



THE RYE & DISTRICT BONFIRE SOCIETY

**Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 08 March 2017 at the Queen's Head,
Landgate by kind permission.**

Those Present:

Bob Booth, Paul Woolley, Liz Oliver, Sandra Warren, Francis Warren, Pete & Nancy Claridge, Peter Mackay, Willie Wicking, Alisha Wicking, Brian Gasson, David Lawton, Julian Cheese, Dave Barnes, Marion Buss, Andy Tollett, Ray Palmer, Joan Ridgers, Patsy Hughes, Ruth Palmer, Charlotte, Hannah & Emma Moon, Simon Bowler, Margaret O'Neill, Lorraine Sayers, Caren & Robert Draper, Rita Kirk, Paul Carey, Neale East, Ian Foster, Charlie Carey, Carol Arnold, Malcolm Mayhew, Sandra & John Lanigan, Kevin Mayhew. (38)

1. Apologies for Absence

Tim Watson Esq, Eileen le Net, Richard & Felicity Todd, Seana Lanigan, James Foster, Jacquie Rowe, Pete the Fence & Pete the Pane, Vanessa Smith, Heidi Foster, Brian Cutting, Christine & Lawrence Chivers, Irene Cuthbert.

2. To read and agree the Minutes of the last AGM 09 March 2016

Copies of the Minutes were circulated and agreed by all those present.

Proposed : Simon Bowler

Seconded : Paul Carey

3. Report from the Chairman

Francis thanked all members of the Society for all their hard work and support over the year, a fabulous collection, and good weather!

A vote of thanks was passed to Rita for all her hard work in organizing such a successful 'Not the Bonfire Dinner Night' night at the Wipers.

4. Report from the Treasurer to read and accept the accounts for the year.

Ian Foster presented the accounts (copies available to members on request) which were passed for approval by all present.

It was noted that income from the social was still to be included.

Ian proposed that the company hired to run the firework display be asked to provide their own insurance cover for their staff.

The accounts were approved by all present, and vote of thanks carried to Ian for all his hard work.

Proposed : Paul Carey
Seconded : Julian Cheese

Ian reported that Tollett's had again generously donated £250.00 for the torches.

5. To propose a vote of thanks to the Hon. Auditors: Mssrs. GMP

A vote of thanks was recorded for Mssrs Gibbons, Mannington and Phipps for all their work in keeping the accounts in order. It was noted that their contribution saves the Society around £8-900 each year.

Proposed : Bob Booth
Seconded : Neale East

6. To elect Company Directors and Company Secretary of The Rye & District Bonfire Society Ltd.

Directors Paul Carey
Ian Foster
Andy Tollett

Company Secretary Ian Foster

Proposed : Ian Foster
Seconded : Simon Bowler

7. To elect Society Officers :

President Christine Chivers
Vice Presidents Marion Buss, Ken Bishop, Prince Rostislav Romanov
Chairman Francis Warren
Vice Chairman Bob Booth
Secretary Neale East
Treasurer Ian Foster
Membership Secretary Neale East
Out-Meeting Secretary James Foster

Proposed : Charlie Carey

Seconded : Dave Barnes

8. To elect an Honorary Auditor for the ensuing year :

Messrs Gibbons Mannington & Phipps

Proposed : Paul Carey
Seconded : Malcolm Mayhew

9. To appoint departmental 'Captains' for the ensuing year :

Captain of the Marshals &
Safety Coordinator - Paul Carey/Wayne Wadey
Parade Captain - Charlie Carey
Site Captain - Simon Bowler
Torch Captain - Kevin Mayhew
Bonfire Captain - Adrian Pettitt
Pyrotechnic Captain - David Hayes
Fundraising Captain - Ruth Palmer
Programme Captain - Margaret O'Neill/Sandra Warren
Effigy Captain - Willie Wicking
Firecart Captain - Malcolm Mayhew
Collectors Captain - Patsy Hughes
Captain of the Burning Boat - Dave Lawton
Communications Captain - Neale East

Proposed : Brian Gasson
Seconded : Bob Booth

10. To nominate and approve Honorary Membership for the year 2017/18

Eileen Le Net & Claire Dyer for their hard work on site keeping everybody fed and watered on the Salts.

Mark Bridgeland – for his outstanding work with his fork lift vehicle in building the pallet bonfire.

Max Izod & Family.

Jimmy Hollands – for his support and auctioneering for the Auction of Promises.

Helen Gray – for her untiring work in presenting our fund-raising quizzes.

Tony Heritage – for providing and driving his tractor and trailer to get all the pallets to the bonfire.

Proposed : Malcolm Mayhew
Seconded : Ruth Palmer

11. Any Other Business (for discussion only)

Secretary's Report

Email received from Phoenix Medical offering their services, agreed to pursue, Neale to write accordingly.

Invite received from Reg Wood of Hastings Bonfire inviting all to their dinner on Saturday 11 March at Italian Way, Hastings.

Invite received from Littlehampton Bonfire Society to their event on 28 October, Neale to write and decline as clashes with Staplecross.

Membership

Members were reminded that subscriptions are now due for 2017/18 and a number of members duly paid their dues.

New Member - Lorraine Sayers

Proposed - Margaret O'Neill

Seconded - Neale East

Fundraising

Patsy & Brian both attended the Horse Racing Night hosted by Northiam Bonfire, Patsy has all the details and will convey to Paul with a view to Rye holding a similar event.

Dave Barnes reported that the Clay Shoot has been scheduled for Sunday 16 July, further details to follow once confirmed.

BONCO

Francis & Paul attended the BONCO AGM; Paul gave an update on the following:

- New member of BONCO, Newhaven Bonfire Society (Neale has contact details).
- Follow up to the Staplecross incident are ongoing with various legal and insurance investigations underway. It was noted that a number of Rye Members have given witness statements to Una Kane, Environmental Health - Food and Safety Manager, at Rother District Council.
- It was reported that Fletching had published both verses of the Bonfire Prayer in their program which resulted in a complaint from a member of the public who took offence and was seeking a public apology. It was understood that as there was no 'intent to cause offence', legally Fletching were in the clear. However, they would be

seeking formal legal advice from a QC at a cost of c£600/£800. As this could have implications on the freedom of Societies to publish across Sussex BONCO have offered their financial support if needed.

- Paul reported that Battle had accepted the invitation to participate in the Member's Day at Goodwood on 18 March (Rye declined) he understood that 20 members would be taking part, Battle had quoted £1,000 for a coach, and £500 for trailer to take equipment and torches (in was noted that the organisers agreed to pay within 90 days after the event). Paul asked for de-brief from Battle after the event to see if Rye might participate in some of the future events held during the year.
- Paul reported that there was some discussion over the ongoing issue of street trading (glow stick sellers), it was understood that Brad Mitchel has offered to assist control rogue vendors from outside the area and requested societies liaise with him over their requirements.

Any Other Business

- Francis reported that he had spoken to the new Chair of Cliffe Bonfire Society; after some discussion it was agreed to invite Cliffe to our event for a probationary period on the understanding that those members attending abide by The Rye Bonfire Society Code of Conduct. Any breach of these terms and conditions (which all visiting Societies are asked to accept) could put the Rye event in jeopardy and would not be tolerated. Neale to write accordingly.
- Ian remarked that invitations to local charities and groups for donations had been sent out, a number of groups have responded including Girl Guides, Sea Cadets, Peasmarch Recreation Playspace, Rye Brownies. A full list to follow.
- Pete Claridge asked members for any nominations for Certificates to be presented by BONCO for outstanding contributions to Bonfire in Sussex.
- Pete reported that he had approached the supplier of last year's hessian with a view to ordering 4 pallets at £120 per pallet (inc delivery). This would be 1 for Robertsbridge, and 3 for Rye. It was noted that each pallet would be enough for approx. 1000 torches. Pete is awaiting reply to email from suppliers and will report back.
- Arrangements for processing the mayoral party on Mayor Making on May Bank Holiday to be confirmed nearer the time; Ruth will liaise with Jessica and report back at the April meeting.
- Ian confirmed that he has the quote from Inspire and would take this forward with them.

- Ian confirmed that members of the drumming group would be covered under Rye Bonfire's existing cover, **provided that they were fully paid up members.**
- Paul reported that the next SENLAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 22 March at Robertsbridge Club, please liaise with Paul if you need a lift.
- It was agreed to arrange a working party to plant grass seeds on the fire site, Francis will coordinate.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned for refreshments and further discussions at 21:20.