

Minutes of the 42nd Annual Assembly of the Ripponden Parish held in St Bartholomew's Church Community Centre on Tuesday 9th June 2015 at 7.30pm.

Present: - Cllr McCarley, outgoing Chairman of the Ripponden Parish Council, chaired the meeting. Cllr Hunt, Cllr Moran, Cllr Naylor, Cllr Potts, Cllr Robins, Cllr Watson, V Aaron, G Atherton, Rev Ball, M Bottomley, W Burchill, P Burton, R Burton, C Dunwell, L Ellis, S Firth, J Fisher, I Forbes, R Hart, E Holmes, J Hotson, J Levy, D McCarley, D Ransley, A Riley, R Sparrow, B Sofield, A Teasdale

Apologies: - Cllr Carter, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Russell, Cllr J Smith, Cllr M Smith, H Barton (Calder Valley Search & Rescue), N Sutcliffe (Stones Cricket Club), C Whiteley (Sowerby Division Trefoil Guild), Insp R Bairstow

1. To accept the minutes of the 41st Meeting held on Monday 3rd June 2014

9139 Resolved in a motion by Mr Sofield and seconded by Mr Burchill that the minutes are accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting held on Monday 3rd June 2014.

2. To receive reports from Trustees of Soyland Charities

Mr Burchill reported that that there had been one application for a grant had been received over the last twelve months. The Trustees continue to look for alternative ways to publicise the Charities to the Soyland community.

3. To receive reports from Community Groups and Committees within the Parish

St Bartholomew Church

Churchwarden, Mr William Burchill reported that last August the church welcomed the new vicar – Reverend Chris Ball to the community. It had been a busy year with the Church getting involved with the Tour de France, Rushbearing and the Children's Carol Service which formed part of the Ripponden Xmas Fest event. It is hoped that this event can be organised for the 26th November this year and if so the church will be arranging a sheep trail around the village. Work continues with the re-ordering of the west end of the church to incorporate toilets and a kitchen which will hopefully make the Church more suitable for services and other functions. The Church was unfortunately hit by the floods earlier in the year and became the focal point of community events for the Tour de Yorkshire due to the bad weather. The worship has been uplifted over the past year by Reverend Ball's new form of service and all are very welcome to attend.

3rd Ripponden Scouts

Chairman, Mr Paul Burton reported that the group continues to thrive and will be 40 years old this year. Each section of the group delivers a high standard of education and training using scouting methods and consists of 15 Beavers, 15 Cubs and 16 Scouts; the group continues to be very popular. This last year Jackie Levy has taken over from Phil Crossley as Scout Leader. There were 6 organised camps over the year, the main one being the Big Camp in Harrogate. The group also did displays for the Tour de France and Norland Scarecrow Festival as well as attending Remembrance Sunday and helping with gardening at Greenacres.

Barkisland Old People's Welfare Committee

Mrs Eileen Holmes reported on the activities of the committee and the support that it gives to the elderly of Barkisland which this year once again included the distribution of Christmas parcels and cards, birthday cards and a forthcoming trip. The Annual Tea is due to take place shortly in the Sutton Hall at Barkisland School and the Christmas party will be held at the Cricket Club. Mrs Holmes thanked the Parish Council for its continued support.

Barkisland Village Festival

The group has decided not to have another Festival this year since there isn't a lot of interest to revive it.

3. To receive reports from Community Groups and Committees within the Parish (continued)**Stones Methodist Church**

Mrs Linda Ellis reported that the community had a very active Church which continues to arrange a Lunch Club and Friday Get together. During the past year the Church organised two superb events for the Tour de France and Tour de Yorkshire. Forthcoming events are a concert on Saturday and at the end of the month the Church celebrates 200 years of the Sunday school.

