

RIPLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE CHRISTMAS EVENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8th
JANUARY 2014 AT SOUTHVIEW, POLESDEN LANE, RIPLEY GU23 6DX AT 6.30PM**

Present

Chris Lee (Chairman), Cllr Lisanne Mealing, Cllr Jennie Cliff, Cllr Vernon Wood, Cllr Caspar Hancock, Jackie van Heesewijk, Glyn Watkins, Mike Baker, Elaine Cooper

Alison Jones Clerk to the Council

CE 45/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from Cllr Suzie Powell-Cullingford, Cllr Colin Cross, Sally Rule, Jan and Geoff Richardson, Peter Hookins, Matt Jelley and Nigel Bruder were received and accepted.

CE 46/13 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

None given.

CE 47/13 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6th November 2013 at 6.00pm at MDM House were received, confirmed and signed as a true and correct record by the Chairman

CE48/13 INCOME RECEIVED

Members received and considered the income and expenditure figures prepared by the parish clerk. (Copy attached to record minutes).

Profit from the fair was £5910 down by £228 on the previous year easily accounted for by the lack of street collection and slightly lower raffle sales. Total profit including donations and the sale of Christmas cards is £6480 – a great result.

Sales of raffle tickets were very good on the day. More tickets need to be sold before the event in case of bad weather.

Purchase of the first aid kit was a one off expense (£65)

CE 49/13 REVIEW OF THE 2013 FAIR

Members reviewed the 2013 Fair held on 1st December.

Attendance

Numbers of visitors appeared to have increased from 2012 levels. This resulted in traffic congestion on Portsmouth Road due to double parking and people straying onto the road outside Smith Pearman when listening to the entertainment. Signs at the entrance to the village warn motorists about the fair but it was believed that the Police were concerned.

Cones could be provided by the Bonfire Committee to stop parking near the village hall. Chris Lee will liaise with the Police and Steve Hill of the Bonfire Committee in order to address these issues before the 2014 Fair.

A vehicle had endeavoured to drive from the High Street to VII Beauty salon causing difficulties. A letter should be written to VII and also to Cobham Cottages giving formal notification of the date of the 2014 Christmas Fair in order to ensure that the arrangements for the fair are understood.

Advertising

The Christmas Fair advertising had been very effective. In particular the estate agent signs were very effective. The fliers were attractive and the delivery to all households ensured the date of the fair was known. Little further advertising would seem necessary in view of the numbers attending.

Raffle

23 prizes were provided which is ample but people buying tickets like the variety of prizes and a greater chance of winning. A bigger box is needed to take the folded raffle tickets.

The draw at 3.30pm was interrupted by the arrival of the procession but most people are not present for the draw. It was suggested that the draw was moved until after the switch on of the lights or that the draw is made more quickly, without waiting for a prize winner to come up, before the next ticket is drawn.

The list of prize winners needs to be displayed in Richardsons. 2 prizes had not yet been collected from Richardsons. Chris Lee will remind the ticket holders. M. Field and her team had made a great effort. Ticket sales through Ripley Primary School had increased on the previous year.

Stalls

The quality of the stalls was variable but the general standard was higher. About 50% of the stalls were new, 50% returning. 8 or 9 stalls did not turn up on the day and 2 cancelled in advance. 93 pitches were allocated but a further 10 could have been sold.

Sally had reported that the left hand side of the Milk Road did well but the stall holders complained about the area.

The handbag stall had had their best ever sales.

Outside Drakes, the music can be loud. Chris will discuss the possibility of raising up the speakers with Peter and Drakes.

The Rotary Club had cooked sausages and blocked the lay by where the Harley Davidsons stop. They will be asked not to do food in 2014.

Marshals

The marshals had not reported any major concerns except that many stall holders did not take their black bags home. Jan Richardson's offer to take in the rubbish bags had been very helpful. Jennie Cliff had cleared outside the Ship and emptied the bin by the dentist on Sunday.

Hot Food

Nigel had reported that a 3rd barbecue or a second stall at the other end of the village would help to increase sales.

The teams manning the stall for 1 hour had worked well.

The current position is good as there is room to queue without disturbing stalls. Outside the Post Office could be a second area or in front of Thomas Ford the kitchen shop.

Burgers were more popular than sausages.

The hot chestnuts and crepe stalls had failed to turn up on the day.

Procession

The procession left the village hall early and so the raffle draw had to be stopped and Father Christmas and his elves were not ready to get in the car. The procession could not wait because of the traffic. It is difficult to time this. A second Father Christmas to join the procession at the village hall might be easier.

The Harley Davidsons add a great deal to the procession but were too keen. A marshal should be present with a mobile phone to enable the signal to start to be given. The Police stopped the traffic for the procession to leave the village hall.

The Lambrettas did not attend because of the weather.

Ripley Pantomime did not come.
The Woking pantomime mouse was very good.

The Bonfire Queen could be asked to join the procession. Lisanne had a contact for "In the Night Garden" characters. They could mingle with the crowds at the fair before joining the procession.

Entertainment

The acts this year were very good but meant more work for Peter. The area outside Smith Pearman worked well apart from the problem of spectators standing on the road. The Bonfire Committee has some barriers which, together with marshals, could be used to keep people on the pavements.

Cameron Brown, Tornead Jazz and the Rock Choir are all keen to come again. Peter Honore was very happy.

Ripley Primary School volunteered to do carol singing at the last minute. Perhaps they could be involved at the start of the fair near the Milk Road in 2014.

Phil Paul is happy to continue as Father Christmas but perhaps a second Father Christmas is needed to give him a break and for the procession. Jan and Nicola will not be available as Santa's helpers in 2014. Caspar will ask for volunteers at the Youth Club. Are two people needed to work together or could the time be split between 2 people or more?

The fairground rides went well and attracted children to the fair.

Matt Jelley was happy as compere.

Other Issues

The Surrey Advertiser had not printed anything about the fair except to show the Rotary Club. No photographer had come despite being invited.

Chris will push for an acknowledgement of the fair in the Surrey Advertiser next time.

Plans for 2014

It was suggested that the stall fee should be increased from £30 to £35. This is in line with charges to stall holders at other venues.

It was agreed that the Christmas lights should be kept on until 6th January instead of stopping on 2nd January as in previous years.

A vote of thanks was given to Chris Lee for his hard work in organising another very successful fair.

It was RESOLVED: That the agreed plans and arrangements of the Christmas Event Committee be reported to the next Ripley Parish Council meeting scheduled to be held on Thursday 16th January 2014.

CE 50/13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting meeting will be held on Tuesday 29th April 2014 at 6.00 at MDM House.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed:

Date: