

DELPH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the AGM followed by Ordinary Meeting

Held on Tuesday 30 July 2013 7.45 in the Millgate Theatre Lounge

Attended by: Phillida Shipp, Gillian Clark, Mike Clegg, John Martindale, Geoff Bayley, Joan Lally, David Shipp, Keith Begley, Tony Stell, Maurice Reid, Garth Harkness, John Brooks, Pat Howard, John Mustoe, Phil Ramsbottom, Natalie Goad, Cath Bingley, David Marsden, John Whitmore, Sue Palfrey.

Apologies from: Peter Whiffen, Janet Callender, Nicola Kirkham, Janet Reid, Sue Lund.

Presentation of the cup for the winning scarecrow

The winning scarecrow was 'Jack Sparrow' at the Old Bell.

Phil Ramsbottom was presented with the winner's Cup, on behalf of the Old Bell.

Natalie Goad took a photograph which she will email to Sue Lund.

Minutes of the last AGM held on September 25th 2012 were accepted as a true record.

Matters arising from last year's AGM - none.

A discussion arose about the proposed wind turbine on Lark Hill. John Whitmore and David Marsden were very concerned that they, and many other people in the village, had received no information about this. Garth Harkness said the Parish Council and Oldham Council had turned the application down in 2011. It was withdrawn but the owners reapplied and the Planning Inspectorate passed the application. Although the councillors had all voted against this application, the fact remained that Delph residents knew nothing about it. Garth was asked why he hadn't knocked on people's doors and canvassed opinion on this very emotive matter?

Phillida then intervened and said it was not appropriate to discuss this matter at our AGM. Garth Harkness, John Whitmore and David Marsden then left the meeting in order to continue their discussion.

Chair's Report to the AGM

Phillida distributed her report. As in previous years Delph Community Association has focussed on two main areas: supporting Delph Library and helping to improve the life in the village. (Report attached).

DELPH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Chair's Report to the AGM July 2013

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

Delph Library

The library has continued to operate with volunteers working alongside Library Assistants from Oldham Library Service. We are also very grateful to Oldham Libraries for organising a successful fund raising event for the library, with Gervase Phinn, in April. There were 3909 visits to the library in the year 1st July 2012 – 30th June 2013. A total of 1124 children's books and 3483 adult's books were borrowed. The computers were used for 341 hours during that period. This is a considerably greater time than last year. Four class visits from Delph School and 15 Story Time sessions for toddlers took place during the year. These events are run entirely by volunteers. The library Reading Group meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 7.00pm, new members are welcome. Four students from the Foundation Learning and Learner Entitlement Department at Oldham College have enjoyed their Work Experience in the library this year. Three young people chose to do their community service part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme as volunteers in the library; one gold and two bronze. There are still 40 volunteers who help run the library in their different ways. Many thanks are due to them all.

Delph Donkey Scarecrow Trail

The theme this year was Heroes and Villains. 22 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 Mia Goodyear from Denshaw and the second prize for 2 tickets to a performance of Saddleworth Players in the 2013/14 season was won by John Hodges from Grotton. The cup for the peoples favourite was won by the Old Bell Inn for Jack Sparrow. Special thanks go to Di Gaunt for compiling the clues and her son Jake for designing the trail guide. Thanks to all those who took part as Scarecrow hosts. Their ingenuity and workmanship were of a very high standard. Thanks also to the sellers of, and advertisers in, the trail guides. Extra special thanks go to Sue Lund who masterminded the whole project.

Whit Friday Sports

In spite of cold damp weather the sports took place on Delph School Playing field with a few intrepid children and their parents. Thanks to Oldham Mountain Rescue for providing first aid cover, to the school and to the DCA volunteers who started the races and provided the winners with prizes.

Litter Picking

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

Chapel Garden

The Saddleworth Trust, who own Chapel Garden, asked DCA if were willing to undertake maintenance work in the Garden. We agreed to cut the grass, prune the bushes and keep it in a tidy state. Two gardening days have been held so far this year. Many thanks to Sue Lund, who organised these, and to those who took part in spite of the weather. A particular thank you also, to Pat Howard who has undertaken the large task of keeping the grass under control.

Publicity

It was decided at our meeting in June that we needed to promote the DCA and our activities. Keith Begley volunteered to send articles to the Saddleworth Monthly and to the Saddleworth Independent explaining who we are and what we do. We hope that this publicity will encourage Delphers to attend our meetings and take part in our activities.

Roads and Traffic

Delph Bridge Signage

Geoffrey and John have spent a lot of time trying to get a decision from Saddleworth Borough Council and Unity Partnership on appropriate priority signage for the bridge leading from High to King Street. They asked for a sign on High Street saying 'Give Way' or similar but no reciprocal one on King Street because of its Conservation status. They also requested stronger road markings on High Street than those already there. Gordon Anderson from Unity Partnership replied that the law states that there must be a sign at each end of the bridge and that they must be of particular dimensions. These were considered far too large and imposing for either side. The road markings, however, were very good, and after consultation with the other members of the DCA, they told Gordon Anderson that under the circumstances, they would like the work to be done on the road but not to have any standing signs. They said that they would like to see how successful the road markings would be for six months or so and if necessary, reappraise the standing signs. He agreed to that and said the road markings would be done in the next few weeks.

Delph New Road

This road is to be resurfaced and Andrew Cowell has been asked if he would add double white lines in the centre of some of the more dangerous bends where cars and HGVs often use the middle of the road. He agrees this is a good idea and will pass this request on to Highways.

Village Signs

The Conservation Officer has requested a marked map showing the proposed locations for the signs. She said that plain signs would be more acceptable than ornate ones. The proposals would then have to be discussed by Planning and Highways and by the Area Committee Manager. She thought it would be beneficial to have local councillors on board and that funding might be possible.

HGVs

Action to prevent unauthorised HGVs passing through the village has been requested a number of times. A full survey is to be carried out throughout the borough. The two redundant signs at the bottom of Grains Rd have been reported to the Traffic and Transport Committee and discussed with the Conservation Officer.

Huddersfield/Manchester Rail

The Traffic and Transport Sub Committee together with several rail user groups disapprove of the proposals for local rail services during the period of electrification of the line from December 2016 to December 2018. Their top request is that during peak hours the Trans Pennine Express should stop at one local station and that in the evenings and at weekends the stops should be at all stations to Victoria.

Thanks

Thanks to all those who have attended our meetings and those who have worked to further the aims of the Association. Thanks are also due to Millgate Arts Centre and St

Thomas' Church for allowing us to meet in their buildings. Particular thanks go to Gill Clark, Mike Clegg, Sue Lund, John Martindale, Geoff Bayley, Keith Begley and Joan Lally.

Phillida Shipp (Chair DCA) July 2013

Treasurer's Report

Mike distributed the DCA Annual Accounts from 1st July 2012 to 30 June 2013. We have had a successful year. OMBC gave us a grant of £5,000 (as they did last year). Various events such as the Theatre Night and Scarecrow Trail also raised money. Expenditure: Gas bill had gone up significantly from last year (£852 as opposed to £338).

Action: Peter Whiffen to look into this.

Electricity bill was down (£406 from £641). The sum £175 for improvement to the library covered the installation of new shelves.

Mike reported that Peter Smallwood had examined the figures and found them to be correct and has issued a certificate. The Report will now be sent to the Charity Commission.

Phillida thanked Mike for his report.

Election of Officers

The following officers were duly elected:

Chair	Phillida Shipp
Vice Chair	Vacant as present
Secretary	Gillian Clark
Treasurer	Mike Clegg
Fund Raiser	Sue Lund (to be confirmed)
Traffic and Environment	Geoff Bayley, John Martindale
Publicity	Keith Begley (to be confirmed)

Date of next AGM

29th July 2014

Minutes of Delph Community Association Ordinary Meeting held following the AGM on 30 July 2013.