Ripponden in Bloom

Mrs Bobbie Burton on behalf of Ripponden in Bloom reported that the group had been going for 9 years and continued to be responsible for the planting of many of the barrels and planters around the village. Sadly due to dwindling members the group has not been able to continue with its 100 club and will not be producing a calendar this year. On a positive note however, the group continues to meet every second Tuesday of the month at 10.00 am in Royd Lane car park. Mr Burton thanked the Parish Council for its brilliant grant which together with a grant from Calderdale Council enabled the group to replace all the old barrels and planters with new self-watering ones. In addition with a grant from First Bus the group has started its bluebells in the wood project.

The Jubilee Garden is looking particularly lovely and the group will be working at Mill Fold this week. The group continues with its own fundraising and had a very successful tombola at the recent Tour de Yorkshire event.

Barkisland in Bloom

Mr Brian Sofield on behalf of Barkisland in Bloom reported that the group has been in existence for 7 years and that the village is now looking lovely and well planted. Funding is primarily from local residents, grants from the Parish Council and school fetes. This year the group has spent a lot of time at 'The Cross', levelling the area, seeding and creating a small stone wall feature. A small wooden cross has now been erected and a Blessing service was held earlier in the year. The group got involved in the yellow planting for the Tour de France and painted several bikes yellow. They are currently going into Barkisland School to teach the children how to plant flowers and vegetables. The children are currently making posters to be displayed around the village concerning dog fouling. Barkisland in Bloom was delighted for the second year running at being awarded 'Outstanding' in the Neighbourhood category of the Yorkshire in Bloom competition and work has started for this year.

Ryburn United Seniors

The Chairman, Mr Dave Ransley reported that the club is looking into merging with the juniors to form one club to progress its ambitious plans over the next 5 years. There is to be a launch event at the Victoria Hall on 10th July where the clubs hope to share their plans for the clubhouse with the Community. Mr Ransley thanked the Parish Council for its continued support.

Ryburn United Juniors

Mr Ian Forbes advised the Meeting that it was the 20th anniversary of the club this year, which continues to grow. There are currently over 240 children, 23 teams ageing from 6 to 17 years of age. The club received a grant from Sports England for improvements to the grounds but the main issue that continues to be a problem is dog fouling. Mr Forbes thanked the Parish Council for its grant to set the youngest team up with a team strip and items of equipment.

Sowerby Bridge Trefoil Guild

Mrs June Hotson reported that sadly the group had recently lost one of its longstanding members, but continued to meet regularly and organise various outings. The group has had to give up looking after the garden at the Community Centre due to age and fitness.

Women's Institute

A representative reported that the group still meets at the Community Centre on the third Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm and over the past year has organised a variety of talks and visits. The group

3. To receive reports from Community Groups and Committees within the Parish (continued)

continues to fundraise and has been very successful with its baking and knitting. The Institute celebrates its centenary this year.

Calderdale Big Band

Mr Geoff Atherton on behalf of the band reported in addition to his other duties has now been appointed Band Manager. The band continues to play a variety of music for weddings and parties. They now have a new black and gold logo which will be used on all publicity. The band goes from strength to strength with members ranging from 14 to 70. They recently played at the Square Chapel in Halifax and at the 1940's weekend in Brighouse. Mr Atherton advised that he is now looking at setting up a junior band which will hopefully provide the senior band with players in the future.

Soyland in Bloom

Mrs Christine Dunwell on behalf of Soyland in Bloom reported that the group's main focus has been at the T-junction of Hob Lane and Lane Head Road planting daffodils and barrels. Over the past 3 years the group has planted lots of wild flowers but their future project was to replace these with more structured planting. The group has recently received a donation from the Pork Pie Society.

4. To discuss the Council's objectives and projects for 2015/16 put forward by the Parish Council

Cllr McCarley reviewed the achievements of the Parish Council for 2014/15 the highlights being the continued maintenance and improvement of Ebenezer Graveyard, the completion of the refurbishment of the village Milestone, the organising of four successful Community Markets, publication of a new cycle route map in time for the Tour de Yorkshire, organising a WW1 Centenary Commemoration service, the Tour de France visit to Ripponden, the development of a new Good Citizen Award, and significant investment in new Christmas lights.

Objectives and projects for the forthcoming year:

(i) Development of a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish

Cllr McCarley reported that the Parish Council had been successful in getting the Parish designated as a Neighbourhood area for the purpose of developing a Neighbourhood Plan. The Council is looking forward to working with the Community and Calderdale Council to progress this project over the forthcoming year.

(ii) Continue to develop local Community Markets

Cllr McCarley reported on the continued success of the Community Market and especially the December market. The Parish Council hopes to continue to hold quarterly Markets for 2015/16.

(iii) Traffic & parking issues

The Parish Council continues to actively pursue this objective with Calderdale Council and the Police. Continue representation on relevant outside bodies on behalf of the Parish

(iv) Develop a closer relationship with the West Yorkshire Police regarding crime and traffic issues

Cllr McCarley updated the meeting with the work done by the Parish Council over the past year, liaising with the police, especially with the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

(v) Refurbishment of the Mill Fold Play area

Cllr McCarley advised the meeting that the Parish Council wished to build on the work done by Calderdale Council and Ripponden Bowling Club and look into what could be done to improve the childrens play area and skateboard ramp.

4. To discuss the Council's objectives and projects for 2015/16 put forward by the Parish Council

(vi) Continue to progress the upgrading of sewage pipes in the Ryburn River

Cllr McCarley updated the Meeting on the on-going issues with sewage at Rishworth and the work that the Parish Council has done liaising with Yorkshire Water on behalf of residents.

(vii) Continue to organise community events such as the annual Good Citizens Award, Michaelmas Show, Remembrance Sunday and Garden Competition for the Parish

Cllr McCarley reviewed the community events for 2014/15 and announced to the meeting that the winner of the Good Citizens award for 2015 had been Mrs Diane Hall. He also provided details of how a resident could nominate a resident for the forthcoming year.

(viii) Continue the development and improvement of the Council's website and the use of Social Media

Cllr McCarley reported that the Parish Council as well as having an up to date website now had Facebook page that was increasing in popularity with residents as a means of finding out about forthcoming local events. Further development will continue over the forthcoming year.

(ix) Continue to work with local community and Community groups to enhance and improve the local area

Cllr McCarley reported that the Parish Council had once again entered Ripponden into the Yorkshire in Bloom competition and was actively working with the 'In Bloom' groups to make the villages ready for the summer judging.

5. To consider plans for the parish put forward by residents

Mr Firth raised the issue of 'safe driving' and suggested that some of the pathways could be augmented into walking and cycling ways. He mentioned in particular the pathway from Slitheroe Bridge up to the Heathfield School. He also complimented the Parish Council on its recently published cycle route map, but advised that many of the roads used in the routes were not in good condition. He informed the meeting that that Calderdale Council was very good at repairing pot holes if residents reported them.

The Bus Timetable was mentioned by several residents in particular the fact that on a few services the time between buses was up to an hour and then two buses would service a bus stop within five minutes of each other. On the whole it was felt that Ripponden was reasonably serviced but would like a LED sign for the bus stop in the centre of the village to assist visitors.

Cllr Moran on behalf of a resident asked if anything could be done to encourage utilities to work together when scheduling road works, was there any mechanism for consultation with Calderdale Council. The Clerk advised that when a utility requested a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order, Calderdale Council had to permit it. Cllr Naylor advised about the pilot being undertaken by Bradford Council and it was hoped that this would be rolled out to other Councils.

Mr Burchill asked if the Parish Council minutes published on its website could be made darker, for some reason over the past few months they have become more difficult to read. Cllr McCarley advised that this would be looked into.

Mr Sofield reported that the wall on Saddleworth Road near the new wind turbine had been knocked down and wondered if the Parish Council could take the matter up for residents of Barkisland.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm