



RYE & DISTRICT BONFIRE SOCIETY

Minutes for the meeting held on Wednesday 8th October 2014
at the Queen's Head , Landgate, Rye, by kind permission.

Present :

Francis Warren, Sandra Warren, Paul Carey, Charlie Carey, Malcolm Mayhew, Kevin Mayhew, Simon Bowler, Malcolm Cheese, Rita Kirk, Jackie Rowe, Dave Barnes, Neale East, Bob Booth, Andy Tollett, Margaret Stoodley, Margaret O'Neill, Brian Gasson, Ian Foster, James Foster, Dave Lawton, Dave Wood, Tim Watson, Ruth Palmer, Wayne Wadey, Natalie Wadey, Willie Wicking

1. Apologies for absence

Marion Buss, Christine Chivers, Patsy Hughes Rachel Booth, Peter Chandler, Richard Todd, Pete Ridgers, Carol Arnold, 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, Brian Cutting.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th September were signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

Senlac Meeting –Mark from Staplecross had mentioned to Neale a shortage of pallets for Staplecross – Neale asked for contact details. Suggested that Neale should liaise with Simon re the issue of pallets.

4. Correspondence

Rita read out safety advice received from Sussex BONCO regarding awareness of inappropriate presence of dogs or other animals in or near bonfire celebrations and parades.

Rita also listed invitations received from other Sussex Bonfire Societies and then discussed pick up times for the Community Transport mini-bus which would pick up from Rye Station at times to be published.

Action: - Rita to prepare a list for Neale to publish and circulate to all members of pick up times

11th October, Ninfield – pick up time 5.30 at Rye Station

Action – Rita to e-mail details of road closures to Ian who will be driving the coach

18th October – Hastings – pick up time 5.00pm Rye Station – new route of parade discussed – details previously copied to Ian, Patsy and Willie.

25th October – Staplecross, no road closure details etc received but assumed these would be as in previous years therefore pick up time 5.45 at Rye Station.

1st November – Battel – pick up time 5.00pm Rye Station

Action – Rita to e-mail road closure details re Battel to Ian, Patsy and Willie

5th November, Robin Hood, Icklesham – invitation received, plus details of Phil Seymour who will replace Kevin Wall who is standing down from managing the society after 9 years.

5th November, Lewes, road closures discussed. Wayne informed us that outer limits/smaller roads will be closed by emergency services from 4.00pm and main roads 5.00pm until approximately 11.00pm

15th November, Robertsbridge – pick up time 5.00pm Rye Station

Action: details for Hawkhurst 22nd November and Fletching 25th October – road closures, parade times etc. still outstanding – Rita to obtain details.

5. Treasurer's Report

Ian circulated copies of the Profit and Loss account 1st February – 8th October 2014 which he had prepared. Ian then went through the items in detail.

Total fund raising amounted to £7,516 which included Auction of Promises £4,336, Boot Sale £403, Clay Shoot £1,094 (less expenses), Quiz nights to date £958 and table sales £724.

The total income was increased to £8,481 with the addition of gifts and donations £208 (including £100 from Mr Jessop), membership dues £486, static collection tins £199 (placed in The Crown, Gibbons Mannington & Phipps and Adams the Printers)

Total expenses included Clay Pigeon Shoot £465 (clays and cartridges) making an overall profit on the Clay Pigeon Shoot Day of circa £700, Insurance £2,374, Pyrotechnics to date £888, torches (torch sticks etc) £61 .

The total expenses amounted to £4,184 leaving a profit for the year to date of £4,296.65.

Simon congratulated Ian on his successful negotiations with our Insurance brokers which kept our insurance premium down to a much lower level than other societies.

6. Membership

Dave reported no new members other than Brian Smith for whom nothing was known. Wayne Wadey said that he knew him well and could vouch for him. Brian Smith was therefore accepted as a member.

Dave gave Ian a figure of 178 members to date.

At this point Ian asked that Directors take their Passports into Gibbons Mannington & Phipps, a new requirement by law to prevent money laundering.

Action-Andy Tollett, Paul Carey, Francis Warren, Ian Foster

7. Safety Issues

SAG Meeting Friday 3rd October

Ian reported on the SAG meeting 3rd October and confirmed that all the paperwork had gone through.

However, he was unable to put in the documents for the Dragon or the Burning Boat, therefore Ian asked Willie to kindly produce the figures for him.

Action: Willie to send Ian a new structure table for the Fire Brigade.

Ian also reported that the gas certificate was outstanding for the Burning Boat and Dragon

Action: Dave confirmed that Roger Vine would provide this for us.

At this point Francis gave us a quick update to say that they are working on the Dragon at the moment.

Paul had reported receiving a request from a Lisa Hayward Barlett of Rother for a copy of our Insurance Certificate. It was explained that our SLA was in place and fine but if we required any extra items such as more car park space then it would be Lisa whom we would contact. Lisa had requested that she attend future SAG meetings. This would probably be held in February 2015.

Action: Ian to phone Lisa Hayward Bartlett to confirm that the insurance certificate and other details are OK.

Paul confirmed that no further car park space was required. With regard to car park space required by St John's Ambulance, we would be standing by Rye Bonfire policy to expect St John's Ambulance to negotiate directly with Rother over car park access. Rye Bonfire Society's preferred location for this unit being Station Approach.

At this point Francis asked for clarification regarding the license for the glow bands. Ian confirmed that this was in place as a one day concession and this would be policed as usual by Mr Mitchell.

Ian confirmed that John Izod had completed the re-painting of the road closure signs, the signs for no parking were ready and various no parking cones were now available at Adams's.

8. Mark Bailey – Inspire

Mark thanked us for inviting Inspire back again to our event which he is looking forward to. He praised Rye Bonfire for being one of the best organized events that he attends with a full risk assessment. From their point of view it should be fairly straightforward.

Bob commented on the need for Inspire staff to have appropriate footwear as conditions could be very muddy underfoot on the fire site as was the experience last year. This prompted suggestions as to ways of mitigating the situation which should have been rectified by Rother after various fairgrounds had used the Salts during the summer, the entrance gate area to the Salts still being a vast muddy lake.

Various suggestions as to ways in which we could level off the area ourselves was sought such as straw etc. Paul suggested going 'cap in hand' to Rod Chapman at Rye Wharf for some suitable material to make repairs

Action:-Paul to organise

9. Fund Raising

Quiz – Top of the Hill Sunday 5th October

Ruth confirmed raising £250 at the quiz. She reported that the venue was very successful and it was hoped that a further Quiz evening could be organized there at the end of January/February.

Christmas Bazarre 29th November St Marys Church

Ian reported that raffle tickets would be 'ready to go' for the Bazarre.

Bonfire Programmes

Ruth reported a figure of £3,000 in advertisements collected for the programme which contained interesting items such as a Jimper story, photograph of torch making and what was described as an 'atmospheric photograph' for the cover. Ruth made special mention of Foxwood MaClean the Estate Agents in Landgate who had advertised and were anxious to come along to one of our meetings and look at ways of helping us. Ruth asked for pictures of previous bonfires and other such items for inclusion in the programme .

Action: Ian, Willie and Neale offered to provide Ruth with suitable photos for the programme.

Neale's Sponsored Marsh Cycle Ride for Bonfire Boys

Neale confirmed that he had collected £221 so far from his sponsored Marsh Cycle ride for Rye Bonfire Boys

10. Public Relations

Neale reported on previous attempts at finding a local company to print T Shirts for us which were still unsuccessful. However, Ian reported that he now had a machine which would produce banners which could be used to advertise Rye Bonfire and this news was greeted warmly.

Charlie asked if anybody had any information on the whereabouts of the Bonfire flag made by Rita Cox which was used for several years but which seemed to have 'disappeared'. However, after discussion it was suggested that it could be in the cellar of Adams's. Further investigations to be carried out.

Neale had been looking at Gift Aid and ways to reclaim tax paid on fund raising as we are not classified as a charity at the moment. This was discussed along with an organization called Local Giving which would cost £70 per year but would need a designated person to administer it. Wayne also offered advice.

It was decided that more investigation was required before any decision was made and Ian would speak to Gibbons Mannington & Phipps our accountants to see what advice they could offer.

11. Any Other Business

Bands in the Parade

Ian reported that at present we did not have a band to lead the parade. Discussions took place with regard to moving Section 5 Drummers up to the head of the parade to fill this function but this was objected to as Rye, the host Society, should head the parade but the problem of lit torches was highlighted by Bob and the Health and Safety issues presented by sparks flying back onto the walking groups with their paper banners and signs. He pointed out that this was the reason that the decision had previously been made that walking groups were at the head of the parade. It was decided that Dende should be approached to lead the parade

Action – Ruth to get in touch with Irene as soon as possible to see if Dende would be available

It was suggested that a possible alternative was the Rye Academy marching band which had been trained by the Sambalanca leader and this marching band now led many local events.

Action – Willie offered to contact Flora in Sweet Williams (who is in charge of this group) to ask if they would be available to lead the parade at Rye Bonfire.

It was noted that Pipe bands would not be considered for the parade under any circumstances.

Parade Order

Ian requested an order of parade within 10 days

Action-Charlie to provide same

Neale complained that the Scouts, who were in the walking group, were holding a huge banner above their heads which was dangerously near the torches of the parade marching behind them.

Action-James to find out if the Scouts were entering a walking group this year and to request that any banner they carried should be at shoulder height only.

Torch Wagon

Paul reported that Jempson's were kindly lending us their torch wagon again, however, it was described as being 'on its last legs'.

Torches

Described as work in progress, Dave Barnes offered to go along and help the team.

Fire Carts

Reported as operational

Burning Boat

The three Dave's would be operating the boat on the night which will also contain the cracker barrel.

Parking for the Burning Boat, Dragon and Torch Wagon

Action-Paul to contact Russell Drew to request use of his yard.

Palletts

Ruth reported that 20 palletts were available to us if required at PTS Plumbing Rye Harbour. Francis/Kevin confirmed that Tony Heritage would be contacted before the end of the month. Rod Chapman also to be contacted regarding the arrangements. Mark to be lined up with the stacker truck.

Action-Francis to contact Tony Heritage and Mark

Chairing Down

The chair was said to be in good order and presently resides in Ian's shop cellar.

Action-Willie to contact Juta to request that the chair be placed in her garden prior to chairing down.

Action-Brian to meet with Juta to arrange fireworks to be let off in her garden as in past years.

Torch Wagon & Barrel – The Pipes

Action- Paul to arrange with Ralph to allow for a torch wagon and barrel to be placed outside his Pub.

Robertsbridge Centurions

Services of Centurions offered for chairing down by Ruth, Robertsbridge Secretary by e-mail 11th October and accepted by Rita with many thanks.

Sale of Bonfire Programmes

These would be sold outside Jempson's/Budgeons on the morning of Thursday 6th November. Margaret asked for help starting from 9.30 – 10.00 on Market Day – Thursday 6th November.

Action- Please call Margaret on 01797 222684 if you are able to help sell programmes with her.

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

Date & Time of Next meeting – in just 2 weeks time on Wednesday 22nd October 8.00pm at the Queen's Head Pub, Landgate – Back Meeting Room

NB This will be an Extra Ordinary Meeting which will focus on arrangements for Rye Bonfire

.....Chairman

.....Date