

Minutes of Zone 4 Meeting

Meeting No- 2/09
Date 29th November 2009
Time 1030
Location Newmarket

Present

Call sign	Group
G0TVD	SW Herts
G1BYY	Mid Herts
G1UAF	Cambridgeshire
G4KUJ	Hertfordshire
G4PMG	SW Herts
G6EUO	Forest Heath
G7CIY	E Suffolk / Suffolk County
G7CNX	Mid Herts
G7OOW	Suffolk
G7OPO	East Suffolk
G7UHE	Essex
G8HVV	Cambridgeshire
G8IDL	Cambridgeshire
G8KLC	ZC4
M0LOM	Epping Forest / Essex
M0NAS	Essex

Apologies

Apologies were received from:
G0BOE, G1SCQ, G8XOR, 2E0REF

Minutes of last meeting

These were agreed as a correct record with minor spelling amendments.
G7CNX proposed adoption of the minutes. This was seconded by G7UHE and agreed by the meeting.

Matters arising from last meeting

G8KLC had contacted G4ODH and the website issues had been satisfactorily resolved.

It was noted that G4ODH had not renewed his RAYNET membership despite having had e-mail and telephone reminders.

G8KLC reminded the meeting that the national server was available to host group websites should they so wish.

G8KLC advised that there were 160 Network members in the zone plus 60 in Essex. In addition to these 220 there are RAYNET members in Bedfordshire and Norfolk.

The venue for this meeting was free of charge for this time and G8KLC would write a letter of thanks to St John Ambulance.

Action – G8KLC

It was agreed that 2 meetings per year was about right and Essex would explore the possibility of the spring 2010 meeting being held at County Hall, Chelmsford.

Action – G7UHE

The meeting thanked Barbara Slater for arranging refreshments and lunches.

Zone Elections

The following appointments were agreed by the meeting –

Zone Co-ordinator – G8KLC proposed by G7OOW and seconded by G8IDL.

Treasurer – G8KLC proposed by G7CNX and seconded by G6EUO.

Minutes Secretary - G4KUJ proposed by G6EUO and seconded by G7CNX.

Emergency Co-ordinator – G6EUO proposed by G8KLC and seconded by G7CIY.

Controllers were requested to ensure that G6EUO had copies of their latest call out arrangements.

Action – All groups

Zone Coordinator's Report

A strategy weekend was held in May involving both CoM Trustees and Team Leaders. It was a busy 2 days, facilitated by G3YAC, which resulted in both short term and long term actions.

The Network was moving towards a more results based organisation.

There were some on going issues; particularly with respect to training.

The Conference and AGM had been held in Cardiff with presentations from Dr Nigel Brown from the CCS on Resilient Communications and Chris Taylor from Martin Lynch on D-Star. Icom were also present and demonstrated D-Star equipment. Copies of Nigel's slides were on the network website.

G7CIY said that they were looking at changing GB7EA to D-Star.

The revised version of Volume 1 of the RAYNET Manual was near completion and G8KLC thanked the Emergency Planning Team for their efforts.

The 2010 Conference and AGM will be held in Durham on the 6th November.

Any ideas for possible venues for 2011 should be made known to G8KLC. Wyboston Lakes and Duxford were suggested. Duxford was thought to be a good venue but expensive to hire.

Action – All

There was a long discussion regarding the necessity to hold the AGM on the 'bonfire' weekend in November which was acknowledged as a busy night for groups and these commitments made it difficult for some members to attend the AGM.

There was a consensus view that the long delay in receiving the AGM minutes and accounts was totally unacceptable.

The meeting was of the opinion that there was no sound reason why the minutes of the AGM and the examined accounts could not be available to members by the end of March following the close of the financial year on 31st December. This would enable the AGM to be held earlier in the year; around April or May.

G8KLC was tasked to report the strong views of the meeting to the CoM and to report back at the next Zone meeting.

Action – G8KLC

The Network had a stand at the Emergency Services Show which was held at Stoneleigh on 24th & 25th November.

The Royal United Services Institute had offered RAYNET members a discounted rate for their Resilient Communications Workshop being held in London on 7th December. Greg Mossop, G0DUB, and Trevor Groves, G4KUJ, were presenting at this event.

The North Pennines group were on standby regarding the flooding in Cumbria.

Treasurer's Report

G8KLC reported that there had been no expenditure since the last meeting and that the current balance remained at £33.52.

Capabilities Document

The RAYNET Capability Document had been re-issued Groups were requested to provide their inputs to County by the end of May with a view to County inputs to Zone by the end of June. In general, the actions on this item were outstanding.

CONTINUING ACTION – Groups & Counties

The Role of Voluntary Organisations

G4KUJ, Chair of the Go-East Voluntary Sector Working Group, gave a presentation on the involvement of the voluntary sector in UK Resilience from Central Government through to local level.

Reports

Reports had been received from Cambridgeshire, Essex, Forest Heath, Hertfordshire, Mid-Herts, North Anglia, SW Herts and Suffolk.

Any other Business

Zonal Exercise

David, G8IDL, suggested that there should be a re-run of Polly, only better. It would take onboard the debrief comments and hopefully include more stations, particularly on the coast. The need for more operators at control stations was noted together with looking at getting messages going both ways.

The use of other modes, VHF SSB, HF and Data should also be considered.

The meeting agreed that a further exercise should be held and the exercise team were asked to make suitable proposals.

Continuing ACTION – Exercise Team

Data Communications

There was a discussion regarding the need for RAYNET to investigate data communication modes. There were a large number of different modes available that all had their advantages and disadvantages depending on the type of data to be exchanged and propagation conditions. The meeting felt that there was merit in groups in the zone agreeing to trial one mode.

G4KUJ suggested that the NBEMS (Narrow Band Emergency Message System) that GU3WHN had described in a recent Ray-Link article. The system uses two free software downloads; Fldigi and Flarq and may be used both on FM and SSB links. The meeting agreed that groups would trial the system and review progress at the spring meeting.

G8KLC would ask for progress reports to be submitted before the next meeting.

Action – G8KLC

(Post meeting note –

G4KUJ e-mailed the web link on this system to the Zone reflector on 30th November, <http://www.w1hkj.com/NBEMS/index.html>

Exercise Watermark

It was noted that DEFRA were organising a national flooding exercise to be held in spring 2011. Initial planning had started and Regions and LRFs were expected to receive invitations to take part in the early part of 2010. It was agreed that groups should explore any possibility of involvement with their LRFs.

Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was agreed as 25th April 2010.
Venue – TBA – Chelmsford?