

MINUTES OF THE FORMAL ANNUAL COURT OF THE MEMBERS OF MSSC HELD AT 9 AM ON THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2024 HELD ON MS TEAMS.

Present

Admiral Sir Philip Jones GCB DL
(President, MSSC and Chair of the Court)
Mr Jeremy Penn (MSSC Chair)

In Attendance

Mr M J Coles CBE (CEO)
MSSC Senior Management Team

31 MSSC members online

13/24 Welcome

Admiral Sir Philip Jones GCB DL, MSSC President said there would be no guest speaker at the 7 November 2024 Annual Court meeting as it would solely focus on formal business. Guest speakers and presentations were made at the meeting held at Trinity House on 9 October 2024.

The Chair said since the meeting on 9 October 2024, Martin Coles CBE, our CEO has announced that sadly he plans to step down as CEO of MSSC in late spring 2025 after 15 years in the role. The Chair expressed his thanks for all that Martin Coles CBE has achieved for the charity and wished him well in his next chapter. The Chair said Martin Coles CBE will continue as Chief Executive until late Spring 2025, pending a recruitment process for his successor which will begin shortly. Thereafter, Martin Coles CBE plans to remain an active Sea Cadets Volunteer, which he describes as the best part of his week.

The Chair concluded the welcome by explaining the voting procedures to be conducted online via the MS Teams software.

14/24 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the MSSC Annual Court held on 11 October 2023 were confirmed as accurate and to be signed by the Chair.

15/24 Report and Accounts

The MSSC Chair advised attendees that he would not be providing a commentary on the Report and Accounts since this was provided at the 9 October 2024 meeting.

Members were invited to receive the Report and Accounts, which had been approved by the MSSC Council on 9 July 2024. The Accounts had been audited by MacIntyre Hudson LLP.

The MSSC Chair expressed his thanks to:

- The Board of Trustees, the Senior Management Team and MSSC employees.
- Miss Liz Cassidy and Mr Simon Figgis who had both completed their extended terms as Trustees. The MSSC Chair expressed his thanks to them for their enormous efforts.
- Mr David Derbyshire, Mr Alan Marsh MBE FICS, Mr John May OBE DL and Mrs Miranda Nagalingam who are standing down as retiring Trustees. The MSSC Chair expressed his gratitude to Mr David Derbyshire and Mr John May OBE DL for their expertise and focus on safety and safeguarding. The MSSC Chair

acknowledge the immense contribution to fundraising by Mr Alan Marsh MBE FICS.

- Mr Stuart Curl and Mr Stephen Peck who are standing for election as MSSC Council members.
- Mr Andy Helliwell, Ms Honor Wilson-Fletcher and Ms Deana Rouse who are standing for election as Trustee Committee members.
- AC Dianne Gomes-Oldridge and LC Sharlize Munro-Labuda are standing for election as Cadet Trustee Committee members.

The MSSC Chair announced a newly co-opted safeguarding trustee, Dr Kate Richardson OBE.

No questions were raised at this point

16/24 Retirements and election of MSSC Council members

The retirement of Mr David Derbyshire, Mrs Miranda Nagalingam, Mr Alan Marsh FCIS MBE, Mr John May OBE DL, Mr Jeremy Penn and Mr Michael Schofield were noted.

The resolution is that Mr Jeremy Penn and Mr Michael Schofield who is retiring by rotation, be re-elected as Members of Council. Mr Jeremy Penn was passed for election with a vote of 48 for 0 against and 1 abstention. Mr Michael Schofield was passed for election with a vote of 49 for 0 against and 1 abstention.

The resolution is that Mr Stuart Curl, a co-opted committee member, is elected as a Member of Council. Mr Stuart Curl was passed for election with a vote of 48 for 1 against and 1 abstention.

The resolution is that Mr Steve Peck, a committee member, is elected as a Member of Council. Mr Steve Peck was passed for election with a vote of 50 for 0 against and 1 abstention.

To note MSSC Council has elected Dr Kate Richardson OBE as a co-opted Safeguarding Specialist Trustee.

17/24 Retirement and Elections of MSSC Trustee Committee Members

To note there are no retirements.

To note that Mr Andy Helliwell, Ms Deana Rouse MBE and Ms Honor Wilson-Fletcher MBE are elected by the MSSC Council as Trustee Committee Members.

To note that Able Cadet Dianne Gomes-Oldridge and Leading Cadet Sharlize Munro-Labuda are elected by the MSSC Council as Cadet Trustee Committee Members.

18/24 Retirement and Elections of Vice Presidents

The retirements of Commodore Ian Gibb MBE, Mr Christopher Thornton, Rear Admiral John Borley and Mr Mike Cornish were noted.

The resolution is that Mr David Derbyshire on retirement is elected as MSSC Vice President. Mr David Derbyshire was passed for election with a vote of 49 for 1 against and 1 abstention.

The resolution is that Mr Alan Marsh FCIS MBE on retirement is elected as MSSC Vice President. Mr Alan Marsh FCIS MBE was passed for election with a vote of 49 for 0 against and 1 abstention.

The resolution is that Mr John May OBE DL on retirement is elected as MSSC Vice President. Mr John May OBE DL was passed for election with a vote of 50 for 0 against and 1 abstention.

19/24 Appointment of Auditors

The resolution is that McIntyre Hudson LLP be re-appointed as MSSC's Auditors for a further year. McIntyre Hudson LLP was passed for re-appointment with a vote of 51 for 0 against and 1 abstention.

20/24 Questions and Conclusion

The Chair opened the floor to questions.

A question was proposed by a member that the Sea Cadets Corps join the MSSC CAC newsletter and for improvements in the level of "poor" communications. The CEO said that the MSSC is keen to connect with more people. CEO said MSSC is to launch the 'friends of' scheme soon to engage with alumni. There is a data cleansing exercise being undertaken at present with membership records. CEO expressed that he was sorry the member felt that communications were poor. CEO said that communications are sent out fortnightly to volunteers, parents/carers and cadets. CEO said that MSSC will be reviewing what further communications can be sent to members outside of the magazine and Annual Review. Tim Allen added that there are currently 5 branches across the charity. The branches work closely with Area Officers. Tim Allen said membership communication is key and that continued work with the National Support Centre will support better delivery.

Closing Remarks

21/24

The President closed the meeting at approximately 9.35 am by thanking Trinity House, the Members present for attending both meetings, Daniel McAllister, the Communication team and Tricia Smith for their logistical support and organisation of the Annual Court.

The President thanked the MSSC Chair and CEO.

The President expressed his thanks to all those standing down as Vice Presidents, as members of the Council and Committee, and to welcome and thank those standing up for election in all the roles.

The next Annual Court is scheduled for Wednesday 8 October 2025 at Trinity House (TBC).

Signed:
Chairperson

Date: