, doing backwards cooking, campfire skits and campfire songs.

They held a well-attended indoor camp at Kettleness which saw quite a mix of boys and girls. This event was a great success with the young people gaining life skills. Cubs attended group events in December, the Carol service and our annual Christmas party.

To start the New Year the Cubs went on a visit to Brough observatory. We learned two new sports and tested out knowledge with a board games style scouting knowledge quiz.

After lockdown, a few of the pack took part in the County Cub camp online, but for the majority of time they haven't been doing anything. As a group of cub leaders we have held our 1st zoom meeting and have started to plan what's going to happen when we restart in September 2020.

Scouts & Explorers

MW Scouts & Explorers run at the same time, and undertake most of the same activities. March - July 2019 saw a traditional back-to-basics camp at Primrose Hill, fantastic attendance at County Scout Camp (despite the awful weather!), a 24 hour survival night eating ration packs and cooking on hexamine stoves, and finally a week long Canal Boating summer camp with a day trip to Drayton Manor thrown in to the mix!

The new school year saw a range of badges worked on - including skills, the team leader badge, outdoor challenge and my world challenge badge. Before the weather turned, the sections managed to get out and about for some fire lighting at Givendale, and to Beverley Westwood for building and launching their own rockets. November saw the annual indoor camp at Kettleness which was a little chilly to say the least!

The sections were lucky enough to fit in one last camp before lockdown - a weekend camp at Raywell, which saw the children cooking meals in Dutch ovens over open fires, and the Explorers sleeping in hammocks. It was great to end the scouting year with such a fantastic event.

John A Speak

Group Scout Leader – Market Weighton

Holme upon Spalding Moor

Until the lock down all our groups were thriving and were busy with various activities. Financially our group is in a good position as we qualified for The East riding retail, hospitality and leisure grant. We agreed with our Exec that we would not be asking for subs for last summer term.

As most of our leaders were keyworkers and their workload increased. We did not push online scouting as much as other groups, but we sent the groups the occasional activity to participate in. We kept in contact with our young people's adults and found this was the best action to take, especially with the older young people who had to spend most of their day studying online.

As a group in General we are very lucky to have leaders and young people who are very active in County Events.

We have 4 young people who are going to the European Jamboree, one who went through the interview process during lockdown, 2 Leaders who are assistant unit leaders and one leader on IST.

Explorers

Last year, three explorers completed their platinum award and the group continue to work through their D of E with two successfully completing their bronze and have continued on with Silver during lockdown.

Two Explorers completed their young leader training and continue to enjoy supporting the younger sections.

We have four scouts who are in the process of moving to Explorers.

Scouts

We have a large scout group who were quite active before lockdown and enjoyed participating in many outdoor events.

We had also made use of the East Riding Countryside events and went to Danes Dykes for Backwoods Cooking, Beach Combing and Beach Cleaning Events.

2 camps had been arranged for Easter and the summer but obviously had to be cancelled.

Cubs

Again, we have a large cub group who have enjoyed many art and craft activities prior to lockdown and most took part in The Pocklington District Cub Funday which was held at Givendale.

Some cubs participated in badge activities during lock down and emailed the evidence to the leaders.

Our cub group was due to participate in The County Cub Camp.

Beavers

We have a large group with a waiting list.

The Beavers attended the District Quiz, A visit from The Peoples Pantry and the Beavers collected items to be donated to them.

The Beavers had been working hard completing three Challenge Badges towards their Bronze award.

They were due to attend the County fun outdoor camp during the summer of this year.

Restart

All the sections have been in contact with their young people and it is looking good for most returning to their respective groups in the next couple of weeks, and we have had quite a few enquiries of young people wanting to join our group when we return.

Diane Hodder

Group Scout Leader – Holme Upon Spalding Moor