

## BLACKDOWN DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

Minutes of the meeting held at Tangier on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm

Present John Lewis (Chairman), David Johnson (Treasurer), Pam Gaines (DC), Tricia Sedgbeer, Marian Scott

- 1 **Welcome** – John welcomed all to the meeting **ACTION**
- 2 **Apologies** - Adrian Ashford, Will Bugden, Shaun Dale, Jo David, James Lowe, Peter Venn
- 3 **Minutes** – The minutes of the meeting held on 19 June were agreed as a true record.
- 4 **Matters arising not on the Agenda** - None
- 5 **Finance**
  1. Shaun had provided guidance notes relating to Trustee Act requirements for annual reporting. David was studying these but still felt our current wording met the letter of the law. David confirmed no individual bank deposit exceeded £85k (the maximum figure for the bank compensation scheme) *Treasurer to pursue*
  2. David is still investigating the Lloyds Treasurer's a/c with a view to setting up electronic banking. *Treasurer to pursue*
  3. Groups had been reminded via the July Newsletter that personal bank account cheques must not be used for Scouting purposes.
  4. Shaun is still investigating the BT contract for Tangier *Shaun to pursue*
  5. David is looking at potential savings from Utility Company contracts *Treasurer to pursue*
  6. The end of June figures indicated on budget to break even.
  7. Looking forward Huish Woods booking figures gave cause for concern. Discussed various reasons why Out of District bookings might be down. John to discuss further with Steve Mitchell. *Chairman to pursue*
  8. 2018 District Membership Fees to be discussed at next meeting. *Treasurer to produce options*
- 6 **Huish Woods**
  - (a)**Sub-Committee report**
    1. Sub-Committee had not met since the last Executive. Further discussion ensued about fencing the proposed Traversing Wall area. Steve Mitchell had suggested rather than fencing around the immediate area of the Wall a fence be erected across the bottom third of the Play Area to provide a secure area for both the Traversing Wall and the Climbing Wall. Agreed this needed to be chainlink type approx 6ft high to provide *Chairman to advise James Lowe*

- good vision and deter climbing over.
- 2. Tricia reported the bunk beds, mattresses and bedding had all been purchased for just under £3k.
- 3. Kitchen equipment needs replacing and this would be sourced very soon.

*Tricia to pursue*

#### **(b) Proposed A358 Improvements**

John had submitted the formal response to the Highways England (HE) consultation exercise (see attached). Earlier today John, Steve Mitchell and Adrian Ashford had given an HE design team a comprehensive tour of the Campsite. The team had left with a far better understanding of extent of the operation, size of site and potential difficulties in relation to noise, pollution and access. There is unlikely to be any further action until late in the year. HE will be considering all consultation responses before proposing an actual line for the new road.

### **7 Online Scout Manager (OSM)**

1. Pam reported County, following feedback from the Inspire Somerset event in March, were proposing to make OSM Gold level available to every Section in the County. The District would have dashboards which would provide an overview of what was happening in the District, eg waiting lists and the ability to extract Census figures. County have negotiated a deal with OSM for the whole County of £4500 which is approx £1 a Young Person. As a large number of groups already use OSM, costs for those would only come in on renewal. County are asking for District to take on half the cost initially. On approval from the Districts the aim is to launch this in September.
2. Around half the Groups in Blackdown already used OSM very successfully so if the proposal was agreed Leaders from these might be needed to help others set up their OSM records, together with ongoing support and monitoring for the whole District. There were some concerns around recording of Explorers and YLs at District level, although all Explorer Units bar one were using it.
3. The maximum financial impact this year on Blackdown would be £750 if we were required to finance every Young Person. David confirmed he was happy we could do this.
4. John raised the issue of equity between Groups that had funded their own OSM presence and those whom District would finance. The principle of treating all Groups equitably had been agreed on other matters and this was no different.
5. AGREED to support the County proposal, fund the 50p per YP and refund that amount to any Group currently using OSM who submitted a request.

*DC to report to County*

### **8 Appointments Advisory Committee**

1. Graham Hodge has stepped down as Chairman. Sarah

*Chairman/DC to*

Batstone has resigned from AAC.

2. Some M1 and M37 training and validation still to be completed

*discuss.  
Marian to pursue*

9 **Youth Commissioner Report** – No report

10 **DESC Report**

“Last week saw nearly 80 Explorers on the beach at Lyme Regis for some beach games and a BBQ. 3 Duke of Edinburgh certificates were handed out and Anwar invested as the ESL for Thursday Dragon Explorer unit. It was nice to get all the unit leaders together for a more social event.

The situation is settling more with the Thursday Dragons with the appointment of Anwar. The young people from Thursday Dragons have enjoyed the temporary joining with Phoenix explorers and for the time being this arrangement will continue until Anwar feels competent at taking full control.

There are plans in the pipeline for a 3 peaks challenge event with some of the older Explorers and some Network members.

This event is currently waiting for us to gather enough adult help as we will need 2 mini bus drivers, a cook, a permitted hill walking adult and a spare adult. This is a tough challenge for both the young people and adults involved.

Over the weekend there has been a practice D of E bronze walk with Phoenix explorers and a silver D of E expedition on cycles from Dragon Explorers.”

11 **District Network Commissioner Report**

A small group of Network members would like to attend the Intense event in September. The previous camp members were intending to organise fell through due to key Members not being able to attend. Jo will pursue this on return from camping with her own Group.

*Jo to pursue*

12 **ADC Activities Report** – No report

DC reported a Water Activities Day was scheduled for 3 September to include rafting and paddling

*Lauren to promote*

13 **District Commissioner Report**

All Group AGMS, bar one, had taken place.

14 **Tangier Management Committee**

John reported

1. discussions ongoing with TDBC regarding lease renewal
2. action was in hand to secure the ‘white door’
3. invoices were being sent to Partners for the current year’s rent (at the initial 80% figure)
4. The longer term Disability Action Plan would include mechanical access to the first floor

- 15 **Safety** – Pam has asked HQ for the reported accidents for County & District to keep track of what type of accident they were and whether any actions need to be taken. These have yet to arrive.

*DC to consider  
policy requirements*

16 **Any Other Business**

1. **Executive Member Training.** Marian reminded Members Module 1e needed to be completed by all Members, including those holding Leader appointments.
2. An **August Newsletter** to be produced. DC requested that Best Turned out Group results for St George's Parade be included

*All*

*Marian*

17 **Date of next meetings**

Tuesday 12th September (change from previous proposed date) and Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 7.30 at Tangier

**Meeting closed at 9.00pm**

**Signed as a true record**

Date

**Chairman**