



RYE & DISTRICT BONFIRE SOCIETY

Minutes for the meeting held on Wednesday 11th February 2015
at the Queen's Head , Landgate, Rye, by kind permission.

Present :

Francis Warren, Sandra Warren, Paul Carey, Charlie Carey, Malcolm Mayhew, Simon Bowler, Rita Kirk, Jackie Rowe, Dave Barnes, Bob Booth, Margaret O'Neill, Ian Foster, Dave Lawton, , Patsy Hughes. Neale East, Brian Gasson, James Foster, Vanessa Smith, Christine Chivers, Marion Buss, Joan Ridgers, Irene Cuthbert,

1. Apologies for absence

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, Troy Beales, Charlie and Denise Saxby, Adrian Pettitt, Liz Mitchell, Brian Cutting, Andy Tollett, Margaret Stoodley, Malcolm Cheese, Dave Wood, Tim Watson, Wayne Wadey, Ruth Palmer, Willie Wicking, Kevin Mayhew

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th January were signed with one amendment to item 8 e) *Outstanding Issues from Bonfire Marshals* – the casualty was dealt with by Emma Moon and not by Hannah Moon as recorded. The Minutes were subsequently signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

Item 3 Matters Arising 14th January; Paul reported that he had spoken to Jutta with regard to the lost Rye Fawkes cape and hat. Unfortunately Jutta had not found these items in her garden after Bonfire.

Rita recalled seeing a black bundle which could have been the cape with the collection buckets in The Queen's Head back room.

Action: Simon and Patsy agreed to enquire to ascertain whether the cape is now in Ian Potter's at the Queen's Head.

Action: Neale to put a note in Rye News re the missing items

4. Correspondence

Rita read out correspondence beginning with the sad news that John Hunnisett's Wife Carol, both long standing members of Pheonix Bonfire Society, had died on Thursday 29th January. Members may recall that John and Carol always appear on bonfire parades dressed as Henry VIII and his Queen. A card of condolence has been sent to John from Rye & District Bonfire Society.

(Subsequent to the meeting we have been told that Carol's funeral will be held on Thursday 26th February at 1.00pm at Langney Crematorium, Hide Hollow, Eastbourne BN23 8AE. Bonfire costume is optional).

Details were read out for Lewes Borough Barn Dance to be held at St Mary's Social Centre on 21st March. A further reminder had been received for the Sussex Bonfire Council Annual Dinner at The Horseshoe Inn, Herstmonceux on Saturday 25th April. (we have details for those interested in attending)..

Sussex BONCO had also sent details of change of Secretary and Treasurer at Hailsham and Secretary at South Street. (again, details available on request).

An invitation had been received from Littlehampton Bonfire Society to attend their celebrations on Saturday 31st October 2015. Unfortunately Rye will be attending Staplecross Bonfire on this date and it will therefore be necessary to decline their invitation.

Rita reported that the Mermaid Inn had once again kindly confirmed their Tudor Rooms as available to Rye Bonfire Society for the Auction of Promises on Thursday 14th May. Jim Hollands had also kindly agreed to be our auctioneer for the evening.

5. Treasurer's Report

Ian circulated copies of the Profit and Loss account 1- 11 February 2015. Ian explained that as this was the start of the new financial year, there was little to report. However further fundraising items had been identified from programme advertising, collection tins, plus food and drink vendors which, after expenses from out meeting expenditure and costs of new collection buckets, there was a profit for the year of £606.89.

6. Membership

New membership proposal forms were received from Arne Ahlstrom and Enid Ahlstrom. The new members were proposed by Neale East and seconded by Dave Lawton. Arne and Enid were accepted as members.

7. Safety Issues

Paul reported on the SAG meeting of all agencies which took place in Rye Fire Brigade Station at 2.30 pm on 30th January which Simon, Paul and Ian attended. Unfortunately no representatives attended from the Ambulance service, Fire Brigade or Southern Rail. However, Wealden District Council were represented along with Claudia Barbera from Rother District Council, Mark from the Police and a representative from British Transport Police.

