

Minutes of Zone 4 Meeting

Meeting No- 2/11
Date 27th November 2011
Time 1030
Location Newmarket

Present

Call sign	Group
G0TVD	S W Herts
G1BYY	Mid Herts
G1OUT	Forest Heath
G1UAF	Cambridgeshire
G4KUJ	Hertfordshire
G6EUO	Forest Heath
G7CNX	Mid Herts
G7OOW	East Suffolk
G8HVV	Cambridgeshire
G8KLC	ZC4
M0JAJ	East Suffolk
M0LOM	Epping Forest/Essex
M0NAS	Essex

Apologies

Apologies were received from:
G1SCQ, G4PMG, G6EDD, G7CIY, G7UHE, G8IDL

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were agreed as a correct record. Proposed by M0NAS seconded by G7CNX.

Matters arising from last meeting

The Watermark presentation had not been received from G7CIY. G8KLC to progress with G7CIY.

ON GOING ACTION – G8KLC

AGM – 2012

The 2012 AGM will take place in Cheshire at Quarry Bank Mill on Saturday 22nd September.

AGM – 2013

G8KLC advised that the venue had not yet been decided. Suggested locations for consideration from the meeting were –

The Elesmere Centre at Stetchworth near Newmarket
The Conference Centre at Ely Cathedral
Adstral Park near Ipswich

G8KLC was asked to pass these suggestions to CoM.

ACTION – G8KLC

Long Service Awards

G8KLC advised that Anne Keen was due a long service award and that he was trying to get it for this meeting but he had been let down.

ON GOING ACTION – G8KLC

Exercises – G8KLC had not sent out an e-mail requesting progress reports on message handling exercises.

G6EUO enquired what Adam's role as the RSGB Region 12 Emergency Liaison Officer entailed. Adam, G1UAF, reported that since being appointed he had had no induction or contact from the RSGB. All he had was a 2 page job description from the Regional Managers manual. RSGB Region 12 covers Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Kent

Frequency of Zone Meetings

Following discussion the meeting concluded that 2 meetings per year were ideal. G1UAF suggested that in order for the meetings to be more productive they could be used to share information about what groups do – for instance, talkthrough, use of PMR, APRS, NVIS, etc. It was agreed that each meeting should have a topic for presentation and discussion.

It was established that Cambridgeshire, Essex and SW Herts had used APRS during events. G1UAF volunteered to give a presentation on APRS at the next meeting.

ACTION – G1UAF

Other suggestions for consideration were –

1. A table top exercise with syndicates to explore various scenarios
2. Talks from Network Team Leaders
3. How to use the Network's IT facilities (e.g. – e-mailing by group officers etc).

On item 3 G8KLC stated that this information had been made available some time ago but he would locate the pdf file and distribute it again to all via the zone reflector.

ACTION – G8KLC

Long Service Awards

G8KLC had a number of long service awards available that would be sent to the recipients in the near future.

Message passing exercises

The following activity was reported against the action from the previous meeting.

Essex – no exercises

Forrest Heat – no exercises – too busy with events

Cambridgeshire – Carried out a table top exercise – one person ‘freaked out’, walked out and has now left the organisation.

Mid – Herts – Carried out an internal exercise.

SW Herts – no exercises

After discussion the meeting agreed to defer these exercises for the moment.

This agenda item led to a more general discussion on the way that RAYNET is organised and the key points discussed are listed below-

- G1UAF expressed the view that the organisation needed standards that were adhered to across the whole organisation. This could include such things as uniforms, equipment and capability. Ideally this should encompass all RAYNET groups.
- G1BYY had asked Gavin Hunter if there was any training material that could be released now. The response was that this was not possible and none would be released until the task was complete. It was noted that no training material had been available for many years.
- The role of RAYNET is now very different from when it was first established and during the 1980's. Our users expectation of communications is much more sophisticated and data rich. What can we realistically offer them? What do they need?
- Does CoM have the strategic vision to lead the organisation into the future and, if so, what is it?
- What does CoM do? Little information reaches groups.
- Is the current organisation appropriate to sustain the organisation into the future?
- ZC's are elected, often on the basis of the only volunteer, with little or no consideration of whether they have the ability or capability to carry out the role. Should ZCs be appointed rather than elected following a selection process which starts with a detailed job specification and includes an interview? Make 'ability & capability' the key requirement rather than 'availability'.
- Is CoM meeting three times a year sufficient to run the organisation?
- Does the organisation warrant a full or part time 'manager' to run the business on a day to day basis? Many of our user services have paid professional managers to look after their emergency response.

G8KLC was asked to raise the issues discussed at the next CoM meeting.

ACTION – G8KLC

Zone Coordinators report

2012 Olympics

G4KUJ reported that from what he had been able to gather from other voluntary organisations within the zone and nationally generally there had been little call on voluntary groups to become involved with the Olympics. Having said that organisations were beginning to see additional duties around the Jubilee celebrations and there was some evidence that the four day holiday at the beginning of June is going to be popular with event organisers. It is expected that events around the torch relay route will be announced over the coming months. A concern for all organisations is the resources that they will have available for 'business as usual' activities due to reduced member unavailability. This could be because the organisation is unaware that members are required to work during the Olympic period or that they have put themselves forward as volunteers or ambassadors.

M0LOM said that he had volunteered to be a radio equipment 'monitor' and had been invited to a meeting at the Excel site in December.

All groups were encouraged to confirm the expected availability of their members during the run up to and the actual event period of the Olympics.

ACTION – ALL GROUPS

Treasurer's Report

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

A question was raised regarding if County Groups had funds of their own. From those present Hertfordshire and Suffolk had no funds and Essex had one bank account for all of the groups.

Group Reports

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

Any other Business

G7CNX advised those present of an item in the weekly news that day regarding motor insurance cover when undertaking voluntary activities.

G7OOW advised the meeting that, from personal experience, vehicle recovery offered as part of motor insurance cover may not always include the cost of recovering a trailer.

G1BYY asked if any groups had carried out any recruitment activity.

G7OOW advised that they had had some success with displays at events at Bentwaters and Rock Barracks in Woodbridge.

G7CNX noted that the Mid-Herts MCU had been used at the National Hamfest in 2010.

It was noted that G1OUT was the new Group controller for Forrest Heath and that G6EUO was now the Suffolk County Controller.

G1OUT enquired if, in the absence of training material from the national team, would it be possible for the zone to put in place its own training plan. Members who had been at the AGM advised that Gavin Hunter had given a presentation on the current plans and was expecting training material to be available in 2012. The consensus of the meeting was that we should wait for the national material.

Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was agreed as 25th March 2012

Venue – Newmarket –To be confirmed by G6EQU/ZC4