

2nd Penparcau Scouts Executive Committee Meeting 14th Sept 2017

Present: Keith Jones (group scout leader); Richard Morris (chair), Mike Pitcher (treasurer), Peter van-Velzen (secretary) ,Julia Liebeschuetz, Cheryl Hain, Matthew Sharples, Tom Barron, Glenda Jones, Gareth Jones (AC).

Apologies: Anne MacDonald, Iwan Davies, Kathy James, Alex Harris, Gary Kingsbury, Carl Fitches & Deborah Simpson- Jones

Minutes of the last meeting - agreed

Matters arising

All matters arising already set in the meeting agenda.

Review of Health & Safety

A generic risk assessment (RA) has now been produced for the centre and generic RA's are also written for off-premises activities, on an ad-hoc basis. After discussion it was agreed that each RA needs to be captured on a proforma. We do not have an accident book, but we do now have an online accident form for recording accidents centrally. **ACTION: KJ** to save ready RA's to the Google team drive. **ACTION: Pvv** to set up a shared folder on Team drive.

Use of Penparcau community Centre

A meeting between representatives of Ceredigion Council Learning Services and our group was held on Wednesday 13th of September. Richard, Keith and Peter met with Elen James and Matthew Browne to discuss the changes, our future at the centre and the apparent breakdown of communication between the lessor and ourselves. The centre will now be used as a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) during the day. We were assured that there will be no change to us in the use of the building and we received apologies for the lack of communication during the interior changes. Our assigned point of contact will be the PRU's head teacher Angharad. We will continue to have use over the two downstairs rooms and our storage cupboard.

2nd Penparcau scouts 25 years

Ideas were discussed to celebrate our 25th lustrum, e.g. with the design and manufacture of T-shirts and badges. The celebration design could become a competition for our youngsters. Matthew agreed to draft a press release. **ACTION: MS**

Correspondence

None received

Treasurer's report

The account continues to look very 'healthy' after various camps at around £8.5k. Note that we still expect an invoice for bus travel to the airport; expected £1000.

The **explorers' trip to Denmark** cost a total of £13k. Each explorer paid £520 cost/ £7k total of personal contribution, plus £5k of grant aid & fundraising money. This trip has left the group £950

short. We agreed to accept this shortfall as a one-off. We agreed that each future camp must have a budget and costing in place for the total cost.

The scouts' trip to Poacher Camp in Essex cost a total of £3494 at a cost of £247 per participant.

Funding Opportunities

We have been successful in our application to take part in the Tesco's community fund contest during September. At the end of September we will know which of the three causes won. Winner receives £4k funding and runner-up received £2k. We will be spending the money on equipment: Tents, archery kit and new catering equipment is needed.

We agreed to do a "good news story" following receipt and provide feedback to Tesco.

Tegwen Morris is offering 2nd Penparcau help with finding further grants. **ACTION: KJ** to contact her.

Section leaders reports

Beavers New term started with 19 attending. Five on the waiting list have been contacted. Five will move up to cubs after Christmas. 16 on the waiting list are 'of age' (31 on list)

Cubs now amount to 31, with 15 on the waiting list. Five have just joined from beavers. Two will leave for scouts after christmas. In October the cubs will have their cub camp at the cabin.

Scouts now number 29, with three on the waiting list. 7 scouts will go up to explorers after Christmas with five cubs then joining scouts. A sailing weekend at the end of September is planned.

Explorers number an unprecedented 25 with Tom Barron, Charlie Kingsbury and Matthew (back!) as leaders. Their Denmark summer camp was a very 'different' scouting experience: hard work but great in the end. Note that an additional 7 youngsters joining after Christmas will be a large group.

The exec discussed that several members were not regularly turning up to our weekly sessions. Some appear to pick and choose which nights to attend. With waiting lists for each section now this seems unfair for those who do want to experience scouting. We ask leaders and the GSL to challenge those that do not attend four weeks in a row.

Group Scout leaders' report

Keith has sent letters to parents of scouts and explorers to request a deposit for Norjam 2018 and the Haarlem Jamborette 2019 - both £50 initially. The Haarlem deposit required now for a group in excess of 35 people is €1500. We agreed to pay this deposit from group funds, rather than raising this deposit through parents. We agreed that we need to start planning fundraising activities now for both camps. Defer agenda item to next meeting.

Note that during Haarlem Jamborette 2019, individual members may apply to be part of the UK contingent to the international Jamboree in the USA. Cost pp is £3500. Presentations will be made by the Ceredigion Area Exec on wednesday 27th at our centre.

The log cabin would benefit from another maintenance day. Keith wants a new area levelled by JCB for tents. **ACTION: Pvv** to organise a new cabin day.

Area Commissioner's report

Unfortunately the decision had to be taken for the area camp to be postponed to allow efforts to be spent on more pressing issues. The provision of leader training is the next 'big push' for the new AC's.

As a group we expressed concerns to the AC about our sizeable waiting list and the demand for scouting in Aberystwyth.

Any Other Business

Licences: Those that hold air rifle shooting licences have had theirs renewed. Our archery licences need renewing next. There have been issues with the overnight camping licence but Gareth and Keith agreed that this has been an administrative oversight.

Log Cabin: We would benefit from a hire agreement to have clarity on what we expect from 3rd parties that wish to hire our facilities. We agreed that we would always only hire out to responsible adults who would be present on site during the hire agreement. We need to record and issue a generic risk assessment for the cabin and surroundings. **ACTION: KJ** to generate one.

Area Network: Explorers turning 18 years of age must leave that section. The next scouts section is "Network" and the local area network is run from Aber Uni by John Snelling. We need to enthuse our explorers to become young leaders, yet they may wish to join Network. We agreed to invite John to our next meeting. **ACTION: PvV** to invite John Snelling.

Parent contribution: Our current formula of 2:1 in capitation-to-subs may not serve us any longer when UK capitation is rising. We agreed to defer this discussion to the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Date of following meeting: Thursday 11th of January 2018 at 19.30 p.m. in the Railway Club