Paul reported that the Police had said that there were a few traffic management issues and discussions took place around the way that changes could be made to the traffic flow based on what had just been learnt that we could have made Cyprus Place one way from Ferry Road.

Discussion also took place regarding St John's Ambulance being in place on the fire site. It had been suggested that we should negotiate directly with St John's Ambulance.

Ian reported on an e-mail received from the Highways Agency criticizing the way that road closures were managed. However, we had been supported by the Police who considered that it was well managed.

Simon added that a decision had been decided upon to change the road closures at Monkbretton Bridge and Paul confirmed that this would now be from the middle of the bridge.

It was also confirmed that we could now marshal the Landgate Arch more effectively because Inspire staff would aid and assist before moving down onto the fire site for their duties there. It was confirmed that Inspire were happy with this arrangement.

8. Fund Raising

Quiz – now postponed to late February or March at The Kings Head Inn (Top of the Hill). Joan and Irene explained that Ruth would be moving to Lydd on Sea and would not be as available to help us as she once was.

9. Not the Rye Bonfire Dinner 14th March, The Kings Head Inn, Rye Hill

Copies of the menu were once again made available for Not the Rye Bonfire Dinner (Top of the Hill, Rye) to be held on Saturday 14th March. Cheques to be made payable to Rye Bonfire Society with choice of menus to Rita – address, telephone number etc at bottom of the menu.

10. Sussex Bonfire Council Recognition Award

Rita explained that we had been approached by Pete Claridge (Sussex Bonfire Council and Robertsbridge) regarding our nominee for the SBC recognition award. It was decided after long discussion which involved one of our own members being considered, for the members present to in fact propose John Hunnisett due to his long service to Bonfire since the age of 4, who was still taking an active part at almost 90 years of age. Rita agreed to write to Pete Claridge confirming that Francis and Ian (who would be attending the next meeting) would be voting for John and to write to Reg Wood of Hastings to let him know of our decision.

11. Any Other Business

24th February Senlac Group Meeting in Robertsbridge

Paul offered to dirve any members who wished to attend and would be driving through Rye at approximately 7.15pm. Simon and Charlie expressed an interest in attending.

4th March Sussex Bonfire Meeting and AGM

Two delegates were allowed to attend from each Society but as this clashed with #Rye Town Meeting Ian and Francis agreed to attend.

The Salts Repair

Paul called on a working party to be arranged to rotavate, level and seed the bonfire site as necessary. Paul reminded members that during the SAG meeting we had assured Rother that we had this in hand.

Action - Francis to ring round and get a working party together.

Banners

Charlie enquired as to whether there were plans to acquire new banners. Ian confirmed that two new wooden banners were being made.

T Shirts

Neale explained the difficulties that he had encountered with finding a reliable supplier for these items and plastic banners

Action – . Ian confirmed that he would get items printed through Workwear if Neale could provide the design work,

Town Beacon, Udimore Road

Dave expressed concern that there should be clarification on the responsibility for maintenance and repairs of the Beacon which the Bonfire Boys had always been expected to light to commemorate special occasions such as the millennium. This Beacon was part of the illumination of Beacons all along the coast along with Lydd and Hythe on such occasions. Discussions took place on the ownership of the land on which the Beacon stood and it's present state of repair. It was agreed by all that as it was originally presented to the Town then it was reasonable to suggest that it should be the Town taking responsibility for it.

Action – Rita to prepare a letter to the Town Clerk of Rye expressing our concern regarding it's precarious material state and reminding them of their responsibilities for its maintenance.

Rye & District Bonfire Society AGM Wednesday 11th March

We were reminded by Francis that the next meeting would be the AGM and anybody who wished to stand down or put themselves forward for another post should come prepared for the next meeting.

It was suggested by Ian that James should be nominated for a new post as Social Secretary to take charge of areas such as organizing the bus and passengers for out meetings.

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

Date & Time of Next meeting – Rye Bonfire AGM - Wednesday 11th March, 8.00pm
at the Queen's Head Pub, Landgate – Back Meeting Room

.....Chairman

.....Date