Minutes of meeting held on June 4th 2013 were accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising

Temporary Health Clinic in Delph: It had been decided at the Executive Meeting held on 8th July to write to the Practice Manager of Saddleworth Medical Practice to register our dissatisfaction with the lack of a temporary clinic in Delph. A temporary clinic had been promised before the old clinic closed and this has not materialised. A copy of our letter was also sent to Royce Franklin (Chair of PPG) to use his influence to take this matter forward. The DCA has not had any reply or acknowledgement to date.

Action: Gill to enquire into this.

Gill reiterated that repeat prescriptions can now be taken directly to the Chemist in Delph.

Methodist Church Car Park: A representative from the Methodist Church, John Mustoe, outlined the discussions and the situation of the car park to date. OMBC have agreed to lease the car park from the Methodists. Negotiations with OMBC and NHS are proceeding very slowly; there may be a shortfall of around £6,000 to sort out the drains etc. The car park is unsafe at the moment and although the church doesn't want to close it, they don't want to be held liable for any accidents.

Phillida thanked John for attending the meeting and for his update on the car park situation.

Footpaths: Tony asked how far we had progressed. Keith said that Pingle Glade footpath is being refurbished.

Delph Donkey footpath - Phillida will ask Garth to look into this with the Council to see if a 'permissive footpath' can be instated. It was agreed that the path must be a bridle path not just a footpath.

Lumb Mill site: Keith will look into this.

Chapel Gardens: More gardening days are needed. Pat said she was having problems with her mower picking up twigs/wood and wanted to order a bin to put the chippings in. This was agreed and Pat will liaise with Sue and Keith and anyone else interested in helping, including Jacqui Rosedale.

Youth services for young people living in Delph

Sue Palfrey (Youth Development Officer Saddleworth and Lees), said that the youth bus had been discontinued due to lack of support, she then outlined what services are available for young people (8 to 19 yr olds) in the area. She has started a Junior Club in Diggle Band Club and hopes that young people from Delph will attend. She is hoping communities will start their own groups and she will give support to these. Sue pointed out that young people from the older age group already travel to the Satellite Youth Centre in Greenfield. Among their volunteer activities they help to tidy gardens and Sue offered Pat volunteers to help with Chapel Gardens. Pat will talk to Sue Lund about this. Sue outlined various other schemes and answered questions about the youth work she is doing. Phillida thanked Sue for attending the meeting.

Village Signs

Geoff reported his dealings with the Conservation Officer and the Planning and Highways offices about the siting of the signs. There are 7 locations for discussion and

Geoff hopes a meeting can be arranged.

The design will be opened up to competition so people get to know about it. Where the signs are located will have a bearing on the design - a design specification will be needed. Phillida, Geoff, John and Keith will go on a site visit, agree where the signs should be put, write a specification with design parameters and bring it to our next meeting.

Delph Bridge Sign

Phillida congratulated Geoff and John for their work on the bridge signing and she thought the road markings were an improvement. Tony thought they hadn't made much difference. Resurfacing of the road was done after a water leak. Tony thought that the alleged signs that were required would be too large,. The standard sign for a roundel was 750 and for a rectangle 700x800, plus a supplementary plate of 300x700. Geoff raised the question of whether we could have just a 'give way' sign, instead of the priority signs (which have to be in pairs). Tony read out the stipulations. Keith suggested a 'hazard' sign or 'narrow bridge' sign. John and Geoff will take this suggestion to the next transport sub-committee.

Heavy vehicles through the village

A survey is still to be done on this problem.

Tony said that the 'except for access' sign was difficult to enforce . A sign saying 'access for loading and unloading' would be more easily enforceable.

Date for next gardening day

This date will be left to the sub-committee to decide.

Any other business

Telephone box in village

John asked who was responsible for maintaining the telephone box as it was in quite a bad state. It would appear that, as the phone box is still operational, it must be the responsibility of BT.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 22nd 2013 at 7.45pm

Date of next Executive Meeting 2nd September at 10.30 am in the Library.