

## North London District Executive Meeting Minutes

2 November 2015

Held at Scout Park

Present at the meeting: Brian Hosier (chair), John Cronin (DC), Chris Thorpe, John Walker and Martin Linsey

1. The meeting began with a few moments for personal reflection
2. Apologies: Sally Symons, Wendy Rudge, Aileen Barry, Dennis Rowen, Tracey Smith, Joan Feakes, Jack Timbrell, David Bowman(DESC) and Marlon Marton-Bell. It was acknowledged that the high number of apologies was in part due to the change of date and exceptional. The meeting was declared quorate so continued.
3. Minutes of the last meeting on 22 July 2015 were approved and signed by the chair
4. Matters Arising from minutes of the last meeting:
  - a. Bye Laws – not urgent so carried forward
  - b. Tax issues – information still coming in and the issues will be reviewed with the final accounts.
  - c. Title Deeds – no progress with Gilwell
  - d. Appointment of Treasurer – no progress yet any suggestions to Brian or John
  - e. Accounts for CCI – these have been filed with the Charity Commission
  - f. Insurance of KX ESU equipment – still outstanding but not a major risk
  - g. Administrator – Alison Ryan has been appointed starting today.
  - h. The legacy of £5k has been received but not included in the accounts to September as it was banked after date
  - i. Furnishing the flats at Holloway Road – Aileen was happy with the proposals and the furniture has been delivered and the flat for investment is ready to let.
  - j. Sheridan Hall – the advisory group recommend the redevelopment be delayed at least a year and this was agreed.
  - k. Holloway Road – opening fixed for 15 January 2016
5. Reports from sub-committees
  - a. Finance: Papers showing finances and notes had been circulated before the meeting
    - i. Management accounts for the quarter to 30 September 2015: These were reviewed indicating a deficit in the period of £1,748.
    - ii. The accounts did now include the Explorer Units and between them they produced a deficit in the period of £3,936 so without them there is a surplus.

- iii. The deficit on the Explorer Units is on a cash basis so does not take account of balances brought forward or money still to be collected for events. It was recognised that more work was needed to establish that events were self balancing or any deficit was acceptable.
  - iv. A legacy of £5k was received in the period but not cleared the bank until after so is not included.
  - v. Two small investments had been redeemed in the period and one is included as a donation and the other is banked after date.
  - vi. It has been discovered that some income was included in the accounts to 31 July for use of Scout Park but after that date. That has been adjusted and similar income at 30 September carried forward. The comparisons have not yet been amended.
  - vii. Expenditure includes a £1,000 deposit for District Camp 2017 which should be carried forward.
  - viii. After date furniture has been acquired for the flats and soon payments will be needed for furniture in the Centre.
  - ix. The Overage money should be received by end of November and expected to be over £700k.
  - x. The pantomime finances are not included and Martin will arrange for a copy of the last accounts to be sent to Brian.
  - xi. Overall no major problems. Agreed we need to decide how much liquid funds we need to retain and the balance can be invested probably in the COIF Ethical Fund.
- b. Property:
- i. Scout Park: Following the recommendation to defer major rebuilding of the Sheridan Hall it was decided to put in a new kitchen, repair the floor and redecorate. Most of the cost was in new kitchen fittings which will be used in the new building. An emergency arose with water leaking from the roof of the main building and repairs are in progress and expected to be completed tomorrow. We are likely to need a new roof in 4-5 years time. Bookings for 2016 are at a high level already. There are  $\frac{3}{4}$  groups helping with crew duties now. The Monday Club is reducing in numbers.
  - ii. Holloway Road: The date for handover of the main building is now likely to be the end of November but no surprise if it goes up to the date of Christmas holidays. There should be no risk it will not be ready for 15 January. Furniture is ready to be delivered as soon as we have access. This will be new and what is in store will come to Scout Park. Discussions are still needed to finalise the Community Access Plan.
  - iii. Rammey Island: Martin L has not had an opportunity to meet again with Mark and there are some rumours the Water Authority want to take back the site. This will be resisted as we see it as an extension of Scout Park to offer water activities.

- iv. District Stores in **Canonbury**: has a wasp nest; and a possible leak reported. The furniture stored will be moved to Scout Park and then these problems can be looked into.
  - c. Appointments: The committees for the north and south of the district have met and the minutes of the meetings dated 30/9 & 22/10 (North) 24/9 and 21/10 (South) circulated prior to the executive meeting were noted.
- 6. Explorer/ Network Report: given by John C.
  - a. David Bowman has accepted the role of DESC and as such becomes a member of this committee but was unable to attend tonight due to short notice.
  - b. Marlon Marton-Bell has resigned from this committee due to his leadership of two Explorer Units and oversight of Network (note after the meeting Andrew Illman also resigned from this committee and as ESL of KX Unit so that he has more time to complete his studies).
  - c. Still looking for a Network Commissioner
- 7. SAS Report: it was reported that the SAS had had a successful afternoon tea at a hotel in Hertford on 6/10.
- 8. District Commissioner Report: John C reported that Alison Ryan had been appointed District Administrator for 16 hours pw starting today. She will give general administration support to the Team including Leader Training, Newsletter, Website, appointments and mailings.
 

During the appointment process it became obvious we also needed an administration assistant specifically to deal with Scout Park, and perhaps Holloway Road, external users etc. A proposal will be brought to the next Executive that we allow a further 16 hours pw for this post.

There is to be a current census and GSLs will be asked to give best estimates. On Line Scout Manager has proved very useful to monitor progress of youth members and suggested this continues. Finance Committee to review the costings and funding but likely to be funded by the District as support for groups.

There is likely to be a new Beaver colony at 228 but the one at 8 MH has closed. The 221<sup>st</sup> have a potential accommodation problem as other users of the church have been given notice to vacate.

It is hoped a new Explorer Unit will open in Islington next year perhaps based at the Holloway Road site.

Enquiries have been made from an Eritrean Youth Group also to use Holloway Road.

We have lost two members of the District Team Mark Lovell and Kate Davis as they have accepted County Appointments. We also need to appoint a Youth Commissioner who will be an ex officio member of the Executive and the Team. A possible candidate has been identified.
- 9. Chairpersons Report:
  - All dealt with above
- 10. Dates for future meetings:

- a. Next meeting Wednesday 3 February 2016 venue to be decided when use of Holloway Road known.
- b. The dates of meeting following this to be decided at the next meeting. It was thought Wednesdays are the best night and the 27/4 20/7 and 9/11 should be reserved
- c. We need to allocate a date for a District AGM to consider the 2016 accounts etc and this was suggested for Thursday 20/10. We may also need to approve the 2015 accounts and it was thought this could be as part of a District Leaders meeting in 2016 but to be confirmed.

11. A.O.B

A request had been made by Adam Holding that we allow a variation to his employment contract so that his partner can run a business as a registered child minder from the Lodge. Issues were raised regarding public liability of non members having to come on site to get to the Lodge, of child protection outside our control and possible rating and other issues if a commercial venture was being carried on. For all these reasons it was agreed that permission had to be refused. Martin will inform Adam.

12. Meeting closed at 10pm