

DELPH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Meeting held on 10 November 2009 Millgate Arts Centre

Welcome and Introductions

Present:

John Martindale, Mike Buckley, Tony Stell, Keith Begley, Graham Griffiths, David Shipp, Joan Lally, Alan Hartley-Smith, Sue Lund, Joanne Leighton, Phillida Shipp, Gill Clark.

Apologies for absence:

Bill Hullah, Mike Clegg.

Minutes of last Meeting (Sept 22nd) - corrections:

(Keith Begley)

Page 1 - last para: instead of '*the plans are not expected until March*' should read '*the work is not expected until March*'

Page 2 - *Chapel Gardens* will be discussed under Matters Arising.

Minutes of last Meeting - Sept 22nd - accepted as true record.

Matters Arising:

Chapel Gardens/Car Park

Phillida spoke to Bob Stubbs about the car park. He said that Bob Davies, the Methodist Minister, had the papers and was going to pursue the matter with the Methodist Property Division in Manchester. At a subsequent meeting Lisa MacDonald, (officer for the District Partnership), said that she thought the Methodists did not wish to renew the contract with OMBC. Phillida will continue to pursue the matter.

Mike Buckley: People seem evenly divided about the plans for Chapel Gardens, so decision made to raise money on a piecemeal basis for the non-contentious items: i) trees ii) stabilise gravestones. Abandon plan for Performance Platform, too contentious, but Keith suggested the possibility of a flat area in the middle like a dais. Suggestions to move entrance/exits to make it a more enclosed space.

Tony: perhaps re-open the entrance by Rose and Crown?

Mike: The land is owned by Oldham Council not The Rose and Crown - it is Council leasehold land. Can we purchase the land licence or have licence to open it?

Graham: the disabled access would be through Gartside Street.

Priority Signing:

Phillida attended PACT meeting. Lisa MacDonald noted all points raised and she will be acting upon them.

FUND RAISING:

Charity Theatre Night: Sue Lund in charge of supper plans (for 80 people). List passed round Meeting for volunteers to provide food. Phillida: more volunteers needed to sell tickets.

Junior Brass Band: Possibly hire auditorium (£100) and bar lounge (£40) for this event.

Graham: A charge of £3 per ticket would probably cover this cost - tour of Belgium was very successful. Sue: Does the school have a choir or something we could tap into?

Phillida: A Sunday for a couple of hours - start at 4pm?

Action: Ken to do a feasibility study.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Bank balances

£4,616

Income since last meeting	£
Book sales	8
Cash donations	125
Interest	1
	<hr/> 134

Expenses	
Saddleworth voices	232
Electric	55
Gas	56
Windows	25
Business rates	11
Library sundry costs	17
	<hr/> 396

Deficit in period **£ - 262**

Deficit if we deduct the
£200 grant received **£ - 62**

Brief summary of points to note:

1. Grant from Saddleworth Parish Council for Saddleworth voices Project £200. Costs were £32 over this. DCA Exec have agreed that DCA will pay this small excess.
2. 3 small fraudulent direct debits totalling £51.91 removed from DCA account have been refunding by the bank.
3. Disputing some invoices from British Gas for standing charges on electricity meter which is not used in library.
4. We need to continue to fundraise as we are currently spending more than we are obtaining in donations. Running costs of the library are estimated to be £3,000 per annum.
5. We are now responsible for Business Rates for library - estimated cost £107 per annum (20% of total costs). The Council have discretion to remove this cost for charitable bodies and David Shipp has kindly assisted with the application for discretionary relief reduction.
6. Joanne will not be standing next year for re-election. Any suggestions for person willing to take over role as Treasurer would be greatly appreciated.

POLICE REPORT:

We have not received up to date crime figures for the area. Gill will get update and pass on to Mike for website.

ENVIRONMENT:

Mike Buckley gave update on red telephone boxes. BT will phase out all red telephone boxes: the one in centre of village and at Heights are Listed so BT cannot removed them. BT have produced figures for how many calls were made from these phones and have given two options:

1. keep them in working order and maintain them to be used as card phones - local community would pay half - £300 estimate.
2. Decommission them - local community could buy them for nominal amount (£1 or £5) and the empty kiosk would be kept.

Mike: District Council would only make commitment to sponsor Tamewater and Friarmere boxes for one year (until end of financial year). Would not sponsor box at Cross Roads in Delph and probably not box on Sam Road, Diggle. The criterion used in making this decision: *'is the box making a contribution to local environment?'*

Discussion: what would one be getting for a £300 contribution with BT? If they were taken over what is position on liability/insurance? - Tony Marlor trying to get answers. The cost for renovating each box ie restore glass panels, painting etc would be approximately £800. We also need to know maintenance and cleaning costs. Possibility of sponsorship of boxes and how each one could be used in future - tourist information, history of area etc. The Parish will have to take legal ownership. Phillida: Interesting prospect but we have no money. Ken: Are we prepared to support Parish Council in taking it on and apply for grants (Pennine Prospects etc). We could put forward joint applications for Heights and Friarmere and canvass community opinion for best way of using the restored boxes. Graham: need to check on electricity supply to box.

Mike: In principle if everything is OK will DCA support project?

DCA agreed in principle to support the project.

INDEPENDENT CHAPEL:

Issues: private gardens in graveyard, railings in front of church (defensible space). Possibly take railing out and put bushes in. Entrances opened up. Site Meeting to take place with architects re landscaping proposals: should not detract from the building but houses need some privacy.

Ken - important points:

- i) no building on graves
- ii) access for community to graveyard
- iii) grave plots - people to be buried there, need access route for coffins.

Some notable people from the past are buried here. Family and friends to be allowed to clean up graves and there is now a momentum to start cleaning up (possibly put benches back) and keep it in decent order.

Action :Ken will keep people informed.

Mike: Saddleworth Trust will be issuing booklet with plan of graves.

LUMB MILL DEVELOPMENT:

Plans for the new development were on show in Delph Library for the community to inspect. The new plans showed 41 house and 8 apartments.

Ken: make sure stone is used - no rendering.

LIBRARY:

Phillida: new self service machine installed - this will be linked to Oldham system.

WAKE UP DELPH:

Keith: update on fundraising. Christmas lights/ grotto will be upstairs in Methodist Chapel. Novelty ice rink on St. Thomas' church car park (small charge with pre-booking system) - leaflets to go to schools, cubs etc. Usual stalls, Oldham Scottish Pipe Band to start proceedings/Santa's arrival. Carol event on 5th December in band club (see below).

Millennium Seat needs repair. Not the correct time to paint it - unless it is taken up and stored to dry out for a couple of weeks. Probably better to leave it until the Spring. John is getting 3 quotes for repair work.

Phillida: we may be coming to *Wake Up Delph* for money towards repair.

WEST GALLERY CAROLS:

Singers - West Gallery 18 century Carol Parties. This will be at the Delph Band Club on Saturday 5 December following the Christmas Lights Switch-on. Carol singers use oral pre-Victorian traditional carols (1760-1840), also reconstruction of historical dancing, plus period food (18 century mince pies/tarts recipe) and Greenfield Brewery will be producing a 'Singers' Ale'. Alan hopes for small grant to reimburse his costs

Action: Ken will apply to Pennine Prospects for grant.

Alan left fliers for distribution.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Request from Claire Whitehead - can something be done about the health of the Cherry Tree beside the bridge. This tree was planted by John Whitehead in '63 and now looks in need of attention. Keith has contacted Oldham Parks Department as it is local authorities responsibility. Phillida has asked Pam Daniels to keep an eye on it for DCA.

Action: Keith Begley.

Swan Meadow playscape: Zoe Tindall, Play Development worker for Oldham, forwarded an e-mail from Richard Vink. "*the Service has put forward the scheme for planning permission and are awaiting the outcome of that process before they can make a decision on the project. Hope to have planning permission outcome by New Year.*" Gill to invite Zoe to next meeting and to write to Oldham council about the wet land.

Footpath by Shaw Mill: Mark explained that the footpath by Shaw Mill is in a mess because he had recently arranged for the goyt to be dug out as it was silted up. The machinery had made ruts along the path area but Mark thought this would right itself in time. He had originally approached the Environment Agency but they were not interested in doing anything about it. David Mallilieu has water extraction rights it was thought that he might be willing to help with the maintenance of the leat. Phillida thanked Mark for organising the work.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday January 12th 2010.

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm