

BLACKDOWN DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

Minutes of the meeting held at Tangier on Tuesday 12th September at 7.30pm

Present John Lewis (Chairman), David Johnson (Treasurer), Pam Gaines (DC), Shaun Dale, Marian Scott, Peter Venn

- 1 **Welcome** – John welcomed all to the meeting **ACTION**
- 2 **Apologies** - Adrian Ashford, Will Bugden, Jo David, Lauren David, James Lowe, Tricia Sedgbeer
- 3 **Minutes** – The minutes of the meeting held on 25th July were agreed as a true record.
- 4 **Matters arising not on the Agenda** - None
- 5 **Finance**
From previous meetings
 1. David will include in the Annual report a separate statement highlighting the Exec's policy on Investments (as outlined in 2016 Report) and that no individual bank deposit will exceed the maximum figure for the FSC bank compensation scheme. *Treasurer to action in 2017 Report*
 2. David is waiting to hear from Lloyds about electronic banking. *Treasurer to pursue*
 3. Shaun is still investigating the BT contract for Tangier *Shaun to pursue*
 4. David is looking at potential savings from Utility Company contracts *Treasurer to pursue*
 5. HW income appeared down. Discussed various reasons why Out of District bookings might be down. John to discuss further with Steve Mitchell. *Chairman to pursue*
New items
 6. 2018 Membership Fees – HQ had announced their element at £27 and County was expected to increase by £1.50 (to include all OSM costs). After a wide-ranging discussion around financial priorities and where money was most needed Peter proposed reducing the District Membership fee by 50p to £12 and increasing the Huish Woods element by £1.50 to £6.50. Seconded by John and AGREED by all. *Marian to include in October Newsletter*
 7. David had been investigating a card payment facility for the Tangier Shop. Shaun said the Guides were also looking at this for the Guide Shop. AGREED it would be sensible to have the same procedures, via internet, and equipment for both. *Treasurer to pursue with Shirley Hooper*
 8. David had met Tesco's Community Champion, Debbie Bentley at a recent function. Tesco were looking to give practical help (time and resources) to community organisations. AGREED this would be useful at Huish Woods. *Treasurer to pursue with Tesco, liaising with Steve Mitchell*

9. David had started looking at budgets for 2018. AGREED DC would write to all budget holders seeking their proposals for 2018 in time for the next Exec meeting (7 November). These can then be discussed and David will be able to prepare an overall budget for approval at the December meeting. *DC to contact budget holders*

6 **Huish Woods**

(a) Sub-Committee report

1. Sub-Committee had decided (i) to obtain new quotes for the Traversing Wall project and (ii) not to proceed with the Shooting Range project at this point due to costs. *S/C to pursue*
2. After a long discussion the Sub-Committee agreed their aim should be to help the site get ready for the future with short, medium and long term goals. Over the next few months they propose to come to the Exec with a form of business plan for the site, with ideas and projects they feel will improve the site and bring in into this decade. Exec AGREED this approach fitted well with the original parameters given to the Sub-Committee. *S/C to pursue*

(b) Proposed A358 Improvements

John reported Highways England had accepted criticism over consulting on only one route and would be holding further consultation rounds on four alternatives for the section from J25 to West Hatch junction. A meeting between HE, SCC and TDBC had been scheduled for today.

7 **Online Scout Manager (OSM)**

Pam reported all three Districts had agreed the Countywide proposal and funding. County will make all arrangements and manage the project.

8 **Appointments Advisory Committee**

1. Five meetings held during August to ensure new Leaders were in place for start of term.
2. AGREED it would be beneficial to hold an AAC 'gathering'.

Chairman to pursue

9 **Youth Commissioner Report – No report**

10 **DESC Report**

1. A new transition has been reached for the two Dragon Explorer Units. Both have new Leaders and back up from good assistants and Helpers. Many thanks for the continued support from Steve Sampson and the Phoenix Unit for helping support the Thursday Dragons through this transitional stage.
2. The new Explorer camp site at Huish Woods has had a massive transformation thanks to the Leaders from Phoenix and help from other Leaders from across the District. Special thanks goes to Adrian Betteridge for his extra efforts to generally clear the site, plant trees.
3. Young People are being encouraged to apply for both

WSJ and Roverway. This has been through direct messaging from Unit Leaders, via Facebook and the District website.

4. It is likely that Blackdown will take the lead across County for Ten Tors 2018

11 **District Network Commissioner Report**

Meetings are planned for the three Districts to work together on a plan to move Network forward. Jo will be attending YL training and Moot to promote Network. *Jo to pursue*

12 **ADC Activities Report** – No report

DC reported the Water Activities Day scheduled for 3 September was cancelled through low take up.

13 **District Commissioner Report**

1. The Media Manager has been working with the District website - pending a couple more trials, the online NAN form (Nights Away Notification) will be launched.
2. The County's Big Camp for 2018, following a name and theme consultation has been launched. Named Big Camp 2018 the theme will be mythical animals. Big Camp will share the site with a Sunday Market. Fencing will be provided to segregate the two events. Unfortunately the pond lies on the Market side of the fence so there will be no water activities.
3. HQ has introduced a new training scheme for Managers and Supporters (M&S), those M&S who had not completed their Wood Badge by 30th June will be on the new scheme plus anyone entering new. County have appointed TAs to support these learners. All M&S learners have to have new role descriptions as the training is more directed to what the actual role is, rather than a general scheme.
4. HQ have asked Districts to provide opportunities for people to take part in the consultations for the future planning for 2018-2023. District will be running hour long sessions before the 3 Section Leaders' Council meetings and the GSL/Chair meeting.

DC presenting

14 **Tangier Management Committee**

1. TMC had not met since the last Executive but the renewal of Buildings and contents Insurance required discussion. The current policy did not appear to cover Shop Stock, Gang Show equipment or the Archives. AGREED these were items more properly covered by District as additions to the Huish Woods policy (Shop Stock had been previously covered under this) within a total figure of £10k. The TMC policy did not cover Flood Risk and it was agreed that given the location of the building obtaining this would be prohibitively expensive. AGREED to accept the risk and look at physical methods to reduce the potential impact.
2. Pam raised concerns there was no formal way of

*Treasurer to pursue.
Chairman to obtain more detail re Gang Show equipment.*

Shaun to raise at

recording faults or points of action so that the /Caretaker could follow them up. AGREED TMC should make provision for a written record. TMC

15 **Safety** – Nothing raised

16 **Any Other Business**

1. The selection process for 27 Somerset participants in WSJ 2019 will start soon. Pam raised the issue of potential financial support for any Blackdown YP selected. After discussion it was AGREED to include an item in the 2018 budget to cover potential support for all International events, not just WSJ. *Treasurer to include in budget*
2. St Georges Day Parades will be held on 22 April. Taunton Guides had agreed to organise the event in Taunton as this year. Discussions were ongoing as to where in the southern part the second event would take place.
3. Peter reported James Nelson had taken up his duties as District Media Manager and was looking after the District Website. The Huish Woods website continued to provide challenges and Peter was in contact with James Lowe who had agreed to provide the content matter required. *James Lowe to provide HW website content*

17 **Date of next meetings**

Tuesday 7th November 7.30 at Tangier

Tuesday 12th December (to approve budgets)

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed as a true record

Date

Chairman