

**MINUTES OF THE  
ANNUAL NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING  
OF  
SCOUTING IRELAND**

**DATE:** 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2013

**VENUE:** Radisson Blu Hotel, Rosses Point, Co Sligo

**PRESENT: -**

1. Michael John Shinnick - Chief Scout.
2. Ian Davy - Chief Commissioner Youth Programme.
3. Therese Bermingham - Chief Commissioner Adult Resources.
4. Sean Farrell - National Secretary.
5. Fr Dave Kenneally – Chairperson (National Spiritual Religious Advisory Panel)
6. All other attendees as listed in the Attendances' Register.

**AGENDA FOR THE MEETING:**

**SATURDAY 20<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2013.**

- 10.00**
- Opening Thought
  - Opening Address of the Chief Scout
  - Address by Guest Speaker
  - Meeting Procedures and Appointment of Tellers
  - Approval of Standing Orders
  - Approval of the minutes of National Council 2012
  - Adoption of the Annual Report
  - Adoption of the Audited Accounts and Financial Report of Scouting Ireland
  - Appointment of Auditors
  - Endorsement of the Annual Report of the Scout Foundations
  - Election of Honorary Vice-Presidents
  - Matters referred by the National Management Committee
  - Motions received by the National Secretary
- 11.30** Vision 2020 Presentation
- 12.15** Introduction of National Youth Representatives
- 12.30** Adult Awards
- 10.00–16.00** Voting for positions on the National Management Committee
- 13.00** Meeting adjourned

**SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL, 2013.**

**10.00** Resumption of National Council

- Opening thought
- Opening address
- World Scout Jamboree 2015 – Presentation
- Election results

**14.00** Closing address by the Chief Scout.

**DOCUMENTS OF THE MEETING: (Circulated in Advance)**

- Agenda and Registration/Voting Procedure.
- Minutes of the Meeting of National Council 2012.
- List of Motions.
- Annual Report of Scouting Ireland 2012.
- Audited Accounts and Financial Report of Scouting Ireland  
Audited Accounts of Scout Foundations
- List of Candidates and Nominees for Election
- Submissions to National Council 2013
- A brief Guide to Motions or Proposals

**OPENING THOUGHTS & ADDRESSES:**

- Brian Webster Provincial Commissioner (Western Scout Province) welcomed all delegates to the meeting of National Council 2013.
- Safety Announcements
- Scout Promise Recital
- Scouts Call Recital
- Chief Scouts Opening Address
- Keynote Speaker – John T Murphy (Gaisce)

## **RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE MEETING:**

The following Resolutions were passed at the meeting:

### **1. APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS**

#### **Chief Tellers**

- Bill James
- Mark O'Callaghan
- Niall Walsh
- Jim Holmes

#### **Tellers**

- Peter Walsh
- Mark Lugwood
- Kayleigh Malone
- Maurice Carney
- Fearghus Downes
- Jack Walsh
- Ross Chambers
- Dion McCarthy
- Luke Roberts
- Edel Henderson
- Michael Healy
- Niamh McMorrow
- Doireann Lawless
- Daniel Henderson
- Sean Bartlett
- Adrian McGowan
- Aoife Coyne
- Ellen Thomas

## **1. APPROVAL OF STANDING ORDERS**

Standing Orders were proposed by the Chief Scout and passed by a show of hands from the delegates

## **2. MINUTES -**

The Minutes of 31st March, 2012 were approved following a show of hands by the delegates.

## **3. ANNUAL REPORT**

Following a show of hands by the delegates, the Annual Report was adopted.

**Matters arising:** In reply to Stephen Synnott's concerns that the National Management Committee were exercising undue influence on the members with regard to the 'Children's Rights Bill' – the Chief Scout stated that the National Management Committee is the governing body between National Councils and that they did not presume to speak on behalf of Scouting Ireland on this issue, but were expressing the National Management Committee's opinion.

## **4. AUDITED ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL REPORT OF SCOUTING IRELAND**

The Audited Accounts and Financial Report of Scouting Ireland for the year 2012 were proposed to National Council. Fr. Dave Kenneally Interim National Treasurer, and Fionan Lawlor, Financial Controller provided clarification on a number of queries from the delegates. The Audited Accounts and Financial Report of Scouting Ireland were adopted following a show of hands by the delegates.

### **Matters arising:**

- Item 21 page 19 ref. Closing Balance; date should read 31<sup>st</sup> August
- Request for a full write down of the assets of Lough Dan
- Concern that funding supplied to Groups for training had to be returned because Groups could not avail of training as suitable courses had not been provided – The National Management Committee has committed to 'ring-fencing' the funding for training and the CC(AR) will work on providing the most efficient training necessary.

- Request for heading 'Sundries' to be accounted and outlined
- Clarification requested of 'Computer equipment' as listed in the accounts

#### **5. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS-**

The firm of Price Waterhouse Coopers Ireland Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors was appointed as Auditors for Scouting Ireland.

#### **6. ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE SCOUT FOUNDATIONS**

The Annual Report and Accounts of Scout Foundations were endorsed by show of hands from the delegates.

#### **7. ELECTION OF HONORARY VICE- PRESIDENTS**

The election of Honorary Vice-Presidents of Scouting Ireland was approved as follows:

- a) Martin Burbridge
- b) Donald Harvey
- c) Eoghan Lavelle
- d) Kenneth Ramsey
- e) Paul Ring

#### **VISION 2020 & ELECTRONIC VOTING**

Standing orders for National Council were then suspended to facilitate a Vision 2020 presentation and the demonstration of an electronic voting system for National Council. Delegates were instructed on the procedure for using the system by Claire McAroe and Cathal Healy who conducted a series of trial questions and requested the delegates to vote electronically for their choice of answer.

#### **THE SCOUT SHOP**

The new Scouts casual range was launched at National Council and Dermot McMullen Manager of the Outdoor Adventure Store introduced the launch and pointed out that the regenerated Scout Shop has Scouting Ireland members and Scouting relevance as its principle

focus. Supporting the Scout Shop is supporting Scouting with all profits going back into the Association.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Ian Davy Chief Commissioner (Youth programme) introduced a presentation on the World Scout Moot 2013 in Canada and invited Steven Cull contingent leader to speak to the delegates. Steven informed National Council that there will be 13 Rovers travelling to Canada for the Moot and pointed out that there was still an opportunity for additional people to apply to take part.

Christy McCann, International Commissioner outlined the procedure for participation in 'The Gathering 2013' and commented on how well groups have embraced the concept and will proudly wear the new badge.

Ian Davy, Chief Commissioner Youth Programme reported on the 'Community Celebration Week' project and directed delegates to the Scouts.ie website where a promotional video is available.

The Scouting Ireland Youth Representatives for 2013 – 2014 were then presented to National Council;

<b>SCOUT SECTION</b>	<b>VENTURE SECTION</b>	<b>ROVER SECTION</b>
Orla Ainsworth	Niall Fogarty	Karen Bradley
Iona Brennan	Aoife Fricker	Denise Delaney
Sinead Callanan	Ciara Keegan	Jack Denning
Stephen McCollum	Aoife Leahy	Niamh Donnelly
Dara Murphy	Megan McLoughlin	Zahaira Esmau
Jill Pitcher-Farrell	Richard Murray	Diarmuid Finnan
Aoife Quinn	Laura O'Connor	Maire Fitzgerald
Donal Watson	Brendan Tyrrell	Gary Gaughan
	Michael Vaughan	Alison Maher

Therese Bermingham Chief Commissioner Adult Resources informed National Council that a very pleasant part of her duties is to present awards to those adults who have contributed so much to Scouting. The following people were then presented with Scouting Irelands Order of Cú Chulainn:

- John Barron
- Hazel Browne
- Ian Davy
- Martin Flahive
- Desi McAroe
- Marion McAroe
- Philip Quinn

The meeting adjourned at 13.10pm

The meeting reconvened at 10.00am on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April

### **WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE 2015**

National Council viewed a presentation on the next World Scout Jamboree which will be held in Japan in 2015. Delegates were reminded that it is necessary to register online before 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2013 to be a member of the Scouting Ireland delegation to the Jamboree.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS**

Following the completion of their term of office; the outgoing members of the National Management Committee were thanked for their work on behalf of Scouting Ireland:

- Ian Davy
- Therese Bermingham
- Niall Kenny
- Aidan Smith
- Brian Webster
- John Watmore

Outgoing members of the Scout Foundation were also thanked for their efforts on behalf of Scouting Ireland:

- Aidan Brennan
- John Reid

All of the outgoing members then vacated the stage in preparation for the announcements of the results of the votes cast by the delegates.

The National Secretary announced the following candidates as elected for the following positions of the National Management Committee:

- Chief Commissioner (Youth Programme) - Ian Davy
- Chief Commissioner(Adult Resources) - Therese Bermingham
- National Treasurer - Annette Byrne
- National Management Committee Member - Tom Clarke
- Provincial Commissioner (Dublin Scout Province)- Aidan Smith
- Provincial Commissioner (Western Scout Province)- Brian Webster
- Provincial Commissioner (South East Scout Province)- John Watmore
- Nominated Director of the Scout Foundation - Peter Garrad
- Nominated Director of the Scout Foundation - Charles McGuinness

## MOTIONS

The following Motions as received by the National Secretary and referred by the National Management Committee were voted on as follows:

### 1 – Honorary Vice Presidents

<b>HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS</b>			
<b>HVP- 1</b>		<p><b>Honorary Vice Presidents:</b></p> <p>To elect the following people as Honorary Vice Presidents of Scouting Ireland:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Martin Burbridge Donald Harvey Eoghan Lavelle Kenneth Ramsey Paul Ring</p> <p><i>(National Management Committee)</i></p>	<b>CARRIED</b>

### 2 – Motion

<b>MOTION - (Notice of motion approved at National Council 2012)</b>			
<b>M-1</b>	<b>Article 38</b>	<p>That this National Council amend <b>Article 38</b>, by the addition of (new sub section) as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· six representatives of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the Provincial Youth Forum for Scouts</li> <li>(ii) the Provincial Youth Forum for Venture Scouts</li> <li>(iii) the Provincial Youth Forum for Rover Scouts.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>(National Youth Forum for Venture Scouts)</i></p>	<p><b>FELL</b></p> <p><b>For 131</b> <b>Against 333</b></p>

### 3 – Notice of Motion

<b>NOTICE of MOTION</b>			
<b>M-1</b>	<b>Article 2</b>	<p>That Notice of Motion be accepted to amend <b>Article 2</b> of the Constitution to read:</p> <p>Scouting Ireland is a voluntary, uniformed, non-formal educational movement for young people. It is independent, <b>non-party political</b>, open to all without distinction of origin, race, creed, gender, sexual orientation, or ability, in accordance with the purpose, principles and method conceived by the Founder, Robert Baden-Powell and as stated by the World Organisation of the Scout Movement.</p>	<b>WITHDRAWN</b>

### 4 – Rule Changes

<b>RULE CHANGES</b>			
<b>R 1</b>		<p>That this National Council agrees to amend <b>Rule 119</b> to read as follows:</p> <p>All voting, apart from voting in an election for any Appointment by the National Council, shall be by open show of voting cards or by using an electronic voting system. If the vote is taken by open show of voting cards the vote may be taken by secret ballot where a proposal for such is accepted by one third of those members present and voting.</p> <p><b>National Management Committee</b></p>	<b>CARRIED FOR 313 AGAINST 150</b>
<b>R 2</b>		<p>That this National Council agrees to amend <b>Rule 25A</b> to read as follows:</p> <p>A Member by agreement may temporarily withdraw from any Appointment or Position they hold for an agreed period of time.</p> <p><b>National Management Committee</b></p>	<b>CARRIED FOR 228 AGAINST 142</b>
<b>R 3</b>		<p>That this National Council agrees to amend <b>Rule 59</b> to read as follows:</p> <p>Programme Scouters are Scouters nominated by the Scout Group Council, approved by the Group Leader and the County Commissioners, and appointed by the Chief Commissioner Adult</p>	<b>CARRIED</b>

		Resources on behalf of the National Management Committee.  <b>National Management Committee</b>	
<b>R 4</b>		That this National Council agrees to amend <b>Rule 56</b> to read as follows:  Deputy Group Leader(s) may be nominated by the Scout Group Council, recommended by the County Commissioner and appointed by the Chief Commissioner (Adult Resources) on behalf of the National Management Committee.  <b>National Management Committee</b>	<b>CARRIED</b>
<b>R 5 New Rule</b>		That this National Council agrees to introduce a <b>new rule</b> to read as follows:  The Appointment of Deputy Group Leader may be cancelled, Withdrawn or suspended by the Chief Commissioner (Adult Resources) on behalf of the National Management Committee on the recommendation of the Scout Group Council or the County Commissioner.  <b>National Management Committee</b>	<b>CARRIED</b>
<b>R 6</b>		That this National Council agrees to amend <b>Rule93(A)</b> to read as follows:  The Deputy County Commissioner may be nominated by the Scout County Board, recommended by the County Commissioner and appointed by the Chief Commissioner Adult Resources) on behalf of the National Management Committee.  <b>National Management Committee</b>	<b>CARRIED</b>
<b>R 7 New Rule</b>		That this National Council agrees to introduce a <b>new rule</b> to read as follows:  The appointment of a Deputy County Commissioner may be cancelled, withdrawn or suspended by the Chief Commissioner (Adult Resources) on behalf of the National Management Committee in accordance with the Rules.  <b>National Management Committee</b>	<b>CARRIED</b>

<p><b>R 8</b></p>		<p>That this National Council agrees to amend <b>Rule 88</b> to read as follows:</p> <p>The County Commissioner is a Scouter nominated by the Scout County Board and appointed by the Chief Commissioner (Adult Resources) on behalf of the National Management Committee for a term of three years and is eligible for re appointment by the Chief Commissioner (Adult Resources) on behalf of the National Management Committee upon the nomination of the Scout County Board for one further term of three years.</p> <p><b>National Management Committee</b></p>	<p><b>CARRIED</b></p>
<p><b>R 9</b></p>		<p>That this National Council agrees to amend <b>Rule92</b> to read as follows:</p> <p>The appointment of the County Commissioner may be cancelled, withdrawn or suspended by the Chief Commissioner (Adult Resources) on behalf of the National Management Committee in accordance with the Rules.</p> <p><b>National Management Committee</b></p>	<p><b>CARRIED</b></p>
<p><b>R 10 New Rule</b></p>		<p>That a <b>new rule</b> be introduced to read as follows: No amendment to the age ranges of the youth members of Scouting Ireland shall be made by National Council otherwise than on Notice of Motion duly given and accepted by a simple majority at the meeting of the National Council immediately prior to the meeting at which the Motion is to be moved.</p> <p><b>52 Dublin (Shankill) Scout Group</b></p>	<p><b>WITHDRAWN</b></p>

## 5 - General Motions

<b>GENERAL MOTIONS</b>			
<b>GP 1</b>		<p>That this National Council instructs the NMC to conduct a review of the cost of our professional resources and report back to the association within 9 months with a detailed report on all current expenditure and where possible suggestions to reduce expenditure. This review should take account of the changes to our government grants, the probability of further cuts and look at all cost bases associated with the running of our professional resources to see if and where efficiencies can be made.</p> <p><b>6<sup>th</sup> Dublin (Leeson Park) Scout Group</b></p>	<b>FELL</b>
<b>GP 2</b>		<p>That this National Council instructs the National Management Committee to return to National Council 2014 with the necessary Motions and /or Proposals for consideration to formally cover the patronage of our Association in the Constitution and/or Rules of Scouting Ireland</p> <p><b>North Cork Scout County</b></p>	<b>CARRIED</b>
<b>GP 3</b>		<p>That this National Council decides to amend the standing orders of National Council to instruct the National Management Committee to publish full numerical results of all elections at National Council, no later, than 30 days after the National Council.</p> <p><b>North Cork Scout County</b></p>	<b>WITHDRAWN IN FAVOUR OF GP4</b>
<b>GP 4</b>		<p>That this National Council instructs the National Management Committee to publish the full numerical results of all elections at National Council, no later, than 30 days after that National Council.</p> <p><b>North Cork Scout County</b></p>	<b>CARRIED</b>
<b>GP 5</b>		<p>That this National Council requests that the National Management Committee introduces postal voting for Scouting Groups unable to attend National Council.</p> <p><b>111 Dublin (Springfield) Scout Group</b></p>	<b>FELL</b>
<b>GP 6</b>		<p>That this National Council requests that the National</p>	<b>FELL</b>

