

**Buxted Bonfire Society Meeting
Monday 9th December 2019 @ 19:30hrs
Buxted Football Club Pavilion**

MINUTES

Present: Alex, Jim, Tegan, Kev, Weasel, Hayley, Angela, Jamie, Ryan, Dave, Debbie, Mick

Apologies: Monica, Jan, Clive, Guy, Stephen, Emily, Will, Jack, Sue.

Previous Minutes Read & Agreed:

Banner for pitch: Mick will get completed artwork for the pitch side banner to Chameleon design this week.

Container: The parish council have agreed the container location, it will now be positioned at the side of the football club adjacent to their garage with the door at the front next to the garage door – this site has been chosen so we avoid the manhole covers for the football club sewer!

First Aid: Dates offered 11th or 12th January - postponed owing to insufficient interest / availability.

Quiz night: Last quiz night on the 22nd November went well, we could have accommodated about three more teams but £160 was raised and that is all profit as Mick donated the prizes. Another Quiz is planned for February – date to be agreed.

Jumble Sale: The Jumble Sale will be held on the 14th March, Hayley has secured the hall and is coordinating the event - any help from members in collecting items and especially on the day would be appreciated. Mick will design a poster.

Aparel: 1x jacket (Dave's) needs to be collected from Ringmer, Mick will pick it up. Future orders for zipped jackets will be charged at £25 owing to supplier's price increase.
Weasel would like x Large hoody.

Christmas tree light switch on - Debrief:

Location: All agreed the location was better than previous years, some of the gazebos could be moved around to make access easier next year.

Power: No concerns

Tree: No concerns, some members thought the lights were arranged in a different way than previous years – though all agreed it looked nice and could be seen from a fair distance. We had to borrow some lights from Guy & Ben as the tree was slightly bigger than we anticipated when ordering the sets for the society.

BBQ: Very, very busy!!! In order to keep up with demand it was agreed that we should consider purchasing chaffer dishes for future events in order to be able to keep cooked food at temperature whilst more is cooked. Kev raised the point that many of the premium venison burgers were taken by the complimentary tickets given to performers – all agreed that for future events these would carry an additional £1.00 charge.

Bar: Again – very busy, Debbie suggested that two soup warmers would be better next time for mulled wine and that more float change was required, she also suggested that we should offer 'doubles' for an extra £1.00 – all agreed this was a good idea.

The mulled wine needed to start heating earlier and next year we will sell mulled cider instead. Bayley's will remain on the tariff next year, but the gin went, a further barrel of Harveys may be considered and less cans of larger. Bottled water will be added.

Santa's Grotto No concerns

Entertainment All agreed the entertainment was fantastic and that we should enhance our offering next year with a brass band and school choir.

Advertising a better banner should be organised next year in lighter colours.

Torches very successful – oil drums should be used next year instead of carts to avoid potential trip hazards.

Gazebos a thank you letter will be sent to Hawkhurst for loaning theirs

Advertising the leaflet drop is a 'must' and gets locals on board

Lighting Hayley suggested that lighting up the play area would provide parents with piece of mind and encourage them to stay longer - all agreed. Further lighting to the toilet and BBQ area would also be good.

New membership: No new members this month.

Correspondence received: As the winning society at Newick I have been asked if I would be prepared to deliver a short speech at their annual dinner and in return I am permitted to take a guest from BBS – given the significant work and effort that Hayley has put in this season I would like to suggest that she attends (at no cost to the society). – Proposed by Kev, seconded by Jim.

The advert for their dinner has been posted on our Facebook page should anyone else like to attend.

Hosting our own event: At the last meeting we all discussed the possibility of hosting our own night in 2020, this would be a massive undertaking and after speaking to fellow societies there is a suggestion that we would need about 18 months to get the first event organised sufficiently – this would mean that hosting in 2020 would be difficult, it would also mean that if there is an appetite from membership to host in 2021 we should start planning in January next year – Jim suggested there was a sufficient presence at the meeting to establish if we should host in 2020 – most of those present felt this wasn't possible. A second vote was held for hosting in 2021 if we can secure sponsorship for fireworks and this generally supported by those present, it was agreed that further discussions would take place early next year to establish where we take this next.

The 2020 Summer Fete will take place on the 27th June and this year we will be working alongside the Horticultural society – a sub meeting with representatives from the Horticultural society will take place in early January.

The Horticultural society has sent the following as a preliminary list of ideas:

- *Buxted Horticultural Society (BHS) has its 150th year in 2020*
- *Our thoughts were a grand summer show in a marquee (like the old days) corner of the football pitch nearest the scout hut so hugely visible from the road and carparks*
- *Concept agreed by our committee*
- *Committee agree with the 27th June / Fete*
- *Instead of a direct grant to the BHS it was agreed as follows; £750.00 secured as a grant from the Ionides Trust and £750.00 secured from BPC (for general fete BHS show arrangements for all villagers).*
- *We aim to hold our summer show as an open event as opposed to a members only show*
- *John Rose has pledged use of a 10m x 6 m (size TBC) marquee with him only wanting to recoup costs for his lorry and able band of merry men to deliver and erect.*
- *This will leave a significant amount of funds of which the use needs to be agreed on, BHS would look to be free of any charges as being part of the event given the funding but I hope that the funding achieved would enable you to have an extremely profitable event.*

At our last BHS committee meeting we agreed some loose plans for our entire year and more specifically the summer show, these include many of our usual entry classes for fruit and veg, flower arranging, photography, eggs etc. etc. We could have a mini village bake off enter a cake competition. We want to create an area for some large scale posters of some historic pictures and old show schedules, we will almost certainly be having Georgina Bollen from Flitterbrook Nursery selling plants for a modest pitch fee. We will not be offering afternoon teas like we usually do and leave this to you or whoever.

Other ideas have been to have an area for poultry or even pets corner but my concern is that of the vast amount of dogs so maybe not the best idea but does attract the kids. Maybe a minor celebrity to open the show or judge the cakes. We will definitely need part of the funds for printing etc.

We are not looking at interfering with your fete organising or indeed running. We have some tables of our own plus 2 A1 pavement boards and will probably buy a couple of 150th pvc banners to advertise the marquee.

Our normal show sets up at 9am with judging at 11am but we will probably look to move this later so prize giving can be made during the afternoon, we normally clear away by 5pm where my thoughts are that the marquee could then be used in the evening for a music event or whatever.

Next meeting; Monday 13th January @ 7.30pm at the Footbal club.