



Annual General Meeting

Deal, Walmer, Sandwich and District Scouts

Annual Report

29th July 2026



Annual General Meeting

29th July 2026

10th Deal (Eastry) Scout HQ, Wilmott Place

Eastry CT13 0QB

AGENDA

- 1. Introduction and welcome**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Governance topics**
 - a. Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21st June 2025
 - b. Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR)
 - c. Note the District's financial year
 - d. Agree appointed and community members of the District Scout Council
 - e. Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board
 - f. Agree the quorum for future meetings of the District Scout Council (excluding this AGM)
- 4. Review of the previous year**
 - a. The District Lead Volunteer's review of Scouts in the Deal, Walmer, Sandwich and District
 - b. Receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Trustee Board, including the annual Statement of the Accounts
- 5. Making appointments**
 - a. Appoint the District Chair, following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board
 - b. Appoint the District Treasurer, following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board



- c. Appoint members of the District Trustee Board, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board
- d. Appoint the Scrutineer
- e. Nominate representatives of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council

6. County Representative

Closing remarks

Deal, Walmer and Sandwich Scout Council
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday 21st June 2025, 18.00
The Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory, Guildford Road,
Sandwich Bay, Sandwich CT13 9PF

MINUTES

1. **Introduction and welcome:** Matthew Sims welcomed everyone and explained:
 - a. Heather Rowell resigned as District Chair in February 2025
 - b. Steven Wanstall, a past District Chairman, had applied for the role of Chairman and been appointed by the Trustees. From this point, Matthew handed the meeting to Steven to Chair.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies have been received from Charlie Horne, (District), Matthew Page (DYC), Alan Noake (LDV 14-24), Craig Nimmo (9th), Graham Baker (10th), Cassie Linsdell (20th), Heather Rowell (12th), Charlie Rowell (ADLV), Kevin Rackham (GLV 1st), Ian Mackenzie (District), Jayne Richardson (5th), Lawrence Smith (5th).

Present: Matthew Sims (DLV), Alison Sims (ADLV), Elizabeth Lukehurst (8th), Rob Lukehurst (8th), Ian Fletcher (GLV 7th), Emma Bodman (10th), Pete Bodman (District), Kate House (Treasurer), Cathy Betts (District), Chris Spencer (District Chaplin), Shirley Smith (ESU Aquila), John George (District), Mavis Marsh (GLV 5th), Peter Marsh (5th), David Davies (District Scout Council), Harvey Davies (Scout), Millie Fisher (Explorer), Lian Fisher (Explorer), Paul Betts (Dover District Chairman), Des Harris (County Chairman), Nirav Patel (County Lead Volunteer).
3. **Governance topics**
 - a. **Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 13th June 2024:** Approved: Peter Marsh proposed, Mathew Sims seconded.
 - b. **Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR):** Adopted: Pete Bodman proposed, Alison Sims seconded.
 - c. **Note the District's financial year:** 1st January to 31st December.
 - d. **Approve appointed and community members of the District Scout Council:** No nominations to approve.
 - e. **Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board:** It was agreed a maximum of 12 District Trustees may be appointed to the trustee board.

- f. **Agree the quorum for future meetings of the District Scout Council (excluding this AGM):** A quorum of 10 was agreed for future District Scout Council meetings.

4. Review of the previous year

The District Lead Volunteer's review of Scouts in the Deal, Walmer, and Sandwich District: Matthew Sims, District Lead Volunteer gave an update on Scouting in the district over the last 10 months (10 months due to the accounting year change):

- There has been a small increase in Explorer membership. This is thanks to the efforts of Liz Lukehurst, Rob Lukehurst and Shirley Smith
- There has been a slight drop in Cub numbers, but we have been consistent in the District team, Group Lead Volunteers and Trustee Board
- There has been some great Scouting happening over the last 10 months and we hope this will continue.

Matthew then highlighted two significant things which have occurred since advertising the AGM:

- **Project Re-Draw:** County is currently running a review of the district boundaries. This project is called Project Re-draw and there is an online questionnaire available as part of the consultation on Kent Scouts website
- **Betteshanger campsite:** The Northborne Estate is looking to develop part of the estate. This development includes the site currently used as the district campsite. Matthew Sims and Pete Bodman are due to meet with Lord Northborne to discuss options.

Matthew Sims presented Chris Spencer a thank you gift for being the District Chaplin. After more than 25 years in Scouting, Chris is moving out of the area.

- a. **Receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Trustee Board, including the annual Statement of the Accounts:** Approved.

5. Making appointments

- a. **Appoint the District Chair, following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board**
- With no other applicants, Steve Wanstall was appointed for 3 years from 2025

- b. **Appoint the District Treasurer, following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board**
 - Kate House was re-appointed (3 years from 2024)
- c. **Appoint members of the District Trustee Board, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board**
 - Alan Noake: Trustee. 3 years from 2024
 - Ian Mackenzie: Trustee. 2 years from 2024
 - Peter Marsh: Trustee. 2 years from 2024
 - Charlie Horne: Trustee. 3 years from 2025
 - Cathy Betts: Trustee. 3 years from 2025
 - Pete Bodman: Trustee. 3 years from 2025

Ex-Officio Appointments

- Matthew Sims: DLV, for duration of role
- Matthew Page: DYC, for duration of role
- d. **Appoint the Scrutineer:** Vivienne Verne was appointed as scrutineer for the forthcoming year
- e. **Nominate representatives of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council:** Alan Noake

6. District Representative: Des Harris, County Chair, Kent Scouts.

- a. Des thanked all volunteers for all they do to deliver Scouting in the District and making a positive difference to the young people.
- b. He also wanted to ensure thanks is extended to the parents and helpers who support the groups. He advised thanks badges are available from the office at Lower Grange Farm and if any team leaders would like some, just request some from the County Office.
- c. Des presented:
 - a. Young People Growth Awards to:
 - i. 1st Deal (Walmer)
 - ii. 2nd Deal (Sea Scouts)
 - iii. 5th Deal (Sholden)
 - iv. 9th Deal (Ash)
 - b. Adult growth Awards to:
 - i. 9th Deal (Ash)
 - ii. 20th Deal (Aylesham)

Closing remarks: Steven Wanstall thanked everyone for attending and advised the AGM will now be followed by a presentation from Shirley Smith, Milly Fisher and Lian Fisher who represented the district on the 2025 Network Expedition to Peru.

Following the presentation Nirav Patel, County Commissioner presented Shirley Smith the Commendation Award for supporting another leader suffering a medical emergency whilst on the expedition.

DEAL, WALMER, SANDWICH and DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Trustees' Annual Report For The Year Ended 31 December 2025

TRUSTEES: Ex-officio

District Lead Volunteer
Distruct Youth Lead

Matthew Sims
Matthew Page

TRUSTEES: Appointed

Treasurer

Kathryn House
Ian Mackenzie
Peter Marsh
Alan Noake
Charlie Horne
Pete Bodman
Cathy Betts

Chairperson (to February 2025)
Chairperson (from June 2025)

Heather Rowell To February 2025
Steven Wanstall From February 2025

BANKERS

Lloyds Bank plc
Sandgate Road, Folkestone

NatWest Bank plc
31 High Street, Deal CT14 6EW

CONTACT NAME & ADDRESS

Kate House
26 Claremont Rd
Deal, Kent CT14 9TX

DEAL, WALMER, SANDWICH and DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Trustees' Report For The Year Ended 31 December 2025

Structure, Governance And Management

The District's governing documents are those of the Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

The District is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association.

The District is managed by the District Trustee Board, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout District which is an educational charity.

As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities.

The Trustee Board consists of the Chair, Treasurer and up to 7 Trustees (including 2 Ex Officio Trustees) and a 2 co-opted Trustees and meets every 3 months on average.

Members complete Being a Scouts Trustee learning within the first 6 months of joining the Board.

This District Trustee Board exists to make sure the charity is well managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, equipment is in good working order and everyone follows legal requirements and the organisations policies and rules. Their support helps volunteers run high quality and safe programmes that give young people skills for life.

Risk And Internal Control

The District has in place systems of control that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss.

Objectives And Activities

The Scout Association provides adventurous activities and personal opportunities for young people aged 4 to 25.

The role of the District Council is to further these general objectives, with particular reference to the members of the Scout Groups in the District.

The objectives are as follows:

- To make quality Scouting available to every young person in the District, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion or disability.

- To ensure that every Scout Group offers the opportunity for a young person to progress from the age of 4 to 14, in a clearly identifiable way, either in the same group, or through formal arrangements with another group.

- To continually quality assure the quality of Scouting in every Scout Group.

- To continuously recruit and retain adult leaders and helpers.

- To maintain a quality programme of adult training and development.

- To build strong teams of adults who will deliver to the District's objectives.

- To ensure that every young person aged 14 to 25 is offered like opportunities by the District Explorer Unit or Units attached to Groups, recognising that administration, training and insurance are a District responsibility.

The District supports the work done in Groups in delivering the programme by providing District events for training, fundraising and activities.

DEAL, WALMER, SANDWICH and DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Trustees' Report For The Year Ended 31 December 2025

Achievements And Performance

This has been a challenging year for the District. Whilst we have continued to deliver a wide program of activities to the young people, two significant developments have arisen which will have a significant impact to the future.

The first is the sad loss of our campsite at Bettshanger. However, Lord Northbourne has offered us an alternative site which is progressing. Although we will miss our old site, we remain grateful to Lord Northbourne for his continued support of Scouting in our district.

The second is that Kent County Scouts have instigated "Project Re-draw", whereby a number of districts within the County of Kent will be merged. As a result of this, our District will be merged with Dover District, and this is expected to be completed by the end of 2026. Although it is disappointing that we will not continue as before, we are excited by the opportunities that should arise as a result of the merger, increasing the activities and options for our young people.

Public Benefit

The District meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Financial Review

The District's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the group should income and fundraising activities fall short. The District Trustee Board considers that the group should hold a sum equivalent to 24 months running costs circa £20,000.

Investment Policy

The District's income and expenditure is very small and as a consequence does not have sufficient funds to invest in long term options such as stocks and shares. The District has therefore adopted a low risk strategy to the investment of its funds.

All funds are held in cash using mainstream banks and building societies.

A deposit of £10,000 is held in a one year fixed rate account with Charity Bank due to mature on 12/02/2026.

Going Concern

As a result of the merger referred to previously, the trustees do not believe that the Charity will be operating for more than 12 months after approval of report. However, the fundamental operations of the District will continue within the new merged district.

Plans For The Future

The main objectives for the period until the merger are to maintain the high quality program for the young people, continue progress with the new campsite and work towards a smooth and seamless merged entity with Dover District.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees

Signature

Full name: Steven Wanstall

Position: Chair

Date

DEAL, WALMER, SANDWICH and DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
Accounts For The Year Ended 31 December 2025

Receipts and Payments

For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Explorers Restricted Funds £	31.12.25 Total Funds £	31.12.24 Total Funds £
Receipts				
Membership subscriptions	26,101	1,874	27,975	2,712
County rebate	229	-	229	228
Bank interest	-	5	5	5
Activities	-	1,102	1,102	261
Fundraising	-	-	-	57
Donations and grants	359	865	1,224	1,153
Badge income	290	-	290	80
Total receipts	26,979	3,846	30,825	4,496
Payments				
Membership subscriptions	25,813	-	25,813	-
Activities	-	1,950	1,950	1,283
Promotional material	146	-	146	-
Administration	160	4,217	4,377	282
Donation	175	-	175	-
Badges/Uniform	82	14	96	19
Equipment	-	550	550	-
Total payments	26,376	6,731	33,107	1,584
Net receipts / (payments)	603	(2,885)	(2,282)	2,912
Funds brought forward	23,092	9,407	32,499	27,790
Transfers between funds	1,544	(1,544)	-	-
Cash funds carried forward	25,239	4,978	30,217	30,702

The above account and accompanying statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Name Kate House
Position Treasurer
Date

DEAL, WALMER, SANDWICH and DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
Accounts For The Year Ended 31 December 2025

Statement of Assets and Liabilities
at 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	31.12.25 Total Funds £	01.01.25 Total Funds £
Cash funds				
Bank current accounts	24,857	4,900	29,757	32,018
Cash in hand	382	66	448	667
Total cash funds	25,239	4,966	30,205	32,685
Non-Monetary Assets				
Scouting equipment at estimated value	16,300	-	16,300	16,300
Campsite equipment at cost	4,445	-	4,445	4,445
District Store at estimated value	3,800	-	3,800	3,800
County & District Badges at cost	600	-	600	600
	25,145	-	25,145	25,145

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Deal, Walmer, Sandwich and District Scout Council

I report on my examination of the accounts of the Deal, Walmer, Sandwich and District Scout Council for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Deal, Walmer, Sandwich and District Scout Council you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Deal, Walmer, Sandwich and District Scout Council accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

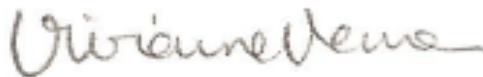
Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Deal, Walmer, Sandwich and District Scout Council as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Vivienne Verren

11 Royston Gardens
St Margaret's at Cliffe
Dover
Kent
CT15 6AD

Date: 17th June 2026



How would you like to help with Scouting in your area and change the lives of the local young people?



Every week nationally, Scouting gives almost half a million people aged 4-25 the skills they need for school, college, university, the job interview, the important speech, the tricky challenge and the big dreams: the skills they need for life.

Deal, Walmer, Sandwich & District Scouts is one of 22 Districts in Kent, and covers 8 Scout groups in the area. We

are a large district reaching out to Aylesham, Wingham, Ash, Eastry as well as being in Sandwich, Sholden, Walmer and Kingsdown. The district has over 450 active scouts that are now meeting on a regular basis, but over the pandemic, like many charities we have been affected, and need more adult support to ensure that we continue to thrive.

At a time when communities are becoming more divided, we bring people together. We encourage our young people to do more, learn more and be more. We are a worldwide movement, creating stronger communities and inspiring positive futures. We welcome talent from all backgrounds and your contribution to help even more young people succeed in life.

If you use leadership and or management skills in your day-to-day life then you may be able to help the District. There is a range of volunteering roles within the District with varying levels of commitment required and you do not have to have been in the Scout Association previously, as there will be support within the District and Groups to get you up to speed.

There is no remuneration, however volunteering with the Scouts will make a real difference to the young people and this in itself is highly rewarding.

Interested?

To find out more please speak to one of the Trustees here tonight or visit www.dealdistrictscouts.org