		<p>Management Committee introduces postal voting to elect National Officers and members of the National Management Committee.</p> <p><b>111 Dublin (Springfield) Scout Group</b></p>	
<b>GP 7</b>		<p>That this National Council requests that the National Management Committee attach photographs on ballot papers of members who are seeking election as National Officers or as members of the National Management Committee.</p> <p><b>111 Dublin (Springfield) Scout Group</b></p>	<b>CARRIED</b>
<b>GP 8</b>		<p>That this National Council instructs the National Management Committee of Scouting Ireland to lobby the government on the strongest possible terms to ensure that the access that is currently enjoyed by members of Scouting Ireland on Coillte owned property is maintained, by seeking as far as possible, to have the current access registered as an easement on title in favour of Scouting Ireland.</p> <p><b>Tolka Scout County</b></p>	<b>CARRIED</b>
<b>GP 9</b>		<p>That Scouting Ireland publicly acknowledges the importance of forestry access for Scouting events and actively supports the "Save Our Forests" campaign.</p> <p><b>103 Dublin Scout Group</b></p>	<b>CARRIED</b>
<b>GP 10</b>		<p>This National Council will seek to ensure that existing access to forestry areas is maintained for Scouting and recreational purposes in the event of the sale of Coillte by Government.</p> <p><b>103 Dublin Scout Group</b></p>	<b>CARRIED</b>
<b>GP 11</b>		<p>That this National Council does everything in its power to prevent the sale of state forests and/or harvesting rights to commercial entities, to ensure continued sustainable forestry practices and continues access to areas of open countryside available to all members of the general public and scouters alike.</p> <p><b>112 Dublin (Knocklyon) Scout Group</b></p>	<b>WITHDRAWN</b>

<b>GP 12</b>		<p>That this National Council extends the approval for Beaver Scouts to overnight for up to 2 nights in Ireland, to also include the UK and Isle of Man at approved Scouting sites, also that the period of time away from home for Beaver Scouts is increased to 60 hours.</p> <p><b>Cluain Toirc Scout County</b></p>	<b>CARRIED</b>
<b>GP 13</b>		<p>That this National Council requests the International Commissioner to make available an online resource detailing information on Scout campsites abroad that have been used by members of Scouting Ireland and also contact details for these groups.</p> <p><b>Cluain Toirc Scout County</b></p>	<b>CARRIED</b>
<b>GP 14</b>		<p>This National Council instructs the National Management Committee to commend and encourage the Minister for Justice in enacting legislation to force Internet Service Providers operating in Ireland to block at source all Child Abuse material on their systems and that the Association will make clear publically the will of National Council to support the campaign to remove this threat to young people.</p> <p><b>Slieve Bloom Scout County</b></p>	<b>CARRIED</b>
<b>GP 15</b>		<p>This National Council instructs the Scout shop to ensure that adequate supplies of the adventure skills badges are maintained in stock at all times in particular the badges for stages 1-4.</p> <p><b>103 Dublin Scout Group</b></p>	<b>CARRIED</b>
<b>GP 16</b>		<p>This National Council Instructs the Chief Commissioner (Youth Programme) to standardise the method used to calculate the maximum age of a youth member eligible to take part in any National Event to the age of the youth member on the following 31<sup>st</sup> August.</p> <p><b>103 Dublin Scout Group</b></p>	<b>WITHDRAWN</b>
<b>GP 17</b>		<p>This National Council instructs the Chief Commissioner (Youth Programme) to standardise the method used to calculate the qualifying age for a youth member applying for an award to be the age of</p>	<b>WITHDRAWN</b>

		the youth member on the previous 1st September.  <b>103 Dublin Scout Group</b>	
<b>GP 18</b>		That this National Council ensures the five National Scout Centres be available for use by youth members in priority to adult scouters during the peak camping season for Irish Scouts – September through October and March through June.  <b>112 Dublin (Knocklyon) Scout Group</b>	<b>FELL</b>

### CLOSING ADDRESS

In closing the meeting, Michael John Shinnick delivered a closing address. He thanked all delegates for attending the meeting and for their contributions to the Association.

The Western Province then handed over the Candle of Unity to the Southern Province who will host National Council in 2014.

The Chief Scout then wished all delegates a safe journey home and officially closed the meeting.

The meeting of the Annual National Council of Scouting Ireland was closed by Michael John Shinnick at 2.10pm on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2013.