

2nd Penparcau Scouts Executive Committee Meeting 11th Jan 2018

Present: Keith Jones (group scout leader); Richard Morris (chair), Mike Pitcher (treasurer), Peter van-Velzen (secretary), Cheryl Hain, Charlie Kingsbury, Glenda Jones, Iwan Davies, Anne MacDonald

Apologies received: Kathy James, Alex Harris, Paul Williams, Gary Kingsbury, Gareth Jones, Matthew Sharples

Minutes of the last meeting agreed

Matters arising

Central location for Risk Assessments: Folder on our Team Drive – for Keith to upload generic R/A's.

25 year celebration: Press release **action is with Matthew Sharples**. Ideas are generated between leaders and within the group: Logo design competition for new 'group hoodies'; A commemorative metal cup.

Archery course: 1 Archery licence renewed in autumn 2017 and a second course offered for February 2018, with 5 nominees. All air rifle shooting licences have been renewed through the NSBRA.

Hire agreement: A simple hire agreement has now been drawn up and been used for cabin lets. Need to draw up a generic R/A for log cabin use. **Action: KJ**

Network: John Snelling needs to be invited for our next meeting to talk about the Scouting Network for 18+ members. **Action: PvV**

Review of Health & Safety, safe guarding and Risk Assessments

Drawing up of generic R/A's are in hand. Due to the number of explorers the leaders have decided to have alternate use of the large room. The door on the beavers' room is still missing and means beavers leave for the toilet without being accompanied. **Action: PvV to** write to CCC to request an update on the door replacement.

Accommodation

For the time being it has been decided not to approach the Penparcau Community Centre for the hire of a room in the new centre. The main concerns are regarding the crossing and the car parking.

Scouts and Explorers will make alternate use of the large room. More and better tables are required for our meetings. We are still awaiting an invoice from CCC for the rent of the last term. **Action: PvV** to write to Gillian Evans to request one.

Correspondence

None received.

Treasurer's report

The account continues to look very 'healthy' at around £7.9k at the end of December '17. A further £3k of grant money from Tesco has been transferred onto the card account, to facilitate online purchases of camping materials. We need to pay around £5k membership fees to Scouts UK by the end of March.

Section leaders reports

Explorers New term started with 30 (!) on the register. Four scouts came up to explorers and a fifth has just 'joined new'. Three have left. Attendance level was at 63% during the last term, but this was mainly due to a few individuals. A drive to introduce more structure seems to pay off; full uniform is now required when turning up. Explorers are setting their own programme.

Scouts now number 27. The Christmas camp at the cabin was memorable and the next term's programme is now planned out. There will be a joint camp for Scouts and Explorers this spring.

Cubs now count 31 on register with very good attendance. With 17 on the waiting list, this section remains at capacity. A new planned programme for this spring includes birdbox making and winter Olympics. Several young leaders are helping out at cubs.

Beavers are doing well with 22 on the register. We have six new starters, leaving 20 on the waiting list. Note that 10 are below the joining age. Attendance levels are excellent. Seren is helping out as a young leader. Beavers have been doing activities on Children in Need, Foodbank and Carol Singing.

Group Scout Leader report

Keith thanked Peter for organising another log cabin maintenance day. We managed to tidy up the cabin and stores. Next we'll need to organise a day this spring to pour a concrete base, put together the five new picnic tables bought from Travis Perkins and create more flat camping area by bringing a JCB in. **Action: PvV** to organise the next DIY day at the cabin. **Action: PvV** to write a letter of thanks to the manager of Travis Perkins for the heavily discounted picnic tables.

An area meeting will be held soon to discuss an area camp to be held during the May bank holiday in Llandysul. (This is for all sections). More leader training and refresher days are being planned too.

Any Other Business

Grants: We have received 75% or £3000 of the Tesco grant to spend on camping equipment. Keith listed many camping items to be purchased, but asked the exec committee for views on the purchase of tents: rather than buying a single large canvas tent, the proposal is to get several patrol-sized "air-beam" tents. Keith identified 3 [Vango 'Amalfi'](#) tents at a cost of £450 each, to be complemented with several lightweight hiking tents, costing £120 each, for use on expeditions. The committee voiced approval. **Action: KJ** to purchase the equipment before the end of March. Once bought, we need to take photographs and send a letter of thanks to the manager of Tesco Aberystwyth. **Action: KJ / PvV**. Order "Thank You" cards from Scouts UK. **Action: KJ**

The Aberystwyth Memorial Fund contributed to the Explorers' trip to Denmark. A letter of thanks and an update on the trip needs to be sent a.s.a.p. **Action: MS**

Attendance: We had a frank discussion on the level of attendance during weekly meets and at camps, considering our waiting lists and members commitment to be part of scouting and our group. Albeit there is an expectance on a commitment and regular attendance, individuals' circumstances change. We agreed not to set any rules or cut-off's. Instead, leaders are asked to enquire and challenge individuals whom regularly do not attend without notice. Waiting lists affect the Beaver and Cub sections most, where regular attendance is not in question. Scouts and Explorers are encouraged to devise their own programme, in line with the scouts' "You shape" initiative. We need to write to parents to ask them to notify leaders (by email) of planned non-attendance. **Action: PvV**

Fees: Current membership fees are £10 per month, payable by standing order. Our formula is based on the cost of UK scout membership as a thirds and two-thirds for our programme. With national scout membership fees now at £50 annually this formula is no longer valid and may need revision. Note however that a recent change means that leaders positions are no longer payable.

The committee agreed that we do not experience funding shortfalls and that any changes to subs need to be discussed and agreed at an AGM **-to Defer**. We do need to write out to parents who are not paying by Standing Order. **Action: PvV / KJ**

The exec committee agreed on the availability of a benevolent fund for those suffering financial hardship, to enable members to attend camps. On a case-by-case basis, through GSL.

Gratitude: We need to write a letter of thanks to the vicar of st Anne's church, JD Lawrence, for hosting the Christmas Carol service. **Action: PvV**

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Date of AGM & exec: Thursday 10th of May. 19:00 Exec, followed by AGM at 19:30.