

Thorrington Scout Campsite Oversight Team (TSCOT) Minutes

Date: Monday, 2 February 2026

Venue: Shrub End Scout Hut, Shrub End Road, CO3 4RL

Attendees:

TSCOT - Hywel Edwards (HE), Melvin Tarman (MT)

VRT - Bob Candler (BC), Tammy Lorimer (TL), Jack Dowrick (JD), Dave Reid (DR).

Apologies:

TSCOT - Ian Welch (IW), Ben Hart (BH)

VRT - None

Purpose of the TSCOT

Thorrington Scout Campsite Oversight Team - to act on behalf of the Colchester North and Colchester Estuary Trustee Boards.

Purpose of the VRT

Volunteer Running Team - responsible for the day-to-day running of Thorrington Scout Camp.

Proposed Discussion Points

- Management Structure of TSC
- Review of Charity Number

Opening Matter

Management structure of TSC

BC proposed a change to the current management structure of TSC through the creation of a Management Committee, comprising BC, DR and TL, who would act as Senior Wardens. This proposal originated from the VRT following concerns about the long-term sustainability of Thorrington and the workload placed on Duty Wardens.

It was noted that the Management Committee would operate between the VRT and TSCOT, with matters escalated to TSCOT as required.

Following discussion, the proposed structure was agreed.

Thorrington Charity Number

BC proposed that TSC pursue its own charity number to improve access to funding. JD suggested this could potentially be achieved through application as a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation).

Discussion took place on the impact this would have on district oversight. It was agreed that, should TSC obtain its own charity number, overall responsibility would remain jointly with Colchester Estuary (CEDS) and Colchester North (CNDS), and that TSC would not operate with complete autonomy.

It was also agreed that, should TSC cease to operate, its assets and management would transfer to CEDS and CNDS as a shared asset to protect TSC within Colchester Scouting. It was agreed that these provisions be explicitly included within the TSC constitution.

It was noted that previous discussions had been misunderstood, and clarification was provided that TSC does not intend to operate with complete autonomy.

As this proposal requires approval from both the CEDS and CNDS Trustee Boards, it was agreed that the matter be escalated to both Boards for determination.

Financial /Administration Report

Financial Matters

TL confirmed that TSC remains financially stable, with reserves and contingency funds in place. TL advised that funds had recently been withdrawn from the 90-day notice reserve account to cover annual insurance costs, balanced against expected income.

It was agreed that a financial update would be provided at each TSCOT meeting.

Budgets

TL advised that budgets for the 2025/26 financial year had not been set. DR noted the need for investment in areas such as maintenance to support growth, while also suggesting a review of utility contracts to identify potential savings.

It was agreed that some level of financial outlay is necessary, and that increased promotion or incentives may be needed to drive additional bookings and income.

Risk Register

TL queried whether TSC was required to maintain its own Risk Register, given that risk registers already exist at both CNDS and CEDS level. Following discussion, it was agreed that TSC should maintain its own Risk Register due to the distinct risks specific to the site and its operations.

Booking Report

Campsite Bookings

TL advised that bookings for 2026 currently appear healthy, with an increasing number of bookings being made by groups outside of the Colchester area.

Activities Report

Tower Training

TL advised that tower training has progressed, with a training day currently being arranged. It is hoped that the tower will reopen prior to the summer.

Open Day

It was noted that the Open Day has been rescheduled to 11th April 2026.

Health & Safety Report

Handover

TL advised that Ian Welch has agreed to take on responsibility for reviewing reported incidents at TSC, following the resignation of Chris Jay.

General Matters

None

Any Other Business

None

Meeting closed

Next proposed meeting:

16 March 2026 07:30pm

Shrub End Scout Hut, Shrub End Road, CO3 4RL