



RYE & DISTRICT BONFIRE SOCIETY

Minutes of the extra ordinary meeting held on Wednesday 23 November 2016 at the Queen's Head, Landgate by kind permission.

Those Present:

Bob Booth, Neale East, Simon Bowler, David Lawton, Francis & Sandra Warren, Patsy Hughes, Margaret O'Neil, Rita Kirk, Brian Gasson, Paul Carey, Charlie Carey, Emma & Charlotte Moon, Paul Wolley, Liz Oliver, Kevin & Malcolm Mayhew, Jaquie Rowe,

1. Apologies for absence

Brian Cutting, Sandra, John & Seana Lanigan, Francis Rowe, Pete the Fence, James Foster, Natalie Wadey, Heidi Foster, Hanna Moon, Liz Beecham, Pipa Pooke, Dave Barnes, Joan Ridgers, Andy Tollett, Vanessa Smith, Peter Mackay, Margaret Stoodley, Elizabeth Mitchel, Irene Cuthbert, Carol Arnold, David Wood, Nicola Vernon, Eileen le Net, Alisha Wicking, John Kent, Una Sutton-Sherwin, Rosti Romanoff, Geoff Bennett & Sheila West, Clare Sutton, Tim Watson, Marion Buss, Robert & Caren Draper, Willie Wicking, Ian Foster, Ruth Palmer, Julian Cheese, Lawrence & Christine Chivers, Wayne Wadey.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were passed as a true record.

Proposed : Paul Carey Seconded : Simon Bowler

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the Agenda

4. Correspondence & Membership

- Email received asking if Rye Bonfire would be interested in taking part in a procession at the Goodwood Members Meeting in March. Agreed to carry forward to January.

- Email from Venus at Rother to thank Bonfire for speedy work in clearing the Salts after the event. Paul proposed thanks to the team who worked hard on Sunday, and the following Saturday to clear up. Well done all!
- Request received for help with marshals at Hawkhurst on 26 November, anybody interested please contact them direct.
- Email received from Martin Blincow to advise that St John Ambulance used the Cricket Pavilion as a base for treating inebriated young people. After some discussion it was agreed that this would be a matter between Rye Cricket Club and St John Ambulance and not for us to become involved with, any future arrangement between them. **Neale to write accordingly.**

5. Treasurer's report

None.

6. De-Brief and Issues arising from 2016 Rye Bonfire

Paul reported on the following:

- Generally the event a great success, despite the weather and lower than expected spectators the street collections were up on last year.
- Concerns raised about the amount of drunken youths from out of town arriving on the train. **Paul to raise issue with Southern Rail/Transport Police.**
- Issue with street vendors given apparent free reign; it was noted that Nicky Shaw (fairground operator) had made contact with Ian to offer to 'police' vendors next year. It was understood that 'Mitchells' had offered to address a BONCO meeting, this raises concerns over favouritism if they are accepted as the preferred street vendors by BONCO.
- It was noted that no serious casualties or arrests had been reported to us.
- There were issues with clearing Monk Bretton Bridge and the Police were tasked to assist, need to review procedures for the bridge for next year.
- Suspected drug dealing in the open in the area of Lucknow Place, need to raise issue with the Police. **Paul to action.**
- It was noted that the lost dog had been found! 😊
- Congratulation have been received by Rye residents on the standard of street cleaning after the event. **Neale to write to Rother.**
- Concerns raised over the early closure of the Crownfields toilets by the contractors, it had been arranged that we would ensure closure at 23:00, but they were all locked up by 22:30. **Neale to write and ask why this happened.**

- Charlie thanked Brian, Nobby, Ian, Emma, Bob and Jim for all their work on the parade, with a special 'Mention in Dispatches' to Charlotte!
- Bob raised a concern over the dragon being left behind by the front of the procession. This resulted in a gap developing which was being quickly filled by spectators. It was suggested that radio coms be provided between the Dragon team and Charlie so those leading the procession could be better paced.
- There were issues identified around operating the cracker cage, it was agreed to review and come up with a plan for next year. **Neale & Willie to discuss.**
- Patsy reported that the new signage at the top of Udimore Road worked very well relieving the pressure at Mason Road.
- The extra marshals posted at the end of Rope Walk also a success and should be repeated next year.
- It was suggested that barriers be in place at the end of the Deals and by SI to prevent vehicular access to the Strand from the A259.
- Need to firm up arrangement for getting the Dragon home after the event.

7. Any other business

- It was reported that a member had been seen dropping bangers in the fire cart at Rye and Robertsbridge. It was agreed that a formal written warning would be sent by the Chairman.
- It was noted that the next BONCO meeting would be on 07 December; Paul & Francis will attend.
- Apologies received from Charlie for the foreseeable future, she will however attend the AGM and Auction of Promises.
- Request received for help with marshals to help road closures for the Rye Christmas Festival on 10 December, any help welcome, please contact Margaret.
- Brian Gasson reported that the annual Hastings Carol Service would be held on 15 December at St Clements Church at 19:00. Venue and time to meet to be confirmed. Patsy not able to drive the bus, TBC if Ian can do.
- Patsy went through the roll of honour for the best collectors; a vote of thanks was recorded to Patsy and all her 50 collectors, along with those who volunteered the count on Sunday.
- A vote of thanks was also passed to the program sellers!

8. Date & time of next meeting

Wednesday 14 December

Social with finger buffet and hopefully DVD of 2016

at 8pm in the Queen's Head (booked).