

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE BATTALION COUNCIL HELD AT Battalion HQ, Clifford Street, Glasgow On Wednesday 14th March 2018, at 7.30 pm

1 Opening Devotions

Rev Neil Galbraith led the opening devotions.

2 Present & Welcome

John Kelly, Battalion President welcomed all to the meeting;

21 Leaders, 4 Reserve Officers from 14 Companies were represented.

15 members of Council had tendered their apologies (representing 7 Companies)

3 Minutes of Meeting held 24 October 2017

Approved

4 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved

5 Matters Arising

All matters arising are covered in the agenda

6 Finance Report

The Treasurer reported that:-

- Our expenditure and investment income continue to be on budget. The level of grants received from other charities has been disappointing. Local government spending cuts have put pressure on several charities and accordingly those charities which traditionally pay us grants are receiving many more requests for help, they are cutting back on help to charities who have substantial reserves. We are establishing relationships with potential new donors.
- Investment values are holding up well despite the recent market correction

7 Committee Reports

7.1 Board of Trustees Report

Council noted that summary reports of Board meetings are posted on the Battalion website. The following points were highlighted from December and February meetings:-

- It was agreed to provide £800 to support the purchase of new command tents for the Kilbryde Hike.
- Work to review governance in relation to Battalion rules is in hand. This will provide an opportunity to discuss with Districts ideas on how we move forward and allow out-dated posts to be removed.
- The Mitchell Library exhibition event took place during October & November. A number of visitors attended on 3 days when speakers from the BB were in attendance.
- As a result of proposed Safeguarding changes the Chaplains event will be rescheduled for 2018.
- Over 125 Anchor Boys attended the Pantomime at Battalion HQ on 2nd December.
- An exercise to look at opportunities for a Company in the Castlemilk area is in hand in conjunction with Brigade Scotland.
- CashBack Funding has been identified for areas within the Battalion that are in the top 20% of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) The projects will look to set up new Sections and Grow existing Sections.
- It was agreed to provide £215 to support the programme of events within Partick District.
- The Board noted that as part of governance processes a workshop on Funding & Accounting will be arranged for Battalion Companies.
- The Board noted that 43 of 57 Companies have completed the Brigade UK Annual return using Online Brigade Manager (OBM) and that the situation with the 134th Glasgow Company has now been resolved.
- The Board noted information supplied by John Sharp, Director for Scotland, on membership statistics showing a significant reduction in youth numbers in the region.

7.2 Activity Committee Reports

Council noted the reports relating to Anchor, Junior & Company Sections and the Training Team Update

7.3 Kilbryde Hike Committee Report

Council noted the information on dates for the Kilbryde Hike- June 9th & 10th 2018

8 Brigade Scotland Presentation

Director for Scotland, John Sharp, addressed Council providing an update on his reflections from the last 11 months, an introduction of the Brigade Scotland Workplan and opened up discussion on Battalion involvement in delivering results in the 3 key workplan areas of Growth, Quality & Voice. Members discussed the Boys' Brigade Object and the less well known vision of the organisation – that children and young people experience 'life to the full' – John 10:10

The update highlighted strengths including:-

- The number of children and young people involved in Boys' Brigade
- The number, dedication and passion of volunteers
- Our qualities – programmes, Company Health checks & KGVI courses
- Our impact on Young People – supporting education, employability, soft skills and health awareness.

Challenges and opportunities including:

- Growing the organisation – young people and volunteers through recruitment and retention
- Addressing external perceptions
- Highlighting the positive impact of our work

The 3 Key areas will see work on:

- Growth – synchronising efforts across the Brigade, Supporting transitions (Anchor to Junior: Junior to Company Sections), increasing visibility through community partnerships
- Quality – Training & Programme materials (develop Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics STEM activities), support Leaders to share and discuss faith, deliver national events
- Voice –Promote the Year of Young People 2018, encourage Youth participation, identify and train media ambassadors.

9 AOB

There was no other business.

10 Date of next meeting:

The President noted the date of the next meeting as Thursday 14th June 2018, 7:30pm at Battalion HQ.

11 Closing Devotions

The meeting was closed with the Grace.