

DELPH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of AGM

Held on Tuesday 8th September 2015 at 7.45 pm in the Millgate Arts Centre

Present: Phillida Shipp, Gillian Clark, Mike Clegg, Sue Lund, Keith Begley, David Shipp, Jo Green, John Mustoe, Graham Griffiths

Apologies: Tony Stell, Joan Lally, Maurice and Janet Reid, Geoff Bayley

MINUTES OF AGM

Minutes of AGM held on 2nd September 2014

These were agreed as a correct record subject to the correction of 2014 for 2013 in the minute relating to the Treasurer's Report

Chair's Report

Phillida distributed her report and read it out. It is attached to these minutes and will be posted on the website. The Chair was thanked for her report and for her work during the year.

Treasurer's Report – Annual Accounts for the year ended 30th June 2015

The report was handed out and Mike answered questions. There was an excess of income over expenditure. There had been a grant of £5000 from OMBC Libraries this year. Councillor Nikki Kirkham's contribution of £200 towards plants from her Councillor Budget was shown under Personal Donations. Gas and electricity costs in the library had gone up due to longer opening hours. Security costs had also increased. The library improvements were the replacement of film on the windows.

Thanks to Mike for his work during the year and to Peter Smallwood, independent examiner

Election of officers

No nominations were received in advance of the meeting

The following officers were duly elected

Chair	Phillida Shipp
Vice Chair	Keith Begley
Secretary	Gillian Clark
Treasurer	Mike Clegg
Fund raisers	Sue Lund and Keith Begley
Chapel Garden	Keith Begley

Delph in Bloom
Committee member for Traffic
Representative to Community
Associations Meetings
Webmaster

Jo Green
Geoff Bayley

Tony Stell
Mike Clegg

Any Other Business

The meeting welcomed the formation of the new Uppermill Community Association

Date of Next AGM

6th September 2016

Chair's Report to the AGM September 2015

Delph Community Association (DCA) has focussed as usual on two main areas: supporting Delph Library and helping to improve life in the village.

Delph Library

The Library continues to be staffed by volunteers working in partnership with Oldham Libraries. It is open for 20 hours each week. A Library Assistant works alongside volunteers during opening hours. The most obvious improvement this year is the removal of old protective film from the windows and the installation of new film. This has made the library much lighter and has improved the appearance of the library from outside. Thanks are due to Peter Whiffin, the Building Manager, who organised the work.

There were 3543 visits to the library in the year July 1st 2014 – June 30th 2015. A total of 2488 books were borrowed and the computers were used for 220 hours during that period. Three class visits from Delph School and three story time sessions for toddlers took place during the year. The Library Reading Group has been re-established and meets on the third Thursday of the month from 6.00 – 7.00pm. New members are welcome.

The newest venture is for the library to act as a box office for Saddleworth Players. Much of the ticket booking is now done by individuals on line. However not everyone has access to a computer. The library is now set up to book and print tickets for all the plays in the coming season. Thanks are due to Ian Shepherd who has made this project possible.

There are at present 30 volunteers who help staff the library, and who all deserve thanks, as the library could not continue without them. The optimum number of volunteers is about 35. Anyone interested in volunteering should leave their name and contact number with the Library Assistant.

Chapel Garden

More progress has been made this year on improving, maintaining and planning for the future. We have had a lot of help from new volunteer Marion Gilchrist and are particularly impressed and grateful for the excellent work she has done in rescuing the west section graves from being lost again to weeds. Marion has also done quite a lot on the east section. Pat Howard has continued with her invaluable contribution, mowing the grass regularly through the season and donating some very welcome shrubs and perennials.

After a good showing of the hundreds of Spring Bulbs (planted last autumn), the re-established flowerbed was planted up again (with a few more perennials included this time) and a new flowerbed has been created near the Millennium Bench. The shrubs transplanted last year are settling into their new positions, more shrubs are being moved and new ones being sought/bought for next year.

A bid for funding from the District Partnership has resulted in 2 of the 3 missing benches being replaced this month, with assistance from Oldham Council's Parks Dept. More funding will be sought soon to cover the cost of Notice Boards, to advise the Public that the Chapel Garden belongs to the Community of Delph, is maintained by Volunteers and acknowledging the assistance received to date.

The programme of work, steadily progressing, is intended to bring the Garden up to a noticeably attractive condition before launching an Appeal for a commitment from the community at large to become Members of a 'Friends Group'. This is because we cannot foresee a viable future for the Garden without regular and reasonably reliable funding. Small donations through "The Friends of the Chapel Garden" are probably the best method available to us. The 'Accounts' could be administered through and by the Delph Community Association. It is hoped that the proposal can be announced officially at a 'Formal' Opening Day next year, possibly in May.

Delph in Bloom Jo Green organised a hanging basket planting session in the spring and the result can be seen flowering all along King St and High St. The plants and compost were purchased from Councillor Kirkham's donation. Jo has also encouraged residents living in the middle of the village to plant flowers outside their houses and has organised a number of litter picks and weeding sessions in the middle of the village.

Wake up Delph have planted up tubs and hanging baskets and Oldham Council have continued to fill the planters by the Millgate Car Park. Altogether Delph has definitely bloomed this year. Jo also negotiated the use of part of an allotment, with the idea that plants could be grown there for use in the village. It is early days but Louise Dinh (Growing Ambassador for Saddleworth and Lees) is hoping to take the project forward.

Litter Picking

Nine Delphers take it in turn to litter pick in Chapel Garden; the car park behind the Methodist Church and the Swan Meadow Play Area for a week at a time. Thanks to them these areas are kept clean. More volunteers would be welcome.

Fund Raising

a) Charity Evening

Saddleworth Players generously donated half of the tickets for the Sunday performance of the play 'Whose Life is it anyway?' to DCA in March. Sue Lund organised the supper, which was served before the play, for the first time. The experiment was successful and £508 was raised.

b) Scarecrow Trail

This year's theme for the Scarecrow Trail was Popular TV programmes. There was a wonderful variety of characters representing programmes ranging from Downton Abbey and Last of the Summer Wine to Bill and Ben and the Simpsons!

A large number of people followed the trail over the duration of three weeks which this year included Whit Friday, the Half Term holiday and the Saddleworth Festival.

The winner of the draw for first prize was twelve year old Lydia Makin who with her family won a £50 voucher for a meal at the Old Bell Inn Restaurant. Her father said that they had been doing the trail as a family since Lydia was four! So the prize was well deserved.

The People's choice of Favourite Scarecrow once again went to the Old Bell Inn Restaurant with their wonderful creation of Bett Lynch and Coronation Street. The second choice was "In the Night Garden" by the Library with Jill Davis and The Methodists Church's "Downton Abbey" and Sheila Beresford's "Match of the Day" sharing the third spot. Jill was presented with a certificate of Merit for Downton Abbey.

Thanks to all who took part - the Twenty- three Scarecrow makers and the generous Prize givers who included The Old Bell Inn Restaurant, The Saddleworth Players, Shear Perfection and Di Gaunt. Especial thanks to Sue Lund who organised the whole thing.

Traffic and Transport

Geoff Bayley has attended the Traffic and Transport subcommittee of the Parish Council on our behalf. He was also elected a Parish Councillor in May and so has been able to report on other Parish Council affairs of interest. In February First Bus changed the route of the 350 bus back from Greenacres Rd to Huddersfield Rd as a result of pressure from the Parish Council and the public. Oldham Council Highways have put double yellow lines on Huddersfield Rd near the junctions with Delph New Rd and Gatehead Rd. This was as a result of consultation with DCA and others and has been successful in providing better sight lines when turning out of Delph New Rd and Gatehead Rd. Geoff has also been frequently asked by residents of Stoneswood Rd for a mirror at the junction with Millgate. Apparently the Department for Transport (DfT) plan to bring in new traffic signs and regulations next Spring which will mean that Local Authorities will be able to install a traffic mirror at a location of their choice without reference to the DfT. This is hopeful.

Community Associations Meetings

Tony Stell attends these meetings on our behalf. He reported the poor state of Footpath 13 between Hindle Terrace and Lumb Mill and found out who owned the land. After correspondence with OMBC Highways and discussions with the residents of Hindle Terrace, Councillor Kirkham became involved and has managed to provide matched funds for repair work. Keith Begley did a comprehensive survey of all the benches in Delph last year. Tony is trying to get a Parish Caretaker to clean those in Delph that need it.

Thanks to all those who have attended our meetings and those who have worked to further the aims of DCA. Thanks also to the Millgate Arts Centre and Delph Library for allowing us to meet in their buildings. Particular thanks go to Gill Clark, Mike Clegg, Keith Begley, Sue Lund, Geoff Bayley, Tony Stell, Jo Green and Joan Lally.

Phillida Shipp
September 2015