

Buxted Bonfire Society Monthly Meeting



Date: 9th May, 2017

Location: Buxted Inn

Attendees: Debra Elliott (Chair), Paul Scott-Harris (Sec), Russell Jackson (Tres), Monica Ross, Karen Fordery, Sabrina Mudie, Katrina King, Chris King, Nigel Hodgson.

Agenda:

1. Apologies.
2. Corrections to minutes
3. Website & promotions.
4. Direction for 2018.
5. Firework course
6. Membership/application forms.
7. Insurance.
8. Buxted Scouts.
9. Fundraising.
10. Bonfire Council BONCO.
11. Uniform orders and merchandising.
12. Summary, conclusions and closing questions.
13. AOB.
14. Next meeting.

Agenda Item Number	Discussions
1	Mick Gosden (H&S)
2	No corrections. Noted however, Facebook postings of the minutes do appear small at first glance. People need to click on the image to make it larger and then you may be able to zoom in. Agreement that BBS shall e-mail minutes out to members once ratified by the exec team.
3	BBS website, www.buxtedbonfiresociety.co.uk now launched and is live. Promotion of BBS now in June edition of Uckfield Matters. Promotion of BBS within Buxted Messenger. BBS now officially recognised within Bonfire Council (BONCO).
4	Wont be able to host event in 2017. We shall be hosting an event in 2018. It was noted by BONCO, that no other society has managed to walk and host in the same year as inception. This is due to workload, absent key figures, funding, time left until event. However we can still march (walk) with other bonfire societies, build relationships, experience and learn from them. Walking invitations received from Uckfield Carnival (2 nd Sept), Crowborough (9 th Sept), Mayfield Carnival (16 th Sept), Burgess Hill (23 rd Sept), Rotherfield (30 th Sept), Hastings (14 th Oct), Fletching (21 st Oct), Newick (28 th Oct), Lewes Borough (4 th Nov), East Hoathly (11 th Nov), Robertsbridge (18 th Nov). No expectation for members to attend all nights, though it would be positive to attend at least one event. In discussion with Ionides Trust to hold a fundraising event on the Buxted Green (football pitch). Possibility of 21 st October availability for 2018 bonfire calendar?
5	Nigel (torch captain) attended a firework-training event hosted by Nevill (Lewes) bonfire society. Fusing systems, manual or electronic fuses. Nigel set off smoke bombs and assessing safety of the fusing system. Only 5-types of fuses routinely used. Training and licensing is a requirement to be able to launch fireworks. Very informal course, but very informative. Meant to be 2hr course, went on for over 3hrs.
6	Application forms now available to the public to become a member. Application forms can be e-mailed out or obtained from Buxted Pharmacy. Forms are to be uploaded onto the BBS website and Facebook for automatic download. Completed forms to be handed in to Paul at Buxted Pharmacy with your payment. A receipt shall be provided on payment. The application forms include the breakdown of costs and what the different levels of membership include.
7	Insurance is far greater to provide your own fireworks display. BBS are in consultation with Carnival pyrotechnics LTD (East Hoathly). Nigel passed on that Nevill also provide pyrotechnics. Launching fireworks to music was discussed and may be a possibility in 2018?
8	Buxted Scouts have requested a business plan for the meeting between both parties to discuss the possibility of a torch procession to support the Scouts Bonfire night in 2017. No business plan has been provided by Buxted Scouts. Possible meeting dates to be agreed by BBS exec first hand.

	Discussed that BBS to have our own separate date would benefit BBS and the local Buxted community and provide BBS with the freedom to hold an all-round event. The event was agreed to be on the Ionides land and food provision would be via a multitude of sources including hog roasts. Both pubs may also run beer tents for the evening.
9	2017 has been agreed to be the fundraising year as well as promotion of the society. Fundraising through donations, membership and sponsorship. Both pubs are very willing to engage with BBS. Buxted Fete/Festival (potential £3k at event). Any/all ideas are very welcome. Suggestions include, Buxted Inn discounted meals, a dog show, Morris Dancers? Quiz night at The White Hart has been tabled and the proprietor is very keen to get this underway. Torch sponsorship. (Rye????)
10	BONCO meeting on the XXXX. It now made it official that we are here to stay and are part of the Sussex bonfire community. BONCO agenda included: Sussex 4x4response - A charity that operates 4x4 cars to assist with road closures, flashing lights, marshalling, all are qualified first aiders. Identified as a charity. Russell tabled the idea that they may be one of our charities to sponsor from the fundraising form the 2018 night. Discussion about legal challenge by a resident in Fletching who complained about the recitation of the bonfire prayer at last Fletching bonfire evening. Legal challenge recognised as closed, though cost BONCO over £600 for the legal advice and response. BONCO hold an April dinner-dance, invitations open to BBS members.
11	Uniform ordering discussed. Some members wished to purchase clothing items and paid Russell on the night. Receipts issued. Clothing to be uploaded onto webpage and on Facebook sales page. Karen (merchandising captain) took merchandising/gift suggestions from members that included bumper stickers, mugs, antispill cups, pens, wrist bands, chocolates etc. Costumes to be brought together. Jumpers to be knit by Monica. Wool price £3.50 per ball. BBS fundraising to pay for this.
12	None
13	Tuesday 30 th May 7:30 @ reading rooms. Buxted Parish Council – annual showcase the societies in Buxted.
14	Weds 14 th June at 8pm, The White Hart

Open Agenda Items:

1. Company house registration (DE, PSH)
2. Apply for insurance (DE, PSH)
3. Obtain sponsorship to apply for insurance so that we may begin fundraising. (ALL)
4. Code of conduct to be drawn-up (DE, PSH, MG, RJ)
5. Initiate development of website (AB)
6. Obtain domain name from online provider.
7. Social media interaction (DE, PSH)
8. To identify promotions/social media post? (PSH)
9. Order/design promotional materials including banner (DE, PSH, RJ)
10. Outstanding posts to be assigned (TBC)
11. Storage of torches (TBC)
12. Location for dipping the torches (TBC)
13. The need to communicate with those who do not use social media.
14. Link and present to other Buxted societies such as horticultural, hockey, cricket, Ionides, Buxted Messenger etc.