

Minutes of Delph Community Association Meeting held on January 14th 2014 at Millgate Arts Centre, Bar Lounge

Attended by: Tony Stell, Garth Harkness, Mary MacDonald Hall, Sue Lund, Mike Clegg, Phillida Shipp, Gill Clark, Elizabeth Harding, Clare Whitehead, Keith Begley, Sharon McGladdery, Joan Lally, Jo Green.

Apologies:

Maurice and Janet Reid, Peter Whiffin, John Martindale, David Shipp.

Welcome and Introductions.

Minutes of last meeting held on Oct. 22nd 2013 were accepted as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

Trough planting: Sue has spoken to Jack Crossley but has not been able to ascertain who looks after the trough in front of the Bank or some of the other troughs in the village. Keith said the Council put up 6 hanging baskets and 2 on the lamps so maybe the Council manage some of the troughs. It was agreed not to pursue this further but if Jo Green thinks she could do anything with the troughs, her help would be appreciated. The trough on Delph Lane gets full of litter; someone tried to plant the trough but the plants were taken out. Perhaps some people feel it should be left as a water trough. The Rosedale family does litter picking in this area: Phillida thought that if anyone else wanted to adopt a bit of their road to keep it free from litter, this would be very public spirited.

Footpath between Hindel Terrace and Saddleworth Building Centre:

Gill has written to Mr Cavanagh at Unity Partnership about the poor state of this footpath. His reply is as follows:

'I acknowledge your request for the public footpath to be improved from Saddleworth Business Centre to Hindel Terrace Delph. I will now inspect the route as soon as possible so that I can discuss the condition with my manager. It is my understanding that the route also has private vehicular rights along its length and in these circumstances the council is not obliged to maintain or repair the route for this type of usage.'

A discussion then ensued. Keith said some drainage is needed, but we are not concerned about vehicular access only use of the footpath. Also trees are overhanging and these need to be cut back. Mary MacDonald Hall said it is one of the only swift nesting sites in the village and needs to be protected. Gill will send a copy of Mr Cavanagh's e-mail to Garth. Garth will write to the Council informing them that it is their duty to maintain it as a footpath, we are not interested in the vehicular access and that the swifts' nesting site needs to be protected, possibly pruning of the trees would help this. **Action: Gill/Garth**

Treasurers Report

Mike gave the following treasurer's report up to 14th January. He said things look reasonably stable, nothing much has happened since last month other than payment of gas bills etc.

Nat West Current Account	206.17
Cash	10.00
Reserve Account	9,437.07
Total	9,653.24

Village Signs

Geoff Bayley has sent a letter to Lisa MacDonald (Saddleworth and Lees District Executive), copied to our Parish and Borough Councillors, asking for guidance on the appropriate steps to take regarding the erection of Delph Conservation Area signs. Garth has viewed the signs at Lydgate he said the District Partnership did put some money towards these. It is proposed that there would be a sign at the entrance and exit of the Delph Conservation Area possibly similar to the Lydgate signs.

Traffic and Eyesores

Gill read out an email from John Martindale who was unable to be present at the meeting:

'These are the brief notes from the sub-committee meeting the other night. Geoff was there too, so he will probably add to the info. There is concern about the way EON is selecting unsuitable lighting especially in conservation areas. Still trying to reach suitable agreement with EON. The failure of the new road surfaces, particularly along Delph New Road, is to be addressed. It will be replaced at the contractor's cost, starting from March. The blame for the failure is that it was put down during the wrong weather conditions.'

Gill wrote to Mike Buckley who replied that Garth is now looking into this matter. Despite being told not to continue with any further work in conservation areas, it has continued. Garth reported that it had been agreed with EON/Dave Hibbert that no further work would be done until public meetings have been held in the village. If anyone sees any work being done before the public meeting would they please let Garth know.

Keith asked if the illuminated weight limit sign on Grains Road was now superfluous. Tony confirmed that it was, as there is a similar sign at Grains Bar which a lorry would have to pass to reach Delph village. Clare asked if the seven and a half ton weight limit is still enforced through the village to stop heavy traffic coming through. Tony said it is in existence but the '*except for access*' restriction meant that lorries could come through if they just stopped and bought a paper at a shop. The sign should read '*except for loading and unloading*' and this would give the police the right to stop heavy vehicles coming through the village. On a technical point Keith asked if the seven and a half ton is the axle weight. Tony said that if a vehicle has a red and yellow chevron plate on the back it means the vehicle is seven and a half tons or more.

Garth said the resurfacing of the roads was due to material failure - the resurfacing cannot now go ahead until March.

Footpaths

Keith Begley is still awaiting a reply from his email to Mr Cavanagh last March regarding the footpath by Mill Wood (going up the Tame Valley towards Linfitts). Keith has suggested slats of timbers be laid on the path and fixed down so it wouldn't be dangerous. Keith also asked Mr Cavanagh that, if we raise the funds, can we have his blessing to go ahead. Keith will try again to get a response.

Tony will e-mail Keith with various contacts in Unity Partnership.

Chapel Gardens

Sue has spoken with Pat Howard about the grass cutting. Keith said the leaves have all blown away now so we don't need any leaf gathering. Keith has contacted two

'tree surgeons' in Diggle and Mossley to obtain quotations for managing the trees e.g. to trim or crown or take down if necessary, and also to thin the horse chestnut. The Saddleworth Trust has some money allocated, especially targeted for this work. Keith is going to transplant the berberis to a more suitable area and he has also cleared the path. Sue will arrange another tidy-up day with Keith and Jo and also discuss bank planting. Sue suggested we bring the Satellite people back for a photo- shoot in the Spring.

Methodist Car Park

Elisabeth Harding, representing the Methodists, outlined the situation to date. Oldham Council are unwilling to put in any money and have never had any money set aside for this. A meeting is to be set up between Oldham Council, Saddleworth Parish Council, the NHS and the Saddleworth Medical Practice to try and sort something out. A representative from DCA will be invited. A figure of £30,000 was quoted to bring the car park up to a standard which the Parish Council would then be willing to maintain. Elisabeth said that the legal documentation had never been sorted out properly. Keith thought that permission had been given to the NHS to build a clinic, but this permission had been predicated on the clinic having suitable parking facilities. Elisabeth said United Utilities have almost sorted out the drainage. Tony thought the figure of £30,000 was very expensive and that it would be possible to get the work done more cheaply.

Proposed new vehicular access for Bailey Mills, Delph

Phillida circulated maps showing the proposed new access route and said that this was an application requesting renewal of approval. Phillida said that it would be a good thing if the site were developed for housing and that if this access helped to encourage a developer we should support it. Tony pointed out that the Delph Donkey Line could possibly be extended through Gledhills land coming out on to Station Approach. He also pointed out two discrepancies in the Current Design and Access Document. It was agreed that Tony would draft a letter to Phillida who would send it to Tony Marlor, Clerk to the Parish Council in time for the next Parish Council Planning Meeting.

Promoting Delph

Keith has written a Delph Profile which includes twelve paragraphs outlining Delph's history and its present attractions. He has asked us for any more ideas which can be added to the document.

Any Other Business

Site Allocation Development Plan

Garth said a copy of this booklet will be available in the Library and also on Oldham Council's website (Planning Section). The consultation period ends on 23 February. He urged people to peruse this important document and itemise any objections or suggestions.

Millennium Seat: Elisabeth said this seat is now in need of renovation. Keith will contact Bernard Preston to see if he can help with this.

Chapel Gardens Sign: Clare said this sign now resides with Robert Greenwood.

Church Notice Board: Elisabeth said the notice board collapsed and they approached

the Parish Council to see if they could provide some money for a new board. The Parish Council told the Methodists they were going to have their own board. However it was thought that one notice board for both Methodists and the Parish would be preferable. Sharon said a notice board has been ordered and it is the same size as the existing one. Sharon will talk to the Methodists who would prefer one board. Keith said the notice board at St. Mary's Church, Greenfield, opens from the back which is very useful.

Filming in Delph: Mike said that in view of the disruption to Delph residents while filming is taking place, he thought it would be a good idea to write and ask the BBC for a donation to the village (preferably through the DCA) and he has produced a model letter.

Action: Phillida