

RIPLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the CHRISTMAS EVENT COMMITTEE MEETING held on MONDAY 12th JANUARY 2015 at SOUTH VIEW, POLESDEN LANE, RIPLEY at 1830hrs.

Present

Chris Lee (Chairperson), Cllr Jennie Cliff, Cllr Colin Cross, Cllr Suzie Powell-Cullingford, Cllr Vernon Wood, Mike Baker, Elaine Cooper, Peter Hookins, Geoff Richardson, Jan Richardson, Glyn Watkins.

CE 44/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Caspar Hancock, Cllr Lisanne Mealing, Nigel Bruder, Jackie van Heeswijk, Matt Jelley, and Jim Morris.

CE 45/14 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

No disclosures of interest were received.

CE 46/14 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 17th November 2014 were received, confirmed and signed as a true and correct record by the Chairperson.

CE 47/14 INCOME 2014

The figures detailing income and expenditure were received and analysed. It was pleasing to see an increase in profits of approximately £800. Raffle income was down and it was agreed to enlarge and move the raffle stall to in front of Drake's. M Field will be notified of this by the Chairperson. Pre-event sales had been disappointing. It was agreed to offer a first prize of £100 cash in 2015. Four prizes remained unclaimed. It was thought that many people had less disposable income. A stall at the November Farmers' Market could provide a sales opportunity. Father Christmas income was about the same. BBQ stall income was up, as was the contribution from Benson's Funfair.

CE 48/14 PUBLICITY

The estate agent boards and sign at the Milk Road were considered important. The signs could be made more eye-catching, but since they are provided, stored, and erected by Wills Smerdon, this cannot be influenced. The Christmas Fair is becoming part of the area programme, but it was noted that there are now far more of these events than when Ripley's began. The flier will be redesigned for the next Fair. The 'Parish Review' newsletter (including Fair Flier) delivery was early for this Fair but Parish Council news had affected the timing. The notion that stall holders could be sent some fliers for distribution was considered to be a good idea despite cost implications. A need to appoint a Publicity Manager for the Committee and Event was discussed.

CE 49/14 STALLS

One or two minor, resolvable issues were raised. Marshals need to have clearer information in future in order to avoid misunderstandings with stall-holders, the Chairperson will make it clearer to marshals which numbers relate to which stall areas. Stall prices will be held for 2015 and all stall-holders currently on the list and reserve list will be notified in mid-April for priority booking. Feedback from stall-holders was slightly less positive than previous years.

CE 50/14 BBQ

It was decided that one BBQ was enough. Moving the opening of the BBQ to an hour earlier had been worthwhile. The hard work undertaken by the BBQ team was very much appreciated and it was agreed to make a donation to their beer fund in future years.

CE 51/14 ENTERTAINMENT

It was felt that the entertainment had been well-balanced and easy to manage. The Chairperson will contact those involved and rebook for 2015. It was suggested that the compere also uses the area in front of Smith Pearman in future. Barriers outside Smith Pearman to stop the public standing in the road worked well and will be repeated.

CE 52/14 FATHER CHRISTMAS

J Richardson was thanked for all her help with the event. Father Christmas times will be published on the flier in future and announced throughout the event. The hard work of the Father Christmas team was acknowledged.

CE 53/14 PROCESSION

All had gone well with the procession and switching on of the lights. Stall holders need natural light and so the timing of switching on the lights would not be changed in future years. The procession could leave at 1545hrs in future and still have time for the switch-on.

CE 53/14 OTHER MATTERS & IDEAS FOR 2015

A new Christmas Card design is required for 2015. The idea of a 100 club was discussed at length and may raise up to £500, but will require careful planning (G & J Richardson). Traffic flow seemed to be better than in previous years, but some parking control in troublesome areas may be required. It was agreed that s Powell-Cullingford and J Richardson will develop a comprehensive list of local businesses and approach them ahead of the next event with a view to obtaining financial donations.

The Chairperson was thanked for his hospitality, and for all his hard work over the last year. The financial and social success of the 2014 fair was applauded, and the Committee looked forward to working together for the next event.

CE54/14 TIME & DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st April 2015 at 1830hrs at Ripley Village Hall Annex.

Signed:

Date: