

Thorrington Scout Camp Oversight Team (TSCOT) Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday 1st Dec 2025

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

Attendees: Bob Candler, Ian Welch, Chris Jay, Hywel Edwards, Melvin Tarman, Ben Hart, Tammy Lorimer.

Apologies: Jack Dowrick

Purpose of the TSCOT – Thorrington Scout Camp Oversight team (acting on behalf of North and Estuary Scout Trustee Boards)

Purpose of the VRT – Volunteer Running Team - The day to day running of Thorrington Camp site.

Proposed discussion points: Finance Stability, Future Proving and Safety

Urgent Matters

Chris Jay has given notice as Booking secretary and will finish as of 31st January 2026. All Thanked Chris for his dedication and hard work over the years and noted he will be very much missed. Chris noted he may continue as a warden, after much needed family time. Pier Williams has offered to take on the booking secretary role, and Chris will happily work with Piers, to ensure he's well equipped.

Chris Jay has an extensive job list, which is currently being reallocated as best as possible. Tammy to share job list. Scout Shop offered to post the job list on their noticeboard.

TSCOT Member change:

We welcome Melvin Tarmin as the second Colchester North District representative. We say Thank you and goodbye to Steve Birkin who has swapped his representative role with Ben Hart from Colchester Estuary District.

Financial / Automony

Brought to the attention of all TSCOT members, as Colchester Estuary District are reporting all financial income and expenditure and 50% of the asset value.

It was asked why Colchester North District does not report 50% of income and expenditure? North District representative noted that they do report 50% of the asset value.

A request has been received again for Thorrington Scout camp to obtain their own Charity status and number. Discussed around the table, Colchester Estuary District agreed, Thorrington Running Team agreed and Colchester North District confirmed, no they are not prepared to relinquish any building assets, to enable Thorrington Scout Campsite to have their own Charity status.

As there isn't a unanimous vote, this means TSCOT members will continue with the oversight of Thorrington Scout Campsite and instruct VRT on how to run Thorrington. This also means that the terms of reference for District Shared assets will need to be updated and approved by both Districts. Last edited in March 2008. Tammy to share.

Bookings have had a slight rise; there are more booked in for Summer 2026 than last year.

Reported that there are homes being built in Elmstead, giving us the opportunity to apply for funding 106. Funding is eagerly being sorted out, to cover the gap of less bookings 2024/2025 but without TSC having their own Charity number, it is proving difficult.

Health & Safety/Accident Report

No current reports. The reports from this currently go to Chris Jay, who adjusts the risk assessment and notifies the relevant DLV/ Scout HQ as applicable. Suggested looking into using osm as an accident reporting tool. 2 Volunteers offered to take on this task, Ian Welch and Matt Nash. All agreed Ian Welch would be most appropriate.

Notifiable by all wardens or activity leader to the QR code

- Any accident occurred during an on-site activity
- Accident on site if medical support is required:
 - o Ambulance / Paramedic is called
 - o A hospital visit is required
 - o Any visit to minor injuries

Risk Assessments – TSCOT Board requested visual on-site risk assessments, noted they are available on the Thorrington Scout Website and Thorrington Scout Camp Shared drive.

Risk Register – Has been started by Chris Jay and Helen Stark, however is the responsibility of TSCOT

Activities

Climbing Tower – Identified that training is now the delay in the tower opening – only 3 people trained, Helen, Rob and Chris who have an external qualification CWA. How can this be resolved? Bob to discuss with Helen the possibility of training all willing wardens or if unfortunately, she doesn't have the time to consult external assessors. Noted, Essex Permit Team has previously offered training at £240pp and a Suffolk Climbing Instructor has previously offered training. 16-20 people can be trained by 3 people. Impact of any delays: Loss of income/bookings and equipment lifespan of the bulk of climbing equipment is 4years into their 10year life. The smaller harnesses and helmets 10years of life left.

Warden Run activities are Archery / Rifle Shooting / Climbing & Abseiling / Tomahawks. There have been issues recently with a warden team not wanting to run any instructor-led activities and feel it's not part of their warden role. Discussed and noted that, as wardens are volunteers, we are unable to insist they do any training or run activities. To mitigate this, a new system is being worked on by Chris Jay and Jack Dowrick via OSM. This will allow existing qualified wardens and external activity instructors to be notified when an activity has been booked. All instructors will receive an email, where they can confirm their availability. It is requested that all Lead Wardens are to confirm 4 weeks in advance, if activities booked on their weekend have confirmed instructors and if not, contact the camper directly to notify them.

General Matters

Future proving warden members - Explorers intake is at a good level on A,B,D, C Team do have spaces and have a current NAP person on team.

Warden Recruitment TSCOT proposed an Open Weekend to encourage more wardens. To include behind the scenes of a warden. Suggest 14yo + and weather dependent. Suggested 17th January 2026. Drop in 10-4pm

Asset list discussed for all items at Thorrington. This is in progress and will be shared once complete.

AOB

Website update: remove Steve Birkin and replace with both DLV information. Include an emergency number for Thorrington.

Next Meeting scheduled for 16th March 2026, Shrub End Scout HQ, Shrub End Road, CO34RL