

Minutes of the 41st Annual Assembly of the Ripponden Parish held in St Bartholomew's Church Community Centre on Monday 3rd June 2014 at 7.30pm.

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

Cllr G Carter, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Riley, Cllr Russell, Cllr J Smith, Cllr M Smith, R Armitage, E Armitage, G Booth, M Bottomley, T Bower, W Burchill, B Burton, S Casaru, P Crossley, L Ellis, M Ellis, S Finch, M Fraser, P Fraser, R Holden, PC F Igo, P McDonnell, A Teasdale, J Thwaite

Apologies: - Cllr B Carter, Cllr Naylor, Cllr Ogden, Cllr Potts, Cllr Watson, Cllr Thornber, Insp D Shaw, The Partners at Brig Royd Surgery, J Brooks, T Armitage (1st Ripponden Brownies), S Higgins (Ripponden in Bloom) J Rowley (Womens Institute), B Sofield (Barkisland in Bloom), S McDonnell (Ryburn United AFC Juniors)

1. To accept the minutes of the 40th Meeting held on Monday 10th June 2013

9138 Resolved in a motion by Cllr J Smith and seconded by Cllr Riley that the minutes are accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting held on Monday 10th June 2013.

2. To receive reports from Trustees of Soyland Charities

Mr Burchill advised the meeting that no applications for a grant had been received over the last twelve months. He also explained to the meeting what the purpose of the Charity was and how to apply for a grant.

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

1st Ripponden Guides

Two Guides came with their leader Mrs T Bower to represent the group at the meeting and provide a report on the past year's activities and achievements. The Guides had lots of fun during the year and worked very hard on their badges. They did lots of baking, camping, craftwork, climbing, gardening in the guide garden and helping Ripponden in Bloom. They also had a trip to Victoria Theatre and the Big Gig in Birmingham.

Mrs Bower went on to review the Rainbows activities during the year in the absence of their leader. They have also been very busy with a Santa train and making lots of things. They went to the Brownies birthday celebrations and Remembrance Sunday.

1st Ripponden Brownies

Two youth leaders provided a brief report on behalf of the Brownies. They have also had a busy year and the group is full to capacity with 28 Brownies. The group has visited the opticians and Calder Valley Search and Rescue team. In 2014 the Brownie group is celebrating 100 years of Brownies with lots of activities planned. The group enjoyed taking part in the Michaelmas show and the Ripponden Gala. The Brownies thanked the current organisers Cllr G Carter and Mrs Wilson who are now retiring for all their hard work organising the event and they hope that the Gala is able to continue.

St Bartholomew Church

Churchwarden, Mrs Ann Teasdale reported on the continuing fundraising for the Church and Community Centre. The Community Centre has recently been redecorated and now has new chairs and tables. The Church has not had a vicar since last August but a new vicar is to be installed on 26th August 2014. It's a busy time of the church with preparations for the Tour de France, the Flower Festival, Garden party and Duck Race. Plans for the redevelopment of the church have been finalised and the church is looking to install a ground floor meeting room, kitchen and toilets. Mrs Teasdale thanked the Community and the Parish Council for all their support over the year.

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

Barkisland Cricket Club

The Club was represented by three members who thanked the past Chairman of the Parish Council for the donation from the Chairman's charity 2013/14. The junior section has over 90 members and has just started a girls section. The Club is delighted that it now has the first team in Yorkshire of under 11's girls. The Club house now appears to be the centre of the village being open most evenings during the summer.

3rd Ripponden Scouts

Scout Leader Philip Crossley reported that the group continues to thrive with a waiting list for new members. Each section of the group delivers a high standard of education and training using scouting methods. The Cubs have been hard at work earning badges; they are also going on a camp to Bradley Woods. The Scouts entered two teams in the Brow Hike competition and finished in the middle rankings. They also have been camping at Hesley Woods near Sheffield. The Beavers have three new leaders who are well into their training enhancing the professionalism of the movement. The Scouts are working for the community by building two new compost bins in the Church carpark and have been set the challenge of trying to get their banner on television during the Tour de France weekend! Mr Crossley ended his report by advising the Meeting that he had resigned as Group Scout Leader and the role would be taken on by Jackie Levy one of the current Scout Leaders.

Barkisland Old People's Welfare Committee

Mrs Gloria Booth 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 to this time to Llandudno. 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 Booth reviewed fundraising activities over the past twelve months and thanked the Parish Council for its continued support. The Committee is now a registered charity which will enable the group to benefits from 'gift aid'.

Barkisland Village Festival

Mrs Margaret Bottomley provided a brief report on the Village Festival which was last held two years ago. There was a craft fair, band, 3 private gardens opened to the public and the church was open all day. Children and Teachers from Barkisland School also participated in the event. Funds were to be distributed to local community groups.

Stones Methodist Church

Mrs Linda Ellis reported that the community had a very active church with between 50 and 60 people attending the Sunday Service each week. There are also a reasonable number of children attending the Sunday school. The Church is now part of the Calderdale Circuit which stretches from Todmorden to Brighouse. The Church supports Tradecraft and has a stall once per month in the church. There are a number of community based events that take place regularly in the Church Hall, keep fit, dancing classes and monthly speakers. Tenancies continue to be successful with the Nursery and toddler group and a good number of children's parties. It is the School Anniversary on 29th June and everyone is welcome. The Church will be celebrating the Tour de France on the 6th July with a Community Party in the afternoon culminating in a 'Songs of Praise' in the evening. There will be a big screen in the church which will be showing several sporting events being played over the weekend.

Ripponden in Bloom

Mrs Bobbie Burton on behalf of Ripponden in Bloom reported that the group were responsible for the planting of many of the barrels and planters around the village. From a volunteer angle the group had struggled recently but had arranged a successful family planting day on 31st May. The group was now busy with yellow planting for the Tour de France. Over the year Ripponden in Bloom had applied for and

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

received grants from Calderdale Council, the Parish Council, Yorkshire Forward and the Pantomime group. They continue to work hard fundraising and their next events will be a stall at the Community Market and a tombola stall at the Rushbearing festival. Mrs Burton thanked Calderdale Council for erecting the small fence at Royd Lane car park which now protected the bulbs and plants at the edge of the woodland area.

Stones Cricket Club

Mr P McDonnell reported that the club was now a member of the Halifax Cricket League and had a growing membership with an age range of 4 to 66 years. The Club achieved the club mark status this year and is a non-profit making organisation with all fund raised going directly back into the club. Mr Donnell informed the meeting that the club had recently had a Macmillan Cancer support fundraiser and had also received sponsorships from the Parish Council and local businesses for which they were very grateful.

Ripponden Gala

Cllr G Carter reported that the Ripponden had had another successful gala this year, but felt that for the gala to continue it needed some younger people to organise the event. The foundations are well in place and the gala is a very important social event for Ripponden. A notice had been placed in the Go Local magazine asking for volunteers.

Cllr G Carter also updated the meeting on the car parking charges at Royd Lane. Parking charges had been lifted from 1st April but the machines could not be removed. There had been a consultation period for the withdrawal of the charges which had ended last Friday and the approval for withdrawal would be put to Calderdale Council at its next Cabinet meeting.

Neighbourhood Policing Team

PC F Igo again reported that the Ryburn Upper valley is one of the best areas of Calderdale and as such continues to be a very safe area. She has started doing articles for the Go Local Magazine and her most recent one was on Moorland Fires. PC Igo requested that if anyone had any suggestions for future topics could they please should contact her.

A couple of suggestions from residents at the meeting were UPVC locks and cyclist safety

Ripponden Bowling Club

Cllr Melvyn Smith reported that Mill Fold had suffered from vandalism over recent years but this year had been particularly bad with drug taking at the playground, underage drinking outside the clubhouse, culminating in an arson attack. Regrettably the attack was so severe that the clubhouse will now to be replaced due to its dangerous condition.

Ryburn United

Cllr M Smith reported that the club now had 3 senior and 23 junior teams with approximately 700 members. The club had been awarded a £65,000 Sports grant for improvements to the playing fields. Cllr M Smith thanked the Parish Council for its continued support of the club.

Sowerby Bridge Trefoil Guild

The Parish Council Chairman, Cllr S McCarley read out a written report provided by the group, they had had a good year with a constant 12 members. Various social events had taken place throughout the year and the group had helped with the Division Challenge. The group organised and made 100 metres of bunting which hopefully will become part of the attempt to break the world record during Le Tour weekend. They also had a window display at the Parish Council office to recruit new members.

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

Women's Institute

The Chairman Cllr McCarley read out a written report provided by the Women's Institute. The group still meets at the Community Centre on the third Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm. They have approximately 30 members. Recently the group had been in danger of folding due to the lack of volunteers for officer roles, but this has been overcome with the presidency being shared between Judith Rowley and Wendy Lockwood.

The Chairman requested that item 5 should be moved forward and discussed prior to item 4

5. To discuss the Council's objectives and projects for 2014/15 put forward by the Parish Council

Cllr McCarley reviewed the achievements of the Parish Council for 2013/14 the highlights being the repair and refurbishment of Ripponden War memorial, continued maintenance and improvement of Ebenezer Graveyard, the re-carving of the village Milestone, the organising of three successful Community Markets culminating in winning the prestigious National Association of British Market Authorities award for Best Local Council Market for 2014.

Objectives and projects for the forthcoming year:

(i) Tour de France 2014

Cllr McCarley reported that the Parish Council was working with Calderdale Council and Community Groups in the lead up to the Tour de France. On Saturday 5th July the Parish Council is to organise a Community Market and is hoping that the village will be coloured yellow for the Race day.

(ii) Cycle Route Maps

Cllr S McCarley reported that the Parish Council was in the final stage of producing a Cycling Map which will incorporate a couple of rides around the Parish. It is hoped that the leaflet will be self-financing through the sale of advertising space on the leaflet.

(iii) 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.

(iv) Traffic & Parking Issues

The Parish Council continues to actively pursue this objective with Calderdale Council and the Police. Cllr McCarley updated the meeting on the results of the recent Speeding Survey organised by the Parish Council, the data of which has now been passed onto the police for action. Cllr McCarley also referred residents to the chart display at the rear of the meeting room which summarised the results.

(v) To develop and organise an annual Good Citizen Award for the Parish

Cllr McCarley reported that the development was now in its final stages and the Parish Council are hoping to organise the first award for early 2015.

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

A new resident raised the issue of three recent power cuts and enquired if this was a common incident. The meeting agreed that power cuts were quite common in the area but very short lived.

A resident reported that the traffic lights in the centre of Ripponden appeared to be knocked out of sequence on a regular basis. Cllr G Carter advised that quite often this is as a consequence of driver jumping red lights, but Calderdale Council is aware and continues to monitor the situation.

The on-going issue of fly tipping in the alleyway at the side of Crown Buildings was raised. PC Igo advised that the Parish Council, Police, Calderdale Council Warden and Environmental Health continue to monitor the situation and arrange clearing up exercises on a regular basis.

Cllr G Carter advised that she would raise the issue once again with Safer, Cleaner, and Greener to see if enforcement action could be taken.

4. To consider plans for the parish put forward by residents (continued)

Cllr McCarley raised on behalf of residents at Barkisland bump, the issue of speeding and asked PC Igo if the Neighbourhood Policing Team could progress this matter.

The matter of Dyson Lane was raised, PC Igo reported that regular action was being taken by the police and notices issued to offenders. One resident reported that SATNAV actually directs traffic down Dyson Lane!

A resident asked for clarification on the Parish Council's article in its Annual report regarding benches sited around the Parish. Cllr McCarley advised that the Parish Council was looking for volunteers to assist with the future maintenance of the benches.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm