

Swingfield Street Community Group Minutes

10th October 2021

Present:

Steve, Tony, Heather (Beardshall), Jacqui, Barbara, Marianne, Jan, Jenny, Julie, Pat, Ken

Apologies:

Tony and Ann Hutt; Wendy and Martin; Ufuk; Leo

1. **Group account:** HSBC have been in touch to let us know that they will shortly start to levy charges on our account. Marianne has been researching the offers from different banks. Metro Bank offers community groups like ours free banking, and has convenient opening hours. Marianne has arranged a meeting at Metro for Monday 18th October to open an account. *The new account will require two signatories to authorise cheques. Signatories are the Group's three officers: Chair -Steve Spitty, Treasurer – Marianne Ancel and Secretary – Julie Scott.*

Prop: Jacqui: *The Group's account in the name of 'Swingfield Street Community Group' to be moved from HSBC to Metro Bank*

Sec: Heather

Passed nem com

2. **Piano:** Julie brought the meeting up to date on work on the piano. The piano had been offered to us when the American University in Canterbury had closed, and the piano was in need of a home. Steve pointed out that the Group had never formally agreed to take the piano. Malcolm in Denton has offered to repair the keyboard without charge, and is working on it slowly – he expects to have more time to spend on it, and to make more progress on it, over the winter. Cost of tuning should be about £100, and Julie argued that since we don't need to have the piano tuned to concert standard, this should be an infrequent expense.

Prop: Barbara: *We should give Malcolm the go ahead to continue with the work on the piano, and make a final decision six months after the repairs are completed, depending on whether the piano has continued to deteriorate in its location in the church.*

Sec: Marianne

Votes for: 3

Votes against: 6

Motion lost

Marianne suggested that, if potential costs were what was putting people off keeping the piano, she would be willing to take on the costs of maintenance – others also indicated willingness to contribute. [No vote taken.]

Prop Tony: *The piano should be disposed of, and if no home can be found for it, should be dismantled and scrapped.*

Sec: Pat

Votes for: 7 Votes against: 2 Abstentions: 1

Motion carried

Julie to inform Malcolm

Prop: Marianne: We should sell the scrap metal from the piano, and offer any money made on that to Malcolm to thank him for his efforts

Sec: Jacqui

Passed nem com

3. **Defibrillator:** A national database of defibrillators is being compiled (*Circuit*), which will be used by all the country's ambulance services. We can wait to be automatically registered on this, or register ourselves online.

Prop: Marianne: *To register our defibrillator online*

Sec: Barbara

Passed nem com

Steve to do the online registration

Steve informed the meeting that, as part of the general maintenance for the defibrillator, the pads need replacing. The maintenance of the defibrillator is part of the association's constitution – the cost is expected to be about £40.

Steve to investigate

4. **Report on CCT Historic Events visit to St Peter's:** The visit went well. Jacqui, Tony, Barbara and Steve provided refreshments and collected £50 for CCT, which will go through the Association account. Feedback from the visitors was very positive, and the church will be included on their itinerary next year.
5. **MacMillan Coffee Morning:** £522.38 was raised, beating last year's total. Thanks to all those who baked cakes, donated raffle prizes, and came on the day.
6. **Conservation architect's talk on the restoration of St Peter's tower:** will take place 2pm on Saturday 16th October. Refreshments will be available, and any money made will be donated to CCT.
7. **Remembrance Day:** Sunday 14th November. The group will provide refreshments, and any money made will be donated to the Royal British Legion. Children from Selsted

School will not be attending this year due to ongoing COVID concerns, but the ongoing connection with the school should be mentioned at the Remembrance event.

8. **Christmas Carol Concert:** Has been agreed for Sunday 19th December. Proceeds from refreshments to go to CCT.

Jacqui to speak to Cecily about music; Steve to speak to Sylvie about the raffle. Steve will circulate a note asking for volunteers to organise the programme.

9. **Road and drainage works on the Street:** Previous work to improve the drainage on the entrance into the village has simply shifted the problem. Other work repairing the road service has been continuously rescheduled and postponed. Our KCC representative Susan Carey is on the case.

KCC has informed us that there will be no replacement for the broken street light next to the telephone box/defibrillator, which has now been removed, but Susan Carey has offered to make a budget available to us for a replacement streetlight. Discussion on the topic was heated. Arguments in favour of replacing the streetlight: feels safer (detering crime etc); easier/safer access to defibrillator. Arguments against: environmental; preference for darker skies; plenty of motion sensor lights