

Buxted Bonfire Society Monthly Meeting



Date: 14th June, 2017 @ 20:00

Location: White Hart

Attendees: Debra Elliott (Chair), Paul Scott-Harris (Sec), Russell Jackson (Tres), Monica Ross, Katrina King, Chris King, Christine Sullivan, Rick Burton, Andrew Goff, Brett Smith, Graeme Bateman, Hayley Elliott

Agenda:

1. Apologies
2. Corrections to minutes
3. History of BBS
4. Bank and finances
5. Sponsorship
6. Quiz
7. Parading with other host societies
8. Car Boot Sale
9. Carnivals vs Bonfire societies
10. Costume presentation
11. Business Plan
12. Summer Fete
13. Original BBS banner
14. Summary, conclusions and closing questions
15. AOB
16. Next meeting.

Agenda Item Number	Discussions
1	Mick Gosden (H&S), Karen Fordery, Sabrina Mudie, Nigel Hodgson, Mick Lunn
2	No corrections. Available online.
3	Debbie gave a short presentation of the history of BBS. Debbie to e-mail Rick Burton, the history of BBS.
4	NatWest Bank account now operational. Members are now able to pay for their membership via BACS payment. (Please ensure you put your name in the "subject" or "reference" field, or the payment may not be assigned to you). Paypal account to be activated by Russell. £8k min to be raised over next 15 months. BBS are unable to host this year due to timescale and lack of cash flow.
5	Both, The White Hart and The Buxted Inn have agreed to sponsor BBS. BBS to issue a business plan in order to obtain sponsorship.
6	The White Hart have agreed to host a quiz night once a month on a Wednesday. Winnings will come from the proceeds, with remaining quiz proceeds (not pub takings), to go towards BBS. First date TBC, though 1 st evening within 3 months.
7	The discussion that all BBS members may parade with other bonfire societies in full BBS costume only after acknowledgement from the hosting society. Please pass your requests to the secretary (Paul) who will compile a list of those who wish to parade. Please do this at the earliest convenience so that the host society may be informed in good time. A list shall be provided by next BBS meeting and attached to these minutes. Remember to always refer to the green guide.
8	The provision of a car boot sale on the surgery land was proposed to raise revenue. Paul to feed back to BBS the outcome at next meeting. Special thanks to Rick Burton who kindly offered the use of the Ionides land should the surgery request not be accepted.
9	Christine Sullivan provided an excellent break down on the formation of bonfire societies in Sussex, the reason for burning effigies, the difference between a carnival and bonfire societies. Christine's presentation was received warmly and with thanks. Please see the Uckfield carnival parade from 2016 here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQKZOErsHs Lewes Bonfire Society from 2016 here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ms7wEX_26oU
10	Monica Ross gave a lovely presentation on costumes. A vote was taken with those members present, whether capes or costume dress was acceptable attire. It was agreed that both should be used for BBS processions. Members were reminded that costumes must be used in parades and the smugglers jumpers only be used as work wear for the society. This is the bonfire tradition and BBS have agreed with other societies to uphold this tradition. It was discussed that a costume "brain storming" session is to be agreed as soon as possible, so

	that all members can get on designing their own costumes. Also, to agree some ground rules.
11	Business plan needs to be written as a matter of urgency. Any member who has had prior experience and can guide the BBS committee, please can they make themselves known. The review of the plan may be of help to the committee. The business plan is needed in order to approach businesses for sponsorship. Sponsorship is required to purchase public liability insurance.
12	Summer Fete for revenue generation. Approaching Ionides, Buxted Parish, Wealden District Council for permissions. Rick Burton to CC correspondence to BBS re: permissions to Ionides. <i>Please note, this cannot go ahead until we have public liability insurance in place.</i> Agreed provisional date due to surrounding village/town events to be Saturday 12th August . To be held on the Buxted village green (football pitch) so that toilet facilities may be made available. Proposition, to include beer tents from Buxted Inn?, white Hart?, BBQ from Coopers Farm?, classic car display agreed, dog show agreed, music discussed by Rick Burton and Monica Ross with a range of potential leads presented.
13	The new BBS banner was discussed and presented to members as the BBS logo as it was very visual, depicted Buxted as well as flames as the antlers depicting bonfire. The weight of the banner was discussed and a lightweight metal frame was agreed. A carved wooden banner may be too heavy to carry and a fabric banner flammable and unsuitable. Other societies usually have a metal banner which may also have supports built within, to hold torches.
14	None
15	None
16	Monday 17 th July, 20:30 the Buxted Inn BBS are exploring the potential to Skype / conference calls so that more people may attend and partake in the meetings.

Open Agenda Items:

1. Debbie (Chair) to e-mail Rick Burton history of BBS
2. Paypal to be activated by Russell
3. Membership form and online payments on Facebook and website to be updated with BACS and Paypal info by Russell
4. BBS committee to write business plan and then seek sponsorship monies.
5. Confirmation of costume date. All members to attend to influence BBS costume designs.
6. Confirmation of Buxted Fete date, Volunteers to be sought to assist the committee with organising the event.