

## **DELPH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

### **Minutes of the AGM followed by Ordinary Meeting**

Held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2014 at 7.45 in the Millgate Arts Centre

Present: Phillida Shipp, Gillian Clark, Mike Clegg, Sue Lund, Keith Begley, Eileen Farness, David Shipp, David Harrison, Tony Stell, Garth Harkness, Jo Green, John Mustoe, Pat Howard

Apologies: Mary Macdonald Hall, Maurice and Janet Reid, Peter Whiffin, Mike Buckley, Alistair Watts, Nikki Kirkham Geoff Bayley

### **MINUTES OF AGM**

#### **Minutes of the AGM held on 30 July 2013**

These were agreed as a correct record  
There were no matters arising that were not on the agenda

#### **Chair's Report**

As in previous years Delph Community Association (DCA) has focussed 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 20.5 hours each week. A Library Assistant works alongside volunteers every day except Monday. A new machine has been installed which issues and returns books at great speed. However the library network is unable to cope with this as well as the existing computers. Oldham Libraries hope to remedy this soon. The layout of the library has also been altered. Removal of the old counter has made the area feel more spacious and provided a better space for class visits, meetings and coffee mornings. There were 3506 visits to the library in the year July 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 – June 30<sup>th</sup> 2014. A total of 3075 books were borrowed. The computers were used for 325 hours during that period. Four class visits from Delph School and twelve Story Time sessions for toddlers have taken place during the year. Four students from the Foundation Learning and Learner Entitlement course at Oldham College have enjoyed their work experience in the library this year. Four young people chose to do their community service part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme as volunteers in the library; one gold and three bronze. At present there are 35 volunteers who help staff the library and help with school visits and holiday story sessions. The library could not continue without them. Unfortunately our volunteer librarian and a couple of other experienced volunteers have retired this year. The library is actively looking to recruit volunteers to replace them.

#### **Delph Donkey Scarecrow Trail**

The theme this year was Comic book or Cartoon characters. There were 22 scarecrows which in the main occupied the usual places. However this year the numbers were joined by Shear Perfection Hairdressers who also generously donated a prize and paid for an advert in the booklet. A good number of booklets were sold and

£550 was raised and donated to the Methodist Car Park Fund. Jessica Bromley won the first prize of the Old Bell Inn Restaurant voucher, while second placed N.Clark received two tickets to the Saddleworth Players 2014/15 season and Thomas Jones in third place received a voucher and products from Shear Perfection Hairdressers. Once again the Old Bell Inn won the Favourite Scarecrow competition with Fireman Sam, with the Delph Methodist's Lady Tottington, made by Jill Davis. Coming a close second, while third place was Scooby Doo made by Richard and Roberta Daw. This year the DCA introduced an award for Artistic and Creative Merit, which was won by Jill Davis for Lady Tottington. A large number of family groups were seen to be walking the trail and also the good weather contributed to the success of the trail this year. Special thanks are due to Di Gaunt for devising the clues, Sam Haslam for editing the trail booklet and to Sue Lund for organising the whole event.

### **Whit Friday Sports**

These were very well attended this year and the weather was so hot that we ran out of water for the athletes. Thanks to Oldham Mountain Rescue for providing first aid cover, to the school and to volunteers from St Thomas' and DCA who started the races and provided the winners with prizes.

### **Litter Picking**

Nine Delphers take it in turn to litter pick in the Chapel Garden 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.

### **Traffic and Transport**

Geoff Bayley and John Martindale have again attended the Traffic and Transport subcommittee of the Parish Council on our behalf.

#### Delph Bridge

Some success has been achieved as the Council have painted white lines on the road in High St just before the bridge, to steer vehicles to the centre of the carriageway. This improves the line of vision over the bridge, making it easier to give way to oncoming traffic. However there are still problems.

Double yellow lines on Huddersfield Rd near its junction with Delph New Rd have been approved but have not yet appeared.

A Heavy goods vehicle usage survey of the whole of Oldham is planned but has not yet taken place.

Junction of King St, Millgate, Grains Rd and Stoneswood Rd traffic problems continue.

Street lamps in Delph Conservation area. The type of lamp that Eon will use to replace the existing lights is under discussion.

350 bus route which has been changed to go through Greenacres instead of Huddersfield Rd has been discussed but no change has yet occurred.

#### Huddersfield to Manchester Rail

Several action groups which represent various sections of the rail route continue their combined efforts for the following:

Two trains per hour each way, including off peak; services to Manchester Victoria to be preserved; a second train per hour to Piccadilly may be acceptable; only one franchise for Trans Pennine Express and local services; disability access for the east bound platforms at Mossley, Greenfield and Marsden Stations.

There will be several years of engineering work connected with the electrification of the track. Ways are being examined to minimise disruption, however there will be periods when the line must be closed, for example when providing extra track clearance at Greenfield Station Bridge.

Many thanks to Geoff and John for persisting with all these issues on our behalf. Unfortunately John has now retired from the committee due to ill health.

### **Chapel Gardens and Delph in Bloom**

During the past 12 months we have taken on the task of maintaining the Chapel Garden on behalf of the Residents of Delph. The Saddleworth Trust (T.S.T) undertook the purchase of the garden with the express intent of holding it in perpetuity as a Community Asset. They declared that after some necessary remedial work (mainly tree surgery) they would ask the community to maintain it.

The work was completed by the end of February and the D.C.A. then took on responsibility for on-going maintenance. A sub-group was formed consisting of Sue Lund, Keith Begley, Jo Green and Pat Howard. Work began with the transplanting of some shrubs, which were replaced with heathers that were considered more suitable for the position. We would like to thank Delph Cubs for their assistance in planting the heathers.

During the process a large number of self-seeded Horse Chestnut saplings were discovered and enquiries were made to find suitable places to where they could be transplanted. The saplings were temporarily 'heeled in' until this could be done, which will now be in the autumn. Other shrubs were also transplanted, mainly overgrown Spiraea, thus creating a bedding area (2m x 20m) in the centre of the garden for flowering plants.

During this period it was learned that Oldham Council was to include Delph in this year's Britain in Bloom contest and the Sub-group spent some considerable time liaising with the Parks Dept. about what could be done and organising the planting up of Hanging Baskets for King Street and elsewhere. The D.C.A. had already liaised with Sue Palfrey (O.M.B.C. Youth worker) earlier in the year when young people from the Satellite Group helped by planting spring bulbs in the Garden.

Although a small number of plants had been donated for planting in the garden a sum of money was needed to purchase bedding plants. The expense involved showed the need for forward planning and fund-raising if it is to be maintained.

Finally, thanks are due to the Methodists who have generously repaired the perimeter wall that was damaged at Whitsuntide. And by no means least special mention of Pat Howard for her dedication in regularly mowing the grass; without her sterling efforts the Garden would be a disaster.

P.S. And another special thank you to the T.S.T. for getting the Gates painted!

### **Publicity**

1. Our concept of 'Community' is being challenged as it goes through a process of re-definition due to the on-going development of Society; probably faster than we realise.
2. The motor car, commuting and online services are the main agents of these changes; Social Information Technology (SOCIT) is the reaction/response.
3. The role of the D.C.A. to foster a sense of community and help it maintain a good quality of life will be greatly assisted by plugging into 'SOCIT'.
4. It would also help us to justify our claim to be representative of Delph Residents by being better and more widely informed about the Community's wishes.
5. This is our 10<sup>th</sup> year and our profile in the Community is detrimentally low; SOCIT would alter that dramatically.

6. We need to encourage a Sense of Pride in *our particular village* of Delph.
7. We can start by impressing on others that **Delph is Special** ; drawing attention to the fact that the centre of the village *is a Conservation Area* might be beneficial.
8. Delph has a lot to offer as a Tourist Destination, we should promote it and a Tourist Information Notice should help.
9. Locals will be able to take credit and share in the benefits of the Tourist Industry.
10. The alternative is we do nothing and simply allow outside bodies to run their own agenda while we lament that Delph has turned into a motorway access corridor.

Keith Begley.

**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, Sue Lund, John Martindale, Geoff Bayley, Keith Begley, Jo Green and Joan Lally.

### **Treasurer's Report – Annual Accounts for year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

The report was handed out and Mike answered questions. There was no grant from OMBC Libraries this year. The District Partnership had given £500. Gas and electricity prices had been renegotiated. The report was accepted.

Thanks to Mike and Peter Smallwood (Examiner) for their work on the accounts

### **Election of Officers**

No nominations had been 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 Gardens/ Village in Bloom	
Subcommittee	Jo Green, Keith Begley, Pat
Howard,	Sue Lund, Eileen Farness
Traffic and Environment	Geoff Bayley and Tony Stell
Webmaster	Mike Clegg

### **Britain in Bloom**

The result of this year's competition would be known in October. The Village would enter the Village in Bloom competition in 2015. OMBC would support this by allowing use of its buying power, donating late flowering and other plants, and leaving the planters, but the Village would enter under DCA auspices.

### **News for Website**

Mike asked for contributions to the website

### **Next AGM**

This would be on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015