

SWINGFIELD STREET COMMUNITY GROUP AGM
Saturday 10th April 2021 10.30 am.

Due to continuing COVID restrictions, the meeting was held online.

Present: Steve, Barbara, Marianne, Tony R, Jacqui, Julie, Susan Carey, Tony, and Ann Hutt

Apologies from Sylvie and Ted, Jan and Chris, Amie and John, Ken and Pat, June and Jane Bayly, Jenny and Bob.

1. Minutes

Due to pandemic restrictions, there was no AGM last year. Instead, decisions were made through online (email) consultation – the record of those decisions was accepted unanimously by the meeting (proposed Jacqui, seconded Tony R)

2. Chair's Report

Rosemary resigned as Treasurer earlier in the year. The Chair thanked Rosemary for her work, and welcomed Marianne as our new Treasurer.

Thanks to Sue Clough for collecting items from the village for the Food Bank, this has been well supported

Marianne's collection of clothes for refugees in Folkestone was also well supported

Three raffles were held during the year:

The Macmillan raffle held in September 2020 raised £510.00 for Macmillan Cancer Support

The second raffle in December 2020 raised £300.00 for the Churches Conservation Trust

The Easter raffle held on 3 April (last weekend) raised a further £242

Selsted School has installed the commemorative bench which the Swingfield Community Association supplied for them.

We changed our **Village Emergency Telephone System** provider - saving £120 per year in fees, which are now covered through Martin's telecom business.

Ditches and drains were cleared earlier in the year, and new drain installed – this has helped resolved the flooding problem outside Coronation House, but has moved it further down The Street to the area outside Willow Lodge. Steve has been in contact with the drainage engineer. Progress on resolving the issue has been a bit slow, but Susan C has been very helpful in moving things along for us, and is happy to continue to push for us.

The flooding at the back of Stone Cottage been relieved by the reinstatement of the French ditch drainage by Roger Bayly.

'Unsuitable for HGV' signs have been installed by the Council at either end of The Street. This has stopped HGVs using The Street as a route through and will hopefully prevent further damage to property in The Street. Thanks to Clive Lofting of Highways Dept for his prompt action.

Fly tipping and potholes – Folkestone & Hythe District Council been very prompt at responding to online notifications of flytipping from the Community Group. Numerous potholes have been reported and repaired, but this is an ongoing battle with the overall condition of the lane.

Faulty streetlight near telephone box/village green cannot be replaced.

Work on St Peter's Church nearly finished – the workmen will be coming back to clean up. The workers there have been very pleasant and helpful. Thanks to Ken for allowing them to park in his driveway and keep the lane clear.

Proposal for lychgate memorial renovation has been presented to Parish Council.

Chair's report accepted unanimously

Proposed Tony Hutt, seconded Tony Ransley

3. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report and group balance sheet were circulated prior to the meeting. Presenting the report, Marianne said she believed the balance is of £421.66 is sufficient to see us through year.

Treasurer's report accepted unanimously

Prop Barbara, seconded Tony H

Tony Hutt expressed his appreciation of Marianne's clear presentation. of the accounts, and for taking over the Treasurer's role

4. Election of officers

Julie confirmed that no new nominations have been received.

The meeting agreed to the re-election of the existing officers

Chair: Steve – prop. Tony R, sec. Jaqui R

Treasurer: Marianne – prop. Tony R, sec. Tony H

Secretary: Julie – prop. Tony R, sec. Jaqui R

Unanimously carried

5. Signatories for bank account

The meeting agreed to follow the Group's usual practice of keeping the 3 elected officers as the bank account signatories.

Prop: Tony R, sec. Jacqui R

Unanimously carried

6. Association commitments

The meeting agreed to the existing commitments to maintaining the defibrillator, public liability insurance, VETS, phone box.

Prop. Tony R, sec. Julie

Unanimously carried

7. Parish Council liaison

Report from Tony Hutt, who is now our main point of liaison with the Parish Council, since Barbara has stepped down from the PC.

Tony congratulated the Group on its achievements and energy.

His main focus for the coming year will be securing the **renovation of the lychgate memorial** - repairs are urgently required to avoid the need for more radical work in future.

Tree planting in Swingfield Minnis is in progress - 600 trees were planted this season – planting has now been suspended until November.

Traveller's encampment on A260 planning permission has been refused due to strong objections from local residents, District and Parish Councils. It is now up to enforcement to get the ground back to its original state.

Tim Allard is now the new chair of Parish Council.

Tony **thanked Susan Carey** for her continuing support and work on behalf of Swingfield, and noted that Susan is standing as a candidate in the forthcoming County Elections

8. Future events and dates

The future is still uncertain – villagers are sensitive to the continuing dangers from COVID, especially as there have been instances of COVID in the village. This is a consideration that will affect support for future events and activities, even as things hopefully start to open up over the summer.

This Is My Theatre have approached Steve about a performance in the village – in Steve's opinion this was still too early, and unlikely to be supported. Julie mentioned that This Is My Theatre have a programme of open air performances over the summer, and a socially distanced, open air performance is something we might consider for later in the year. Steve agreed to explore this with TIMT.

The following dates have been pencilled in:

- **MacMillan Coffee morning** 25th September
- **Carol Concert** 18th December
- A decision about the **Village Picnic** is still pending – it usually takes place around the end of June

9. AOB

- Jacqui R was concerned about the **state of the baby grand piano in the church** – Barbara also confirmed that its condition is deteriorating. It is not currently being used and will be expensive to repair and tune.

Steve added that the CTT Health and Safety Officer had pointed out that it is currently blocking routes around the church and will need to be moved when the church reopens.

Marianne suggested contacting Carstairs in Canterbury to come and look at the piano, give an estimate of how much it will cost to repair and maintain, and whether the church is viable as a location. If impractical or too expensive, we can look for a new home for it – Marianne warned that we should give this some time, before deciding whether the only alternative is to break up the piano.

Agreed that Steve will contact Carstairs and get a quote for them to come out and have a look. Julie to contact Malcolm in Denton about tuning the piano.

- The **gamekeeper has complained about 'uncontrolled dogs'** - please keep to the footpath and remember to clean up after dogs and take the plastic poo bags home – Julie suggested we might put up a reminder notice next to the footpath gates
- Some of the **footpaths have been ploughed over**, especially around Everden

Agreed that Julie will pursue the footpaths issue with the Ramblers and County Council

- **Broadband** - we joined with Wootton to pursue fibre optic connection – Steve reported that Open Reach have now changed the rules for funding - Steve has contacted Penny James in Wootton for an update

No further business – meeting closed at 11.30am