

Minutes of the 44th Annual Assembly of the Ripponden Parish held in St Bartholomew's Church Community Centre on Thursday 30th March 2017 at 7.30pm.

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

Cllr Johnson, Cllr McCarley, Cllr Naylor, Cllr Potts, Cllr Robins, Cllr Russell, Cllr M Smith, T Armitage, Rev C Ball, W Burchill, Dr A Cunnington, J Denton, L Ellis, I Forbes, M Fraser, P Fraser, C Guttridge, D Hall, R Hart, E Holmes, D McCarley, M Midgley, R M Naylor, A Riley, K Riley, M Shelton, J Thwaite, A Vinters, A Wild, B Wild, I Wood

Apologies: - Cllr Carter, Cllr Moran, T Bower (Guides), partners of Brig Royd Doctors Surgery, V Galloway, B Winrow

1. To accept the minutes of the 43rd Meeting held on Tuesday 26th April 2016

9141 Resolved in a motion by Mr R Hart and seconded by Mr M Shelton that the minutes are accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting held on Tuesday 26th April 2016.

2. To receive reports from Trustees of Soyland Charities

On behalf of the Committee, 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 meetings over the past twelve months and no applications had been received for 2016/2017. Applications for the next meeting should be received by the Charity by 18th Mat 2017.

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

Ripponden Park Bowling Club

Cllr M Smith reported that the bowling club had a successful season during 2016. The club had installed CCTV aided by a grant from the Parish Council, to assist in deterring local vandals. Calderdale Council, club members and Ripponden in Bloom were all thanked for their contribution to the upkeep of a first class lawn and surrounding environment. The club welcomes new members, especially younger members, of all abilities, who are able to gain free tuition from their coaches.

Ripponden 1st Brownies

Catherine Ogden reported on the wonderful things that she participated in as part of Ripponden 1st Brownies, including working for badges, such as first aid and world culture and going on trips to different places. Her favourite was 'snow tubing'! As part of their promise to 'Serve their Community', in 2016 the Brownies participated in the Michaelmas show and Remembrance Sunday service as well as hosting a patron's lunch. Catherine thanked Brown Owl, Tracey Armitage; as well as Eve and Elizabeth (young leaders) for everything that they do.

Ripponden Children's Day

Mr Mark Shelton informed the meeting that 2017 would see the 48th Ripponden Children's Day take place on Saturday 17th June, welcoming pupils from 6 primary schools. 2016 saw record attendance, with over 220 children and adults, the highest in 20 years. The event is self-financing with all proceeds going straight back into future events. All equipment that the event owns is available for loan to other community groups. Mr Shelton thanked the Parish Council for its grant.

St Bartholomew's Church

Churchwarden, Mr William Burchill reported that the refurbishments to the back of the church, including kitchen and toilets, had been completed and opened at Easter 2016. He also informed the meeting, that although the church was largely a place of worship, it had supported and accommodated community events, such as Ripponden Festival and Remembrance Sunday. In addition, on Wednesday 10th May 2017 it will be hosting the first Dementia Café.

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

Ripponden in Bloom

Mr Peter Fraser reported on the group's activities including the planting of 4,600 snowdrops in Ripponden, assisted by a grant from the Parish Council. He also informed the meeting that in recognition of all of the wonderful work, carried out by the volunteers involved, Ripponden had received a Gold Award from Yorkshire in Bloom.

Mr Fraser asked the Parish Council how matters were progressing in relation to a tap being fitted at the library. The Clerk advised that she was awaiting a reply from the Asset Management Team at Calderdale Council, following which the matter would be referred to the Parish Council Environment Committee for funding.

Mr Fraser thanked everyone involved for their hard work and the Parish Council for their continued support.

3rd Ripponden Scouts

Mr Ian Wood, the new Scout leader, informed the meeting that the group continued to thrive with over 50 children being involved in Scouts, Beavers and Cubs, as well as having a waiting list. Mr Wood reviewed some of the activities that the scouts had been involved with over the past year including a visit to London and meeting Bear Grylls. They had also joined in celebrating the 100 year anniversary of the Cub Scout movement in 2016.

Stones Methodist Church

Mrs Linda Ellis reported that the church remained very active within the community, including joint activities with St Bartholomew's, such as Palm Sunday. The church holds a Friday get together once a month and a lunch club for which transport can be provided to anyone in need. Further details of the churches activities can be found on their website and through adverts in Go Local.

Women's Institute

Mrs Meg Fraser informed the meeting that the WI meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at Ripponden Parish Community Centre and usually have a speaker, on topics including, most recently, the Air Ambulance. The WI also have a book group; a walking group; they go litter picking and knit 'twiddle muffs' as a way of supporting local residents living with dementia. Mrs Fraser provided the meeting with the groups 2017 programme.

Ryburn United

Mr Ian Forbes, Chairman of Ryburn United reported that the club had had a very successful season with 4 teams in the junior section getting through to cup finals, including the girls' team.

In the senior section the 1st team were the first Halifax team to ever make it through to the semi-final of the West Riding Cup; and had also made it through to the Halifax Cup semi-final. The second team were in the Cup Final and were second in the league.

Mr Forbes informed the meeting that as part of the clubs current developments the changing facilities were being refurbished. He also thanked the Parish Council for grants received by Ryburn United during the year for new kit.

Barkisland Old People's Welfare Committee

Mrs Eileen Holmes informed the meeting that a race night had been held again this year and raised funds to go towards Christmas parcels for older people in the area. She also reported that efforts were being made to increase attendance at the Wednesday evening get together club. The committee have also been active participants, alongside the Parish Council and other community groups, in the local dementia friendly initiatives.

4. To discuss the Council's objectives and projects for 2017/18 put forward by the Parish Council

Cllr J Smith reviewed the achievements of the Parish Council for 2016/17 the highlights of which included working with local 'in bloom' groups to maintain and enhance the area, resulting in a Gold Award, for Ripponden, in the large village category of Yorkshire in Bloom. In partnership with Soyland in Bloom, the maintenance and improvement work at the Ebenezer Graveyard continued. The Parish Council had organised the Christmas lights switch-on and the annual civic ball which had raised £990 for the Chairman's charity, 'Local youth groups within the Parish'. In partnership with West Yorkshire Police and Calderdale Council, the Parish Council successfully organised temporary road closures for the Remembrance Sunday services at Rishworth, Ripponden and Barkisland.

The Parish Council was also awarded a Tesco Bags of Help grant for £12,000 to assist with the refurbishment of the Mill Fold Children's Play Area.

Cllr J Smith then went on to outline the objectives and projects for the forthcoming year as follows:

i. To hold public consultations and develop a draft Neighbourhood Plan by 31st March 2018

Cllr M Smith reported that Dr Smales, a lecturer at Leeds University, had been recruited, by the Parish Council, to assist in the planning and development of the Neighbourhood Plan, through consultation with the residents of the Parish of Ripponden.

The first consultation event is planned for 10am on Saturday April 1st at 10am at St Bartholomew's church. Residents can also carry out a survey on the Parish Council website, called 'Ripponden Neighbourhood Plan'. There are business cards at the Parish Council office, containing the website address, for residents to pick up.

ii. To actively pursue traffic & parking issues

In response to enquiries by Mr and Mrs Dent concerning a possible 20mph speed limit, Cllr J Smith advised that Calderdale Council was rolling out 20mph speed limit zones across Calderdale Council but unfortunately as yet this had not reached the Parish. Reference was also made to the feasibility of a flashing 30 mph speed sign for Rochdale Road. The fact that Dyson Lane was being used as a 'rat run' was discussed and Cllr J Smith reported that the Lane was now being quite heavily policed. The manager of the Co-op had been written to regarding the reinstatement of the signs for disabled parking in their car park. However, the car park is owned by a private company, so the Parish Council are unable to enforce this.

With regard to employees of JLA parking inconsiderately on the Halifax Road, Cllr J Smith informed the meeting that the Management of the company were are doing as much as they were able to address the matter. Number plates are checked on a regular basis and offending employees are penalised. In addition, Ryburn United Football Club has given permission for staff to use their car park. It was also reported at the Ward Forum that JLA are trying to purchase additional land in order to create a staff car park. It is also hoped that when the Traffic Regulations Order eventually comes into force this will help to alleviate some of the issues.

iii. Have representation on relevant outside bodies on behalf of the Parish

iv. Maintain effective communication with the West Yorkshire Police regarding crime, traffic issues and staffing levels

v. In partnership with Calderdale Council and Tesco Bags of Help complete the refurbishment of the Mill Fold childrens play area

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

vii. 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

4. To discuss the Council's objectives and projects for 2017/18 put forward by the Parish Council (continued)

viii. Maintain effective communication via the Parish Council website and other social media

ix. Continue to work with local community and Community groups to enhance and improve the local area, utilising the Parish Council's grant schemes

x. To lead, encourage and explore opportunities to create a Dementia Friendly Parish

Cllr Potts reported to the meeting that the Parish Council had been involved, with other local community groups and businesses within the Parish, in initiatives to make Ripponden into a dementia friendly community. Dementia friendly training had been organised, a Dementia Awareness day had been scheduled for May 6th (centred around St Bartholomew's) and the first dementia friendly café is scheduled for May 10th at the church.

xi. To expand the coverage of Christmas lights throughout the parish

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

Mr Hart asked about getting an LED bus schedule installed at the bus stop by the library. The Clerk informed the meeting that throughout the year she had been corresponding with Metro regarding the matter. Unfortunately Metro had concluded that LED signage was not feasible due to there being no power supply available. The Clerk advised that she had referred Metro to Calderdale Council to see if the power supply to the nearby public toilets could be utilised. To date no response had been received.

Cllr Robins informed the meeting that residents are able to attend Ward Forums, which take place quarterly, between Ripponden and Sowerby Bridge. She also advised that community groups are able to apply to the Ward Councillor for a grant for up to £500, but they must be constituted groups with a bank account.

She also reported on the Calderdale Council 'Keep Warm Scheme' which has money available to eligible residents to assist with covering the cost of heating bills.

Residents raised the issue of parking on the Rochdale Road, on the pavement from Fountain Street, on the right hand side and on grass verges. Grass verges were seen as a particular issue at the bottom of Kenworthy Lane. Residents advised that Calderdale Council had written to local residents informing them that such parking was not permitted, however, non-residents still continue to do so. Cllr J Smith advised that the Parish Council for many years had been trying to locate land to create more parking spaces within Ripponden and lobby Calderdale Council on a regular basis. The Clerk advised that she would raise the matter of parking on grass verges with 'Safer, Cleaner, Greener.

A resident asked about the possibility of a bus stop, for the downward bound bus, opposite School Close on Elland Road. It was reported however that since there was no pavement to alight onto at this location, it would not be feasible.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm