

DELPH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday September 25th 2012 followed by ordinary meeting.

Attended by: Phillida Shipp, Gillian Clark, Mike Clegg, John Martindale, Sue Lund, Janet Reid, Tony Stell, Mark Burgin, Joan Lally.

Apologies from: Cll Heffernan, Peter Whiffin, Mary MacDonald Hall, Maurice Reid, Graham Griffiths, David Shipp, Garth Harkness.

(John to send Geoff Bailey's correct e-mail address to Gill to ensure that he receives all relevant information)

Minutes of the last AGM held on July 5th 2011 were accepted as a true record.

There were no matters arising from last year's AGM.

Phillida then distributed the Vice Chair's report to the AGM as follows:

Vice Chair's Report to the AGM September 2012

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

Delph Library

The library has continued to operate with volunteers, but in May they were joined by Library Assistants from Oldham Library Service. It was hoped that they would have access to a complete computerised system for book management. Unfortunately this has not yet materialised. However we are very grateful for a £5K grant from Oldham Libraries, for the financial year 2012/3, which has just been received. They are also going to organise a fund raising event for the library in the theatre in the New Year.

Ken Hulme obtained a grant for the library from the Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund shortly before his untimely death in January. It was used to provide more book shelves, which were custom made and greatly improve the appearance of the inside of the library. Peter Whiffin, the Building Manager for the library, organised the encapsulating of the asbestos in the underside of the canopy and the cleaning and painting of the whole area. This was made possible by the previous grant from OMBC and has improved the appearance of the outside of the library. There were 4,408 visits to the library in the year 1st September 2011 - 31st August 2012. A total of 1245 children's books and 3735 adult's books were borrowed. The computers were used for 275 hours during that period. All these figures are greater than last year, which is encouraging.

Four class visits from Delph School took place during the year and a coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Care was held in September. Rhyme Time for toddlers is a new venture and takes place on Fridays from 2.00 -3.00pm in the library. The library Reading Group meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.00pm, new members are welcome. Two students from the Foundation Learning and Learner Entitlement Department at Oldham College have enjoyed their Work Experience in the library this year.

There are still 40 volunteers who help in the library in their different ways and are the mainstay of the library. Many thanks are due to them all, especially Janet Baker, the Volunteer Librarian.

Delph Donkey Scarecrow Trail 2012

The theme for the Scarecrows this Jubilee year was royalty. 23 Scarecrows were on display around the village. Several hundreds of people in family groups took part in the competition. The winning ticket for the £50 meal voucher donated by the Old Bell Inn was won by Jordan Crossland. The second prize for 2 tickets to a performance of Saddleworth Players in the 2010/2011 season was won by Jacqui Rosedale. The third prize for a Cake decorating Course at Hazelnut Bakery, worth £75, was won by Carolyn Walsh. The cup for the peoples favourite was won by The Old Bell for 'Princess Ariel'. Special thanks go to Di Gaunt for compiling the clues and her son Jake for designing the trail guide. Thanks to all who took part as Scarecrow hosts, advertisers or sellers of trail booklets. Extra special thanks go to Sue Lund who masterminded the whole project.

Decorating the village for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Keith Begley inspired us to raise money so that the village could celebrate in style. He provided a 'Royal Quiz' which cost £1 to enter and organised a Coffee Morning in the Methodist Schoolroom. A big thank you to everyone involved. Saddleworth Players found some bunting and Keith and helpers put this up, together with red, white and blue swathes; rosettes made by Jenny Begley; and balloons. The village looked splendid for a few days, in spite of the rain and wind.

Whit Friday Sports

The weather was good and the sports ran without a hitch. Oldham Mountain Rescue provided first aiders and a number of DCA members helped at the starting and finishing lines. An innovation this year was a finale sprint round the field which was exciting. Thank you to everyone who contributed and to Delph School for the use of their field and equipment.

Delph Roads and Traffic

Geoff Bayley and John Martindale have been attending the Traffic and Transport Subgroup of the Parish Council and the Saddleworth and Lees District Partnership on our behalf. Here is John's synopsis of the year:

Oct 2011

- Saddleworth Parish Council is considering a community gritting scheme which would utilise the help of local farmers, hauliers etc.
- They also asked for volunteers willing to be trained to use hand-held gritters although funding may be a problem.
- They asked which tertiary roads we would like to be cleared of snow.

Meeting with Debbie Abrahams 28 Oct

- Improved Weight Restriction signs are required
- Need for Stoneswood Road 30mph signs to be replaced
- Need decision re signage at Delph Bridge
- Possibility of reclassification of Delph through road from A to B
- Possibility of 20 mph limit through village
- Improvement of junction markings at bottom of Stoneswood and Grains Road
- 20 mph zone by school. More tests will be done when UU work is complete

Feb 2012

- Gordon Anderson (UnityPartnership) said Sally Fletcher (Unity Partnership) would definitely check volume of traffic going through Delph although finance may be a problem.
- He said he would look into Bridge signage.

April 2012

- Council is to decide who is responsible for the maintenance of unnamed road between Church St and Gartside St.
- Councillors Franklin, Knotts and Tony Marlcor to meet Craig Dale (new Highways DLO) re Delph speed limit.
- Cllr Buckley to meet Sally Fletcher within one week to finalise Bridge signage.
- Review of weight limits across Borough is planned. Timescale is not known.

June 2012

- Cllr Knotts is negotiating with OMBC, requesting them to be partners in a scheme involving volunteers clearing tertiary roads of snow.

July 2012

- Observation from resident stating that, when turning right onto A62 from Delph New Road, it was difficult to see traffic approaching from the right because of all the vehicles parked opposite Riverside Court. A lot of vehicles speed along that stretch, which makes matters worse.

- It was pointed out that a similar problem exists with vans and cars parked close to the exit of Palin Wood Rd. Cllr Franklin said that he would speak to Danny Milovanovic at the next Homewatch meeting. Cllr Garth Harkness has managed to get OMBC to agree a regular maintenance schedule for gullies that regularly block and cause road damage. We need to let him know of any in our area so that he can get them put on the schedule.

Sept 2012

As the problem of Delph Bridge signage is still with us, Cllrs Roughley and Harkness have been asked to resolve it.

Litter picking

Eight Delphers take it in turn to litter pick in Chapel Gardens, the Car Park and the Play Area for a week at a time. Thanks to them these areas are kept clean. More volunteers would be welcome.

Thanks

Thanks go to all those who have attended our meetings and worked to further the aims of the Association. Thanks are also due to the Millgate Arts Centre and St Thomas' Church for allowing us to meet in their buildings. Particular thanks go to Gill Clark, Sue Lund, John Martindale, Geoff Bayley, Keith Begley, Mike Clegg and Joan Lally.

From Phillida Shipp (Vice Chair DCA)

Treasurer's Report:

Mike gave treasurer's report for last year up to 30th June 2012.

1. This is my second annual report and from a financial point of view has been very successful. We obtained a grant, after a bit of effort, for £5000 from OMBC libraries, but at that time we didn't know how long it had to last. However we have just received another £5K for this year ie July 2012, so that puts us on a good footing for this year.
2. Looking at the Income side of the Annual accounts, the donations in general were very good with the extras of the Willy Russell evening, Doantion from the Duchy of Lancaster for book case improvements and a slight gain on the Jubilee decoration fund.
3. The scarecrow trail, thanks to Sue Lund, made an additional £400 with £23 income held over to this year.
4. The gas bill was considerably down after efforts by Peter Whiffin & myself to "tame" the gas boiler so that it wasn't keeping Gill Clark warm as well as the library.
5. The electricity was very high owing to a payments catch up from last year, but we are in the middle of a change to a new hopefully cheaper supplier.
6. Likewise efforts by myself and Ian Shepherd has lowered the telephone bill considerably, and by some technical wizardry has allowed us to dispense with the alarm line altogether.
7. The balance sheet shows the items brought forward from last year ie scarecrow & gift aid which can only be claimed after the year end.
8. The bottom line shows an excess of income over expenditure of £2063 leaving the DCA in a good financial position.
9. Our thanks should go to Peter Smallwood who has examined the accounts in quick time and signed them off.

DCA Annual Accounts

	2012		2011	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Personal Donations	490		425	
Book sales	27		34	
Bank Interest	4		2	
Gift Aid	120		-	
Misc Income	151		270	
Delph Theatre Night	-		664	
Scarecrow Trail	399		255	
Last year Scarecrow trail	200			
OMBC Library Grant	5000			
Willy Russell evening	819			
Jubilee Decorations Donations etc	811			
Donation Duchy of Lancaster	500			
Total	8521		1650	
Expenditure				
Insurance		398		427
Gas		338		820
Electricity		641		80
Telephones (Inc Alarm)		275		656
Window Cleaner		125		150
I.T.		133		142
Water rates		99		94
Repairs		134		176
Sundry expenses		236		48
Security		133		196
Health & Safety		144		
Improvements to Library		3086		
Jubilee Decorations		716		
Total		6458		2789
Cash Flow		£2,063		(£1,138)

Balance Sheet

Opening balances

Natwest Current a/c	553	1113
Natwest Reserve a/c	3027	3426
Cash in hand	0	0
Total	(£3,581)	(£4,539)
Money attributable to 2010 Accounts		
Scarecrow Trail		(£106)
Gift Aid		£286
		(£180)
Closing balances		
Natwest Current a/c	813	553
Natwest Reserve a/c	4831	3027
Cash in hand	0	0
Total	£5,644	£3,581
Excess/(Deficit)	£2,063	(£1,138)
Anticipated Income 2011 -2012 but not yet received		
Scarecrow Programme Adverts		200
Gift Aid claimed		120
Overall Excess/(Deficit)	£2,063	(£818)

Phillida thanked Mike for his work with Ian and Peter Whiffin in getting the expenditure costs down.

Election of Officers:

The following officers were duly elected:

Secretary: Gillian Clark

Treasurer: Mike Clegg (who will also continue to be webmaster)

Traffic: John Martindale (Gill will contact Geoff Bailey to see if he wishes to continue with John in this office).

Fund Raising: Sue Lund

(Phillida thanked Sue for all her hard work over the year)

Chair: Phillida Shipp agreed to stand as Chair (consequently we do not now have a Vice Chair)

Election of third Trustee: Mike Clegg, in place of Ken Hulme.

(The two other Trustees are Phillida Shipp and Gillian Clark.

Date of next AGM: Beginning of September 2013.

This concluded the AGM of the Delph Community Association.

The following ordinary meeting of the DCA then commenced.

Minutes of Meeting following the AGM on Sept 25th 2012.

Minutes of the Meeting held on July 10th 2012 were accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising:

John Martindale gave the following report:

Signage for Delph Bridge on White Lion side: As no progress has been made on this issue it has now been passed on to Cllrs Garth Harkness and Alan Roughley.

The traffic strips that were put across Delph Lane between the junction with Sandbed Lane and the 30 mph sign nearer to the A62 Huddersfield junction produced the following survey result over one full week:

2384 vehicles

85th percentile 42.3mph

Average speed 35.2mph

Max speed 63.1mph

Due to the high results further action will be taken.

The problems for traffic exiting Delph New Road and Palin Wood Road is to be taken further by Cllr Royce Franklin.

Tony Stell said that there should be a 30mph sign at the top of Delph Lane at the junction with the A62. Delph Lane at that point is currently derestricted and leads very quickly on to a 30 mph sign. He says there should be half a mile of road with a speed enforcement of less than derestricted (40mph or 50mph) between derestricted and 30 mph signs. This is not possible as things stand, so the best thing would be for a 30 mph sign leading on from the 50mph limit on the A62. The same problem applies with the Sandbed Lane signage.

Action: John to take this suggestion further.

Janet raised the problem of mothers and buggies trying to cross from the Library. One mother has written to the Council asking if a mirror could be installed in order to see traffic. The Council had replied that, as it was a conservation area, it would not be keeping and had therefore refused the request.

Parking on left hand side of Delph Lane on pavement - pedestrians and parents pushing buggies cannot always get by and are forced to walk in the road.

Action: John to pursue both issues.

Delph Donkey Scarecrow Trail 2012:

Presentation of the cup for the peoples favourite scarecrow was then awarded to The Old Bell for 'Princess Ariel'. They were thanked for their continuing support of DCA through their enthusiasm for the Scarecrow Trial.

Woolpack, Dobcross: Concern was raised about the new wall being built around the former Woolpack Pub. The wall impinges on the pavement at one point - has it been built according to plan?

Action: Mike Buckley to be approached to look into this.

Cleaning of Village:

Gill wrote to Alan Roughley about the weeds growing in the stonework etc. It is thought that spraying has since taken place but so far Alan has not replied to Gill's letter.

Action: Gill to ask for report from Alan for next DCA meeting.

Jubilee Celebrations: - no feed back so far from Keith Begley.

Independent Chapel Graveyard: Phillida said clean up ought to be undertaken before Remembrance Day. Mike Buckley and Nikki Kirkham will be organising this clean up.

Action: Phillida to pursue with Mike and Nikki.

Methodist car park:

It is understood that the Methodists have not signed the leasing contract with Oldham because Oldham Council could not give an undertaking that there would be no charges for future parking. Tony suggested we should get in touch with the borough councillors - various village groups meet in the hall and need parking facilities.

Action: Gill to write to James Skinner or the Delph Methodist Council saying the DCA would give their support and we appreciate the amenity of the car park for the village.

Police Report:

**Saddleworth North
Monthly Crime Figures.
AUGUST 2012 update**

CRIME	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST			
BURGLARY (Of homes)	5	4	1			
BURGLARY OTHER (Shed, Garage, Business)	5	5	3			
THEFT FROM A VEHICLE	5	4	4			
THEFT OF A MOTOR VEHICLE	2	1	1			
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	11	5	2			
ROBBERY	0	0	0			

Burglary Dwelling x 1

Huddersfield Rd, Delph. Large stone thrown through front patio window. Stael property from within.

Burglary Other x 3

Delph & Dobcross Cricket Club. Use ladder to enter property via toilet window, steal money from within.

Rochdale Rd, Denshaw. Force wooden panel of shed door steal rabbit from rabbit hutch and

make off.

Fresca Restaurant. Smash ground floor window, offenders disturbed and make off.

Vehicle crime x Theft from A Vehicle x 4

Pastures Lane, Scouthead. Works van broken into and items taken from within.

Temple Close, Waterhead. Power tools taken from secure van.

Range Lane, Denshaw. Implement used to gain entry to secure vehicle and steal items from within.

Vehicle crime x Theft of A Vehicle x 1

Thorpe Lane Scouthead. Offenders remove alarm box from vehicle and make off with same vehicle.

Criminal Damage x 2

Heywood Avenue, Austerlands. Wing mirror kicked off vehicle.

Heywood Avenue, Austerlands. Damage to garden gate.

Other News

We have had a considerable amount of burglaries throughout the Saddleworth area. These have been occurring between the hours of 12pm and 6pm. The offenders have been using stones from back gardens to break windows and doors at the rear of the property.

Please be extra vigilant and security conscious, reporting any suspicious activity/persons

IMMEDIATELY to the police on **101**.

Homewatch Recruitment Drive

Wednesday 12th September between 10am and 1pm - Uppermill Market

Friday 14th September between 1pm and 7pm outside the Swann Public House, King Street Delph.

Friday 14th September between 1pm and 7pm outside Greenfield Tesco.

Saddleworthhandles.npt@gmp.police.uk

Or give us a call on 0161 856 4525

Any Other Business:

Janet said a Book of Condolence is on display at the Chapel, Kiln Green (near Diggle Hotel) for the two police officers recently killed. Chapel is open 1 - 5 next Sunday

Dog Mess:

Mark asked if anything could be done about dog mess, especially on the footpath by the bridge along the river. It was decided that dog owners could be approached and asked to clean up after their dog. Alternatively Steve West, OMBC Dog Warden, could be contact on 0161 770 4504.

Litter picking:

Phillida asked for more volunteers to go on the litter picking rota.

Footpaths:

Tony said the footpath from Hindel Terrace to Lumb Mill is in a very bad state. Mike said lots of other footpaths were in a bad state as well.

Action: DCA write to Terence Cavanaugh - Footpath Officer, Oldham Council.

Theatre Charity Evening:

Phillida reminded everyone that the Theatre Charity Evening is **November 18th**.

Payment for hire of room: It was agreed to donate £15 to St. Thomas's Church for the hire of the room this evening, and it was suggested we invite representative of churches to our next meeting.

Action: Gill to send cheque and also to invite Delph Churches to our next meeting.

Date of next meeting:

Tuesday October 23rd 2012.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

