



MEETING MINUTES – GROUP EXECUTIVE MEETING

MEETING INFORMATION

Objective: *Review group matters since the last executive meeting*

Date: 19/05/2017

Location: Three Hammers, Chiswell Green

Time: 19:00 PM Start

Meeting Type: Summer Term 2017

Called By: Christopher Holliss - GSL

Note Taker: Tania Martin

Attendees: *Christopher Holliss – GSL, Steve Threader – Treasurer, Tania Martin - Executive member, David Kelly – Quarter Master, John Occleshaw – Executive member*

Apologies:

1. Welcome, Apologies & Introductions

Chris welcomes and thanks those in attendance.

2. Executive & Leader – Arrivals & Departures

Arrivals: None

Transfer: *Davryn Fagan – Beavers to Cubs as Akela (Tuesday)*

Departures: Adam Chambers – Chairperson (Due to work), Yasmin McLaggan – Group Secretary /Waiting List Coordinator (Due to illness), Ben McLeod – Fundraiser (Dismissed) Rakesh Odedra (Due to work) , Graham Brown (Relocation) Cub Leaders (Tuesday), Ruth Hayes (Due to work) Cub Leader (Monday) John & Karen Drake (Relocation) Scout Leaders (Friday)

3. AGM or EGM

The group has now come to its financial end and so an AGM should be held within the next 6 months and so all respective people shall be required to do their yearly group reports.

Chris explains that since Adam Chambers and Yasmin McLaggan left the group in February 2017, leaving their roles as Chairman and Group/Waiting List Coordinator respectively, he has had to take on their role temporarily until replacements can be found. He then states that it has been pointed out by the DC that he is doing too many roles and that I should not be doing these. Chris states that he has asked “Victoria Sweeney” one of the group’s existing leaders within Thumpers who has recently stated that she will be having to stop her leadership role due to pregnancy if she would consider taking on the role of Group Secretary /Waiting List Coordinator to which she has agreed. Chris also states that after sending the scout association’s role description for the post of Group Chairman that John Occleshaw has now agreed to be the group’s next Chairman effective immediately.

These roles must be officially elected and should either be done at the next AGM or if this is not possible due to the length of time until the AGM an EGM must take place.

Action required: Chris to inform the DC of the new appointments. AGM to be held in September 2017. An EGM will take place at the scout hut on Thursday 8th June 2017.

4. Executive online training

Chris explains that the district team are looking very carefully at all the running aspects of the group and that training for both uniform leaders and executive members is one of their key topics. He again asks for those that who have not yet done the online e-learning Module 1 that they must do this soon.

Action required: Chris to resend his email with the e-learning link to Steve.



5. Review of Autumn Executive meeting minutes

To save time Chris quickly reviewed the minutes from the autumn term and only approached items that had required action by the executive with any outcomes that is not within this meeting's agenda. Chris will resend a PDF copy of this document along with these minutes.

6. Review of Summer Group leaders meeting minutes

To save time Chris quickly reviewed the minutes and only approached items that required action by the executive that is not within this meeting's agenda. Chris will resend a PDF copy of this document along with these minutes.

7. Progress report of the possible refurbishment

The plans and elevations had been sent to the manager of the playgroup who did come back with some questions to which have been answered fully. The playgroup have stated that they will discuss our refurbishment plans with their executive and get back to the group.

Due to other factors that will be discussed in another item Chris has not been able to spend the required time needed to put such a large project together. Following numerous requests to the group's parents for volunteers who work within the required building trades, he states that only one parent "Plummer" has offered his services. As such the group would therefore have to hire respective trade's men to carry out all the works, therefore bring up any cost that the group was hoping to pay for the refurbishment. Due to the short period of time between now and what would have to be the start of the project (end of July start of August) the executive feel that the project cannot go ahead. Chris has already been in touch with the charity stating the problems and asked that if the group does postpone the project until maybe next year if their partners would mind waiting to which they have confirmed that they still wish to help.

Action required: The executive are to look into finding the various trades that are required for the project between now and hopeful April 2018. The executive to look into more funding for the project.

8. Fundraising, Gift Aid and group finances

Chris informed those present that Ben McLeod – Fundraiser was dismissed from this post in February.

This was following a vote of no confidence by the other executive members in his ability to raise funds for the group as his track record over the past 3 years had been very poor and no monies that the group had raised was from his own actions.

He mentioned the two main fundraising that the group has taken part in the past few years "St Albans half marathon and the St Albans firework display and that he had the details of the marathon and has only just been given the contact for the firework display off John Drake after many attempts.

It was pointed out that this should be for an executive to deal with instead of the GSL and so put it to those present who would take on the role of being the group's point of contact. John volunteered.

John announced that following the information Chris has sent and what he had collated last year for Gift, that he had been able to place this year's Gift Aid request at the start of April to which the group has been able to claim £2600.

Steve congratulated John on collecting gift aid and then spoke about the group finances giving a quick rundown of the two group accounts. He stated that the group's insurance was up for renewal soon and that as the group's financial year had come to an end that he would need to start doing the accounts for the AGM.

Action required: Chris to inform the half marathon organisers of John's contact details and to send all the contact details his has for both the half marathon and fireworks display. John to get in contact with both sets of organisers. Steve to start the end of year accounts to present to the AGM and send off.



9. Playgroup issues & contact

The group is finding that the playgroup is continuing to dump broken play equipment and rubbish around the back of the hut. The gate between their area and the rear of the building is regularly blocked which is stopping a fire escape route. Playgroup rubbish is being dumped on top of recycling boxes, with general waste also being stored within the waste cupboard in the car park. The playgroups had stated to Adam last year that they were to have a clear out of their storage cupboard, so giving clear access to the electric meter and distribution boards. This has not happened and there is still no clear access to these which we believe breaks fire regulations and is stopping the planned new electrical meter by the supplier arranged by Steve.

Action required: Chris to send John the contact name and details of the manager of the playgroup. John to make contact with the playgroup, speaking to them about the group's issues.

10. Ver's closure and its ramifications

Chris announced that a lot of unpleasantness has been directed toward himself leading up and following the closure of the group's Ver scout troop in March. This unpleasantness has impacted his daughter "Ellie" and his partner "Julie" making him question if he wishes to be part of the group or the scout movement if this is allowed to go on unchecked.

This unpleasantness has been carried out by disgruntled parents of the Ver troop "Mr & Mrs Knight & Mrs Rowland" / unknown other, the outgoing scout leaders "John and Karen Drake", ex beaver leader "Andrew Smart" also a parent of Ver, Annette Payne DC and members of the district team such as Anne Barns.

Chris has spoken to key leaders within the group who he uses for guidance in many group matters to get a rounded view on things who after hearing and seeing the evidence gave their advice which in part was to speak of this matter at the latest group leaders meeting. A full account of what had happen along with the document evidence was given at the leaders meeting to which he also offered to step down as GSL if the leaders felt that he was doing poorly or that another wished to take on the role that the others would prefer.

It was the decision of all the leaders present at the meeting that the group should place a formal complaint to the County Commissioner "Liz Walker" against Annette Payne DC and the district team for the none support of the group and its leader over recent years and the clear poor treatment of GSL.

He goes on to explain that hard copies of email documents were accidental left behind by "Andy Petch" following a meeting requested by Chris, to which a formal complaint by Mrs Kirsten Knight was within along with the DC's views and admission of her collection of evidence and her wish for he's removal from the position of GSL.

He mentions that within Mrs Knight's complaint there are many fabrications one being that she was forced to leave by Chris. Chris requests verification from Steve that she had resigned as a leader in February 2016 as she did not wish to do any scout based training. Steve confirms this as this is what Kirsten had said to his wife at the time.

Chris states that there has been no wrong doing of any kind by himself, the leadership or executives and everything that has been said by him can be proven as he has kept all email correspondences since becoming GSL in January 2016.

The executive stated that they cannot understand the actions carried out by these people and what they hoped to achieve. It was clearly upsetting for all and the executive agreed with the group's leadership that a formal complaint to the County Commissioner is the best course of action.

Action required: Chris to place a complaint on behalf of the group both leadership and executive as well as personally.



11. Any other business

Tania Martin (1yr off)

Chris brought it to the executive's attention that Tania will be taking a year out from her executive role. This is due to her and her family taking a year out and traveling around the world.

The other member thanked her for what she had done, wishing them well and looked forward to seeing her upon there safe return.

13. Set date for next Executive meeting

T.B.C. (September / October 2017)