

Minutes of the 43rd Annual Assembly of the Ripponden Parish held in St Bartholomew's Church Community Centre on Tuesday 26th April 2016 at 7.30pm.

Present: - Cllr Johnson, Chairman of the Ripponden Parish Council, chaired the meeting.

Cllr Hunt, Cllr McCarley, Cllr Moran, Cllr Potts, Cllr Robins, Cllr Russell, T Armitage, W Burchill, P Burton, R Burton, S Cahill, S Casaru, J Denton, L Ellis, J Fisher, I Forbes, P Fraser, R Hart, E Holmes, J Hotson, J Levy, D McCarley, R M Naylor, T Nicholson, J Potts, B Price, S G Priestley, M Read, A Riley, K Riley, Sgt R Saxon, M Shelton, N Smith, D Taylor, A Teasdale, A R Thorne, J P Thwaite

Apologies: - Cllr Carter, Cllr A Naylor, Cllr J Smith, Cllr M Smith, Rev C Ball, T Bower (Guides), A Gloag (Rishworth School), J Rowley (WI), B Sofield, S Sofield,

1. To accept the minutes of the 42nd Meeting held on Tuesday 9th June 2015

9140 Resolved in a motion by Mr R Hart and seconded by Mrs J Hotson that the minutes are accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting held on Tuesday 9th June 2015.

2. To receive reports from Trustees of Soyland Charities

For those new to the Assembly, Cllr Russell outlined the work of the charity which considers applications for small grants to assist those within the parish. Cllr Russell reported that there had been two meeting over the past twelve months and no applications had been received for 2015/2016.

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

Neighbourhood Policing Team

Sgt Bob Saxon provided quarterly crime figures for the parish. He informed the meeting that Inspector Bairstow was currently acting up as Chief Inspector and a there was a new community officer, PC Jonathan Sutton. Sgt Saxon was asked whether it would be possible to have a 'Slow Down 30' light on Rochdale Road where the speed limit dropped from 60mph to 30mph. Sgt Saxon would make enquiries and report back to the Parish Council.

Stones Methodist Church

Mrs Linda Ellis reported that the community had a very active church which usually sees congregations of 50/60 on Sunday mornings. The church is now part of the Calderdale circuit stretching from Todmorden to Brighouse. The church supports Tradecraft and has a stall once a month in church. The church provides Xmas shoe boxes for Calderdale College students who are in less fortunate circumstances and runs a number of community events throughout the year.

Over the past year the Parish Council's Civic Sunday had been held at the church, there had been the Sunday school 200th Anniversary celebration and the Tour de Yorkshire had been another successful day.

St Bartholomew's Church

Churchwarden, Mr William Burchill reported that the church had welcomed the Parish Council at the Remembrance Sunday service.

The past 12 months had been busy with putting in a new kitchen and toilets. Mr Burchill informed the meeting that there would be a special service on 5th June when people would be welcome to look around the alterations.

Repairs to damage, caused by flooding after the nearby culvert burst, would be completed shortly.

3rd Ripponden Scouts

Chairman, Mr Paul Burton informed the meeting that the group continues to thrive with over 50 children being involved. Scout leaders had carried out the necessary training to take children away. Mr Burton reviewed some of the activities that the scouts had been involved with over the past year including camping at the Harrogate showground.

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

The group had recently had a display in the Parish Council office window celebrating 100 years of scouting.

The Beavers had been at a sleep over at Bradley Woods and the Cubs had been to the Dockland Scout Project in London.

Mr Burton informed the meeting that there was to be a pig race evening at the Victoria Hall to which everyone was invited.

Barkisland Old People's Welfare Committee

Mrs Eileen Holmes thanked the Parish Council for its continued financial support for the elderly of Barkisland. She informed the meeting that the committee had provided the annual tea, annual trip in August, Christmas gifts and Christmas party. A race night had been held last year and this had been a wonderful evening.

Barkisland Cricket Club

Mr Tony Nicholson, club Chairman and Mr Steve Casaru, past Chairman reported on the club's activities. Mr Nicholson informed the meeting that the club is a focal point for the village and has strong links with the church, the school and Barkisland Old People's Welfare Committee.

The club has over 100 children involved and works hard to keep them occupied and off the streets. The club works to keep the facilities fit for purpose and as a non-profit organisation funds raised are ploughed back into the club.

The club has had a couple of very successful seasons and Mr Nicholson reported that the club is particularly proud of the success of its young players.

Mr Casaru re-iterated Mr Nicholson's comments and the Parish Council was thanked for its financial support.

Ripponden in Bloom

Mr Peter Fraser reported on the group's activities and informed the meeting that it had received a grant from Calderdale Council's Ward Forum and an environmental grant from Ripponden Parish Council for a wildlife friendly garden at the back of Royd Lane carpark. The group was looking at providing bat and bird boxes to add to the diversity of the area. Plans are in progress to continue the snowdrop planting for a 'snowdrop trail' from the garage into the village and 750 crocuses had been planted on the grass banking at the library. The planters adjacent to central hall were to be replanted and perennial planting at the Jubilee Gardens was to be developed.

The 'Clean for the Queen' litter pick at junction 22 had been cancelled due to lying snow so the group had worked in Rishworth.

The group had received positive feedback for its 10 year anniversary leaflet, 'Over 10 years of Blooming'.

Mr Fraser thanked the Parish Council for its continued support and the volunteers making special mention of 2 Co-op employees who regularly help the group.

Ryburn United Seniors

Mr Ian Forbes, Chairman of the Ryburn United Juniors reported that the seniors have three teams and had had a very successful year with many players progressing from the junior teams.

Ryburn United Juniors

Mr Ian Forbes informed the assembly that the Juniors had had a very successful season. A girls' team had started during the past year and they had gone on to win the league. This year the club will have 3 girls' teams. Mr Forbes reported that the club had received a Ward Forum grant for the purchase of goal posts and he thanked the Parish Council for its grant toward the purchase of team strips.

Mr Forbes reported on the damage which had been caused by the Boxing Day floods and informed the meeting that a large quantity of sand and debris had been deposited on the field which now, had almost been cleared.

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

Mrs June Hotson informed the assembly that the guild had 3 new members and supports the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows.

Women's Institute

A representative for the group provided the group's year book for the meeting to look at. The assembly was informed that the group continues to grow and had recently welcomed 4 new members.

Mothers' Union

Mrs Joan Fisher informed the assembly that The Mothers' Union is a worldwide organisation and is celebrating its 140th anniversary during 2016.

Mrs Fisher reported on the group's activities informing the assembly that the group has 10 meetings a year and has 2 social evenings. The group meets at 7.30pm 1st Tuesday of each month in the Community Centre and all are welcome.

Ripponden Children's Day

Mr Mark Shelton outlined the activities of the children's day and informed the assembly that the event, usually attended by 200 school children, is organised and run by volunteers. The event is self-funding with funds spent, primarily, on prizes for the participants.

This year's event would take place at Mill Fold on 18th June and the organisers would welcome anyone who could help at the event.

Mr Shelton thanked the Parish Council for its grant for the insurance costs for the day.

Stones Cricket Club

Mr Nick Smith informed the assembly that the cricket club had invested £25000 in recent years to improve facilities and fund raising this year will be towards new toilet and kitchen facilities.

The club has more than 100 children and the club invests in summer coaches who need to be qualified. The club is very friendly and has a good social night every Friday.

A ladies team had been formed last year and, having played in a few friendlies, it was hoped that this year they would be able to join a local league.

Brownies

Tracy Armitage informed the meeting of some of the activities of the Rainbows and Guides including introducing the girls to the voting system and using a polling booth and a 'Clean for the Queen' litter pick along Rochdale Road and Dyson Lane. The Brownies had attended the Brighouse & Lightcliffe Model Railway and the Brooksbank cycle track. A fundraising event had raised over £110 for Action Medical Research. Activities were severely limited by the size of the venue and the number of girls currently involved.

Ms Armitage informed the assembly that there were a number of girls who were disappointed that there was to be no gala procession this year.

4. To discuss the Council's objectives and projects for 2016/17 put forward by the Parish Council

Cllr Johnson reviewed the achievements of the Parish Council for 2015/16 the highlights of which included partnership working with the Ryburn Valley History Society which had seen the refurbishment of the Ripponden stocks and working with local 'in bloom' groups to maintain and enhance the area including the Ebenezer graveyard. The Parish Council had organised the Christmas lights switch-on, the community markets, annual civic events including the annual ball which had raised over £2800 for the Chairman's charity, Overgate.

The Parish Council had continued to lobby West Yorkshire Police and Calderdale Council regarding speeding and other traffic issues and was particularly proud that Mr Mark Burns-Williamson the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner had attended a parish council meeting where Cllrs were able to raise concerns about policing in the parish.

4. To discuss the Council's objectives and projects for 2016/17 put forward by the Parish Council (continued)

(i) To progress the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish

Cllr Johnson reported that the Parish Council will progress the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish in conjunction with Calderdale Council's Local Plan. This had been somewhat delayed over 2015/16 due to pending Local Plan for Calderdale.

(ii) Traffic & parking issues

The Parish Council will continue to actively pursue traffic and parking issues with Calderdale Council and the Police.

(iii) 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 Johnson reported that over the past year the Parish Council had been successful in getting the Inspector to agree to meet a representative from the Council on a monthly basis.

(v) In partnership with Calderdale Council progress the refurbishment of the Mill Fold Play area

Cllr Johnson advised that Calderdale Council had on behalf of the Parish Council inspected the play area and given advice as to what needed to be refurbished or repaired. The Parish Council was now looking into ways of obtaining funding.

(vi) In partnership with Calderdale Council, actively pursue the implementation of CCTV in Parish hotspots

Cllr Johnson informed the meeting that this objective was in early stages and that Calderdale Council was assisting the Parish Council in producing a feasibility study to include recommended sites.

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

(viii) Continue to organise community events such as the annual Good Citizens Award, Michaelmas Show, Remembrance Sunday, Garden Competition and Christmas Lights 'switch on' for the Parish

Cllr Johnson reviewed the community events for 2015/16 and announced to the meeting that the winner of the Good Citizens award for 2015 had been Mr Mark Shelton. He also provided details of how a resident could nominate a resident for the forthcoming year.

(ix) Continue the development and improvement of the Council's website and the use of Social Media. In particular for 2016-17, the upgrade of its website

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

Cllr Johnson 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.

(xi) To work within the community and with medical professionals to become a Dementia Friendly parish

Cllr Potts provided a brief synopsis of what this entailed to the meeting and that the Parish Council had now developed a work plan to progress.

With regard to the refurbishment of Mill Fold play area, a resident mentioned the slippery surface of the skate park and asked if something could be done.

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

Mr Cahill mentioned a recent Facebook incident involving Cllr Holden and the potential of the Parish Council applying for an Asset Transfer for Ripponden library. The Chairman advised Mr Cahill that the matter was not appropriate to this meeting since it was a Parish meeting and not a Parish Council meeting.

Mr Denton raised the issue of inconsiderate parking in the disabled bays at the Co-operative store. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council had in the past written to the store manager to ask if the situation could be monitored and action taken against drivers using the bays when they had no disabled permit. He confirmed that the Parish Council would send a further letter in support of Mr Denton's concerns.

Mr Denton also asked if the Parish Council had an update regarding 20mph speed limits and would they affect Ripponden. The Chairman informed the meeting of Calderdale Council's 20mph roll out which had not as yet covered Ripponden. He also mentioned the Traffic Regulation Order for Ripponden being at consultation stage. The Clerk was asked to chase the matter up with Calderdale Council to get an update.

Mr Hart enquired as to whether the Parish Council could pursue the installation of a LED bus shelter for the centre of Ripponden. In the past this had been prohibited by the lack of fibre optics recent updates now made it possible.

Several residents raised the issue of traffic congestion at the top of Elland road and inconsiderate parking on Rochdale Road. One resident asked if the traffic light sequence could be improved to allow vehicles to access Halifax Road from Elland Road.

JLA employee parking was raised as a concern and the Chairman updated residents on Cllr Carters recent meeting with Directors of the company. He also advised that the new Traffic Regulation Order would also alleviate the problem.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm