

BLACKDOWN DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

Minutes of the meeting held at Tangier on Tuesday 10th April 2018 at 7.30pm

Present John Lewis (Chairman), David Johnson (Treasurer), Pam Gaines (DC), Shaun Dale, Jo David, Lauren David, James Lowe, Marian Scott, Tricia Sedgbeer, Peter Venn,

- 1 **Welcome** – John welcomed all to the meeting **ACTION**
- 2 **Apologies** – Adrian Ashford
- 3 **Minutes** – The minutes of the meeting held on 6th February were agreed as a true record.
- 4 **Matters arising - None**
- 5 **Finance**
 1. David tabled the budget v actual statement for the end of February. At this early stage in the year it is as expected with little business having been transacted.
 2. Subs from Ilton and Chard Groups were still outstanding. DC is chasing Ilton and payment is expected from Chard very shortly. *DC
Treasurer*
 3. Subscriptions have been sent across to County and the OSM fee paid.
 4. NI rates had increased on 1st April from 1% to 2% for employers and from 1% to 3% for employees. AGREED to fund the additional 2% for employees for this year only. Hence contributions will be 2% employee and 3% employer. *Treasurer to
write to
employees*
- 6 **Huish Woods**

(a) Sub-Committee report

The traversing wall has been installed at the Woods and greeted enthusiastically by the YP who have had the opportunity to use it. Grants are being sought to 'pay' for the % asked for by the District Exec before the sub committee can move onto the next project. £1500 has been promised from County towards this. Hopefully a s/c meeting can be arranged shortly that all involved parties can be part of.

(b) Tractor

Shaun reported that following the breakdown last year Alistair Bacon had made a temporary repair but this too had failed. The issue is too much play in the gearbox and rear drive shaft. Replacement parts had been costed at £2k. A second opinion from Agrepair had confirmed the view the tractor is basically old and worn out. The Topper used for grass cutting is too big for the size of the tractor. AGREED (i) a budget of £5k for a replacement tractor 45-50bhp (ii) a local contractor from West Hatch should be employed to cut the grass in preference to Deane DLO pending acquisition of a new vehicle *(i) Peter Venn
to pursue
(ii) Chairman to
advise HW
Manager*

(c) Proposed A358 Improvements

John reported he had submitted a response by the due date. He had also been contacted by Mike Farrell of Ruishton Parish Council who believed the lines of the orange and blue options had been moved 50-100m closer to the Campsite and would have a much more serious impact than previously thought. John had included reference to this in his response. Highways England had subsequently replied that Mr Farrell was mistaken. The two lines passed the Campsite at the position shown during the site visit last year.

7 Appointments Advisory Committee

Marian reported ongoing regular meetings both at Tangier and other locations. AGREED to appoint Diane Harding to the Committee

8 Youth Commissioner Report – No report submitted

9 DESC Report

Ten Tors training continues to gain pace as we approach the actual event. All teams are out on north Dartmoor this coming weekend. After this weekend we only have 1 more training weekend before that actual event. Team names will be submitted to the Army in the next 12 days for three 35 mile teams and two 55 mile teams. We have had to drop the 45 team as we could not get enough trained young people due to the proximity of GCSE exams after the event. In dropping this 45 team we have changed it to a 35 mile distance which we have already filled with appropriately trained Young People.

The Monopoly Run took part last weekend in London. Phoenix Explorers filled two mini buses with Young People from their own Unit but also YP from across the District. The YP stayed in London and on the Sunday managed to visit a few tourist attractions and managed to invest 4 new Explorers into the Unit.

Project Kenya 2019 bookings have now closed. There are 26 YP and 7 adults taking part in the amazing opportunity to volunteer in 2 orphanage schools for 10 days near Lake Nakuru, Kenya. Of this number 16 YP and 3 adults are from Blackdown District. We also now have provisional dates of 4th to 14th August 2019. These of course will be subject to appropriate flights being booked by Younique travel adventures, the travel company we are using for the whole of this trip. Fundraising has already started on an individual and group basis. Each place has a £1950 price tag per person. £1750 is payable to Younique and the remainder is for visa costs, medication and insurance costs. ACCI have been informed of the trip and will be updated as needed.

10 District Network Commissioner Report – No report

11 ADC Activities Report

Lauren reported

1. Richard Eastman was carrying out Canoeing Training on 14

April

2. Climbing Wall Training would now be carried out at butchers Coppice as this was a cheaper option than doing it at Huish Woods
3. David Froud was looking to carry out a Shooting assessment at Wilton

12 District Commissioner's Report

1. After an interesting time collecting the information. the 2018 Census shows growth within the District. YP grew from 1468 to 1524. Adults grew from 530 to 620 showing a 23% growth. As many of the Groups are now full the only way the District is going to have continued growth is by increasing the provision across large areas of the District.
2. The St George awards are currently being presented - the District has 6 recipients receiving the Award of Merit and 13 recipients receiving the Chief Scout's Commendation. Congratulations to them all.
3. Due to the snowy weather the World Scout Jamboree selection weekend was restricted to a day. There were 56 YP trying to obtain one of the 27 places - there are 7 Blackdown YP as part of the contingent. We will not know until later this month if a District Leader will be joining the IST for the event in America.
4. The trip to Kenya in 2019 has now passed the closing date - DESC has the details of those booked to go. AGREED, after considerable debate, to utilise both the 2018 and 2109 International Event budgets to support both WSJ and Kenya participants - £230 each for WSJ and £115 each for Kenya.
5. The recent Role advertisements had produced some responses for YLs/Explorers and an Explorer Treasurer. County were arranging an AAC to interview for the DDC position.

DC/DESC to advise participants accordingly

13 Tangier Management Committee

Shaun reported a new solar-powered bell had been provided for the front door, hopefully resolving access issues. He requested that Executive confirm at its next meeting the representatives on TMC for the coming year. TMC AGM is on 21 May.

14 Safety

Pam reported HQ have provided some details on accidents reported. Shaun expressed concerns that accidents were not always reported from location up through the chain.

15 St Georges Day

Pam reported the event in Ilminster would be done under a rolling road block with the service held at the Minster. She had sought SAS support in Canon Street Car Park and post-event at Tangier. She would attend the Ilminster event with the (hopefully) newly appointed DDC taking the salute in Taunton. Further details of the arrangements in Taunton would be circulated to Groups shortly.

DC/Marian to pursue

16 Any Other Business

1. District Mileage Rate – AGREED to raise this from 30p to 35p in line with County
2. Pam reported the Gang Show had gone off successfully again, providing really good entertainment.
3. John reported Staplegrove, West Monkton, Trull and Wilton Groups had crewed drinking/sponging stations at the Marathon. There had been very positive feedback from runners for the support around the route.

17 Date of next meetings

Tuesday 15th May 2018 7.30pm at Tangier

Annual Scout Council Wednesday 6th June 7.45pm at Tangier

Meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed as a true record

Date

Chairman