



RYE & DISTRICT BONFIRE SOCIETY

Minutes for the Extra Ordinary Bonfire Planning Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd October 2014
at the Queen's Head , Landgate, Rye, by kind permission.

Present :

Francis Warren, Sandra Warren, Paul Carey, Charlie Carey, Malcolm Mayhew, Patsy Hughes, Simon Bowler, Rita Kirk, Dave Barnes, Bob Booth, Margaret O'Neill, Brian Gasson, Ian Foster, James Foster, Dave Lawton, Tim Watson, Wayne Wadey, Brian Cutting, John Izod

1. Apologies for absence

Neale East, Marion Buss, Christine Chivers, Peter Chandler, Richard Todd, Pete Ridgers, Carol Arnold, Kevin Mayhew, Ashley Booth, Chris Beaven, Bob Mitchell, Laurence Chivers, Francis Rowe, Emma Moon, Hannah Moon, Charlotte Moon, Jimper Sutton, Joan Ridgers, Irene Cuthbert, Troy Beales, Charlie and Denise Saxby, Adrian Pettitt, Liz Mitchell, Ruth Palmer, Willie Wicking, Malcolm Cheese, Jackie Rowe, Andy Tollett, Margaret Stoodley, Dave Wood,

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th October were signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

Ian had been contacted by a group called Rabble who wished to join the procession on 8th November. Rita confirmed that they had not been invited as they were not on the BONCO list of Sussex Bonfire Societies.

Action: Rita to investigate the background of the group and come back to the meeting before sending any invitation to them.

4. Correspondence

Rita had received e-mails from Ruth, the secretary of Robertsbridge confirming that the Centurions would be happy to handle the charring down again this year. Charlie confirmed that she would speak to them and place them third in the parade as usual.

Rita reported that Fishbone Ash had confirmed that they were in possession of Public Liability Insurance. They had therefore been sent an official invitation to Bonfire on 8th November and been allotted a suitable place in the parade by Charlie.

Neale had received an e-mail from Tom Darby, a researcher for BBC Inside Out South East asking for background research for a programme about firework safety.

Action: Rita to contact Tom Darby to the effect that we are all heavily involved in the organization of Sussex Bonfire celebrations at the moment and will try to contact him again when we have more time.

Rita read out an e-mail from Sue Homan-Williams, Secretary of BONCO advising that Anti Fracking Groups were reported as trying to infiltrate Sussex Bonfire Societies. SBC advise us to refuse their requests, we are not a political group.

Rita reported that Hawkhurst had accepted the invitation to attend Rye Bonfire but no details of road closures and therefore transport pick up times were yet available for their event on 22nd November.

Action: details for Hawkhurst 22nd November– road closures, parade times, transport pick-up times etc. still outstanding – Rita to obtain details.

5. Membership

One renewal, Jo Kirkham. Rita handed money and details to Dave.

6. Safety Issues

Risk Assessment and safety distances for falling debris.

Ian reported that he had provided this information to the Rother Safety Officer with all the details for the debris fall out zone from fireworks discharged across the River from the bonfire site. We are therefore in a position to release the Risk Assessment.

Action: Simon to release Risk Assessment to Inspire.

Dragon

Discussion took place with regard to refurbishment work undertaken recently on the Dragon by Graham Fellows, Brian Cutting and Team. This involved the safety of operation and making sure that the flame could not be operated with the head of the Dragon down. Brian Cutting detailed the work that was being carried out including strengthening the floor on the front and the operation of the Dragon's jaws. There were also discussions regarding the pulling of the Dragon by tractor and provision of pallet work on Friday 7th.

Action: Francis confirmed that he would make the necessary contacts.

7. Updates from Captains

Dragon – Brian Cutting

Work in progress, report as above

Burning Boat - Dave Lawton

Francis reported that a tyre needed pumping up –

Action: Dave to arrange a meeting date with Francis in order to check what may be outstanding besides the tyre – such as painting etc.

Parking of Dragon and Burning Boat 8th November

Action taken by Paul last meeting to organize with Russell Drew to park the vehicles in his yard. Paul reported that although he did not have an opportunity to speak to Russell directly, his men confirmed that all were keen to help including Russell.

Torch Wagon – Paul Carey

Despite Paul's best efforts, arrangements with Jempson's Foreman still to be firmed up although it was confirmed that Pete from Hastings would once again take charge of the Torch Wagon.

Action: Patsy offered to confirm our use of Jempson's Wagon with the Foreman.

However, confirmed by Paul that Ralph at the Pipes would allow the Torch Wagon and Barrel to be placed outside his pub once again.

The Salts - Entrance to Bonfire Site and Lighting – Paul Carey

Discussion regarding the deep muddy ruts at the entrance to the Salts (already highlighted to RDC one year ago) and the entrance to this area being used as private parking.

Action: Paul to address the situation by contacting Rother District Council – Lisa Hayward Bartlett.

The lighting of the site from the Bowling Green instead of the Public Toilet roof (now unsafe).

Action: Paul confirmed that he would try again to get some answers from Rother.

Chairing Down – Willie Wicking

Although not at the meeting, Willie confirmed later that he had contacted Jutta and she was agreeable to our request that the chair be placed in her garden prior to chairing down.

Action: Brian to meet with Jutta to arrange fireworks to be ignited in her garden as in past years.

Catering at Bonfire Build

Confirmed as being in place with Eileen to cook for us as usual. Brian confirmed that he would provide Eileen with a pop-up gazebo to shelter diners if it rained.

Bucketteers

Patsy confirmed that an order for 30 new buckets was in place at a cost of £120. Francis confirmed that he had the badges ready for bucketteers. However, a collection point for the buckets was still outstanding.

Action: Patsy to arrange collection point and overnight storage of collection buckets

The Parade -

Dende & Tillingham Green Band

At our previous meeting it was noted that we did not have a band to fill the spot immediately behind the banner carriers. In the absence of Ruth who was on holiday, Sandra offered to call Carol Arnold to ascertain if Dende were available to take up the front of parade position.

Ian confirmed that the Tilling Green Band, formerly suggested as an alternative band, were no longer in existence.

Action: Sandra to contact Carol Arnold on our behalf.

Scouts Banner

Complaints at the last meeting regarding one of the Walking Groups holding a huge banner above their heads, dangerously near the torches of the marchers behind them was addressed by James who confirmed that he had spoken to the Scouts whose banner for this year would be carried at waist height only.

Road obstructions and dangers to the Parade Route

Ian discussed the dangers caused by the scaffolding around the Martello Book Shop and confirmed that the Police were aware of our misgivings related to this situation. However Ian had received confirmation that scaffolding opposite the Ironmongers related to a job that would be completed by 8th November. Cinque Port Street road closure of the A268 was also confirmed by Ian as not being a problem to us by 8th November.

8. Any Other Business

Radios

Paul confirmed that radios would be allocated by him to Marshalls at 6.30pm at the meeting point outside the Community Centre on 8th November and not from Ian's Shop, Adams' the Printers. However, high visibility yellow jackets could be collected from Ian's shop.

Marshalls

Paul called for as many people to marshal as possible. Francis confirmed that Nobby would be with us as well as Dave the Fish and Henry Stace would be at Rye with the Fire Carts. Margaret confirmed that with a friend she would marshal the usual corners. Simon confirmed that he now had a full list of the Inspire marshals. Simon and Charlie confirmed that they would be at the next meeting with a list of 2013 mobile phone numbers for marshals and would call for any updates from those present.

Boom Barrels

Confirmed by Ian that no boom barrels would be allowed in the parade this year. However, there would be a cracker cage in the parade and in the burning boat.

Action Agenda Note: Boom Barrels and allowing them in the parade to be discussed in the New Year.

Glow Bands Sellers

Ian confirmed that a one day trading license had been applied for in the Rye Bonfire name and Mr Mitchell would be dealing with the Glow Band Sellers as usual.

Bonfire Programmes

Ian reported that programmes were nearly completed, some copy from advertisers still being outstanding.

Pyrotechnics

Ian confirmed that the pyro's had arrived and called for the pyro team to come together to prepare them.

Signage

Road signs to be picked up from Ian's shop and distributed on all main roads into Rye by Sunday lunch time. To be undertaken by Paul and Charlie.

Torches

Malcolm reported that a further torch dipping was required. Dave Barnes and Tim offered to assist on Sunday.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Date & Time of the next Extra Ordinary Bonfire Planning Meeting– in just 2 weeks time on Monday 3rd November 8.00pm

at the Queen's Head Pub, Landgate – Back Meeting Room

NB This meeting will focus on last minute/outstanding arrangements for Rye Bonfire 8th Nov

.....Chairman

.....Date