



District 91 Council Meeting Minutes

11:30 AM Saturday 7th November 2015 and

10:25 AM Sunday 8th November 2015

Pipers Way, Swindon SN3 1SH

Ref	Item
1.	<p>Call to Order / Welcome District Mission, Introductions, Apologies, Moment of Reflection Alan Pope from Thamesdown called the meeting to order and read the District Mission.</p> <p>District 91 Director Jean Gamester welcomed all to our District Council Meeting and explained the purpose and membership of the District Council.</p> <p>She recognised guests and past District Governors;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Director, Region 11 - Teresa Dukes DTM • Past International President - Ted Corcoran DTM • Past International Director – Khaled Matlagaitu DTM • Past District Governors - Hilary Briggs DTM, David Thompson DTM, Angus Galbraith DTM, Freddie Daniels • From District 74, Past District Governor - David Sutcliffe DTM <p>The District Leadership Team was introduced, and it was explained that Finance Manager Adnan Lateef would be stepping down. Meg Heyworth had been appointed to take on the Finance Manager role for the rest of the year;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Parliamentarian - David Sutcliffe DTM • Past District Governor- Hilary Briggs DTM • District Administration Manager - Helena Brewer • Public Relations Manager - Sue Fish • Outgoing District Finance Manager - Adnan Lateef • Incoming District Finance Manager - Meg Heyworth DTM • Club Growth Director - Dorothea Stuart DTM • Program Quality Director - Vanessa King DTM • District Director – Jean Gamester DTM <p>Administration Manager Helena Brewer read out apologies received; Jenny Betts, Russell Searle, David Salamons, Julia Kettlewell, Penny Williams, Doug New, Dawn Rowlett, Craig Moss, Alison Morris, Kate Rowley</p> <p>We also had a moment of reflection for the following Toastmasters who passed away this year; Jean Taverner, Jean Cooper, Conrad Hoe and Oscar Merx DTM</p> <p>The District Director explained the protocol and rules governing the council meeting, including the use of Toastmasters International’s Governing Documents, Roberts Rules of Order as well as the expectation that we live up to our values of Integrity, Respect, Service and Excellence.</p>

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2.	<p>Adoption of Agenda There being no objections, the agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.</p>
3.	<p>Credentials Committee Report and Appointment of Tellers District 91 Parliamentarian, David Sutcliffe, delivered the Credentials Committee report and confirmed that the meeting was quorate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 131 active clubs which equates to 262 club votes available, a quorum of 88 club votes. - There was registration of 99 clubs, plus 32 members of the DEC - Total votes registered 131 <p>For the purpose of voting during the meeting, a simple majority would require 66 votes, while a 2/3 majority (if required) would require 88 votes.</p> <p>The following tellers were appointed by unanimous consent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordon Piggott – Eastbourne Speakers Club • Graeme Phillips – Experience French
4.	<p>Acceptance of Minutes of Council Meeting on 9th May 2015 There being no objections, the Minutes were accepted by the council by unanimous consent.</p>
5.	<p>2014/15 Year End Financial Report Finance Manager Adnan Lateef delivered the year-end financial report for 2014/15, with input from Past District Governor Hilary Briggs. A query from Richard Murray of Canterbury Communications was responded to.</p> <p>There being no objections, the finance report was accepted by the council by unanimous consent.</p> <p>The District Director thanked the members of the Audit Committee, Mike Thompson, Errol Williamson and Chinkata Okpara, as well as past District 91 Treasurer Stephen Edun and IPDG Hilary Briggs, for their hard work in auditing and managing the finances of the district during 2014/15.</p>
6.	<p>Adoption of District 91 Budget and Finance Manager's Report Finance Manager Adnan Lateef described the proposed budget for 2015/16 and shared his report on finances for the district to date, building on the content in the council pack.</p> <p>Queries from the following Council Members were responded to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel Broadhead – Berkeley Square Speakers • Samantha Sherwood – ACCA members Breakfast Club • Steve Brewer – Watford Speaker • Malcolm Warden – Gloucester Speakers • Richard Murray - Canterbury Communications • Dudley Flynn – Area 47 Director <p>There being no objections, the District 91 budget and Finance Managers report were accepted by the council by unanimous consent.</p> <p>The District Director thanked Adnan Lateef for his hard work as Finance Manager for the year to date, and welcomed Meg Heyworth to the team.</p>
7.	<p>Motions</p>

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	<p>The District Director explained that there had been motions submitted in advance and asked if any member planned to raise any motions from the floor so that the time for the session could be managed.</p> <p>Daniel Broadhead from Berkeley Square Speakers explained he intended to raise a motion related to the PR service agreement.</p> <p>The District Director stated that, without objection, she would limit debate on each motion by following this procedure;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the main motion by the proposer; • Seconding by a seconder, who believes that the relevant motion should be brought before this council; • Then ask if there are any objections to adopting the motion as stated; • If there are no objections, then she would declare the motion carried by unanimous consent of council; • If there were objections, there will be 1 minute for the proposer to succinctly elaborate on the reason for presenting the motion; • Then 1 minute to be allowed for a member of council to speak against the motion; • Then 1 minute to be allowed for a member of council to speak in favour of the motion, if so desired; • Then 1 minute for a member of council to speak against the motion, if so desired; • Then take the motion to a vote; • As soon as any of the speakers has spoken for one minute, the timer was instructed to begin clapping, whereupon the council will join them and the speaker will stop speaking. <p>George Chiesa of Excalibur Speakers objected to the motion, stating that it was a privilege of members to be heard and objected to limiting the debate on motions.</p> <p>The council voted on whether the motion to limit debate was to be accepted. A majority accepted the motion and it was carried.</p> <p>Motion 1 - “District PR position” (formerly known as PRO, PRM now I believe) Whereas D91 has relatively recently changed the district PR position from elected to appointed. Whereas D91 has spent substantial amounts in PR contractors working for said appointed volunteer positions Whereas there is no proof of any significant benefit in getting too many positions appointed by the DD Whereas regardless, the district has created numerous other appoint-able positions, thus the DLT has still a large discretionally in the people chosen for management of the district Whereas it is a healthy approach, to have the grass-roots (DC) people elect who they want to have for critical “so called credit positions” Whereas making the position elective, would bring transparency and possible REDUCTION and better management of the PR expenses, in particular if we elect people in an open election, where we can elect volunteers to actually DO the job, not to primarily supervise expensive external contractors.</p>

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	<p data-bbox="252 147 991 253"><i>I MOVE</i> that the PR position becomes ELECTIVE Proposed - George Chiesa – Excalibur Speakers Area L56 Seconded - Steve Brewer – Watford Speakers Area L61</p> <p data-bbox="252 304 1401 371">The District Director ruled that this motion was out of order because it was an improper motion. It conflicted with a previously adopted motion that had not been rescinded:</p> <ul data-bbox="300 383 1441 488" style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The adopted motion in question was “for the year 2015-16 and beyond, the Public Relations Officer will be appointed by the District Governor (as per District Secretary and Treasurer roles) and not elected.”, adopted by the District Council on 1/11/14</i> <p data-bbox="252 539 1417 607">George Chiesa raised an objection to the declaration of the motion as improper. He then withdrew the motion, as well as the second and third of his advance motions.</p> <p data-bbox="272 658 552 685">Motion 4 - Calendars</p> <p data-bbox="288 696 1465 1111">WHEREAS the operation and management of the District (DLT+DEC leadership) requires and uses relatively large amounts of volunteers TIME, with attention to relatively low expenses, in other words, whereas running Toastmasters is a TIME INTENSIVE / VOLUNTEERS WORK driven organisation, and where as significant conflicts, inefficiencies, and other wastes of time have happened and will continue to happen, due to the lack of a single calendar, and where as we have less volunteers time available than money, and whereas it's essential to respect the time of the volunteers, which is free to Toastmasters but valuable to each of us volunteers, which also improves morale and makes event management easier. Also, whereas the district is growing, and new toastmasters are waived the requirement of cc6 to compete, BUT NOT TO JUDGE, where it's still a requisite...</p> <p data-bbox="288 1122 647 1149">I MOVE THAT THE DISTRICT</p> <ul data-bbox="288 1160 1441 1384" style="list-style-type: none"> a) adopts ONE (or FEW KNOWN) calendar/s, ONE X TYPE OF EVENT, where all proposed activities and events should be posted, with "collision avoidance" criteria (prevention, when possible, as opposed to collision detection") b) said calendar is EASY SPEAK when feasible, for contests, meetings, etc AND/OR c) said calendar is a shared PUBLIC calendar with multiple authorship (ala apple's icloud.com) <p data-bbox="252 1395 978 1422">Proposer – George Chiesa - Excalibur Speakers Area L56</p> <ul data-bbox="300 1433 1114 1460" style="list-style-type: none"> - Note that part d of the pre notified motion was withdrawn <p data-bbox="252 1471 962 1498">Seconder - Steve Brewer - Watford Speakers Area L61</p> <p data-bbox="252 1554 499 1581">Speaking in favour;</p> <ul data-bbox="300 1592 930 1659" style="list-style-type: none"> - George Chiesa – Excalibur Speakers Area L56 - Steve Birch – Malvern Speakers <p data-bbox="252 1715 480 1742">Speaking against;</p> <ul data-bbox="300 1753 863 1821" style="list-style-type: none"> - Vanessa King, Program Quality Director - Chris Howell - Bromley Speakers <p data-bbox="252 1865 1457 1977">At this point, District Director said that without objection, the meeting would adjourn to the next morning as it was almost time for the meeting to end according to the schedule, and continuing would impact on the remaining events of the day.</p> <p data-bbox="252 2022 1393 2049">Daniel Broadhead, Berkeley Speakers and Area 9 Director objected to the adjournment.</p>

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	<p>The District Parliamentarian raised a point of order to further explain the need to adjourn the meeting.</p> <p>Daniel Broadhead withdrew his objection, and also withdrew his intention to raise a motion related to PR.</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 on Saturday 7th of November.</p>
	<p>The meeting was reconvened at 10:27 on Sunday 8th November.</p> <p>The District Director welcomed council members back and reminded them of the purpose of the council, the protocol we follow and the values we live by.</p> <p>The Parliamentarian, David Sutcliffe selected volunteer tellers and counters, who were appointed by unanimous consent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tia Atanasova – Kings Speakers - Graeme Phillips – Experience French <p>The Parliamentarian confirmed that the meeting was quorate, and that there were 91 clubs represented, which exceeded the quorum requirement of 88 clubs.</p>
	<p>The Administration Manager reminded the council of the point that the meeting had reached in respect of Motion 4.</p> <p>The District Director then put the motion to a voice vote.</p> <p>There were no votes in favour and a loud vote against.</p> <p>The District Director confirmed that the motion was defeated.</p> <p>The District Director then asked if the proposer of Motion 5, George Chiesa, was in the room. He was not. The District Director then explained to council that the proposer had confirmed at the previous evenings’ DEC meeting that he would be withdrawing this motion.</p> <p>The District Director went on to state that without objection, she would change the word “policy” to “procedure” in district documents P01 and P02 and any future documents that define any local rules as to how our district operates. There were no objections.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Confirmation of Appointed District Officers</p> <p>The District Director confirmed that the appointed officers were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration Manager – Helena Brewer • Finance Manager – Adnan Lateef • Finance Manager – Meg Heyworth • Public Relations Manager – Sue Fish • Parliamentarian – David Sutcliffe, DTM

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	<p>The Council agreed to the appointment of these officers by unanimous consent</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Confirmation of Vacancies Filled by District Executive Committee</p> <p>The District Director explained that whilst our Division Directors and Area Directors are elected by area councils in District 91, a vacancy in any elective office shall be filled by the district executive committee based upon the recommendation of the District Director.</p> <p>The following vacancies have been filled since the May meeting of the District 91 council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Division K Director – Annushia Goede • Area 8 Director – Laurent Nicourt • Area 9 Director – Daniel Broadhead • Area 42 Director – Laura McHarrie • Area 58 Director – Peter Varholak • Area 59 Director – Robert Wyatt <p>The Council agreed to the appointment of these officers by unanimous consent</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>District Success Plan Status and District Leadership Team Officer Reports (IPDG, PR Manager, Club Growth Director, Program Quality Director, District Director) and Division Directors</p> <p>Reports were delivered by Division Directors and all members of the District Leadership Team, with control of the meeting being yielded by the District Director to the Program Quality Director so that she could deliver her reports. All reports were also shown in the council pack.</p> <p>Two minutes silence were observed as part of Remembrance Sunday.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Toastmasters International Update</p> <p>The District Director delivered an update on Toastmasters International strategy, in line with what was described in the council pack.</p> <p>The Program Quality Director yielded control of the meeting back to the District Director.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Future Conferences Update & Bids</p> <p>The Program Quality Director, Vanessa King, provided an update on Conference Planning</p> <p>District Director called for bids to deliver future conferences, or to investigate delivery;</p> <p>Wole Ososami, Speakers of Croydon, Division K, proposed to deliver the May 2016 conference, which was accepted without objection by the council.</p> <p>Richard Murray, Canterbury Communicators, Division H, explained that there were three possible options under investigation for Autumn 2016, and received approval to continue investigations from council.</p>

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	Deborah Knight, Guildford Speakers, from Division H proposed investigating running a May 2017 conference, which was accepted without objection.
13.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>The Finance Manager Adnan Lateef raised a point of order to provide additional information about the budget, and then responded to questions from the following council members;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Florian Bay – St Paul’s Speakers, Area 33 Director - Dudley Flynn – Broadgate, Area 47 Director - Samantha Sherwood – ACCA members Breakfast Club - George Chiesa – Excalibur Speakers, Area 56 Director <p>The Council approved the budget by unanimous consent.</p> <p>Past District Governor Hilary Briggs raised a point of order to provide information to council on the appointment, management and successful performance of the external public relations consultant.</p> <p>Steve Catchick of Wokingham Speakers, raised a point of order relating to issues with registering with conference using the Easy Speak problems with booking. The District Director explained that a different approach would be used for the next conference.</p> <p>George Chiesa – Excalibur Speakers, Area 56 Director, requested that more time would be allocated for council meeting so that there would be more time for discussion of motions. The District Director explained that that would be considered for future council meetings.</p>
14.	<p>Close</p> <p>The District Director adjourned the council meeting @ 11:25 and confirmed that the next meeting would be held on the 7th May in London.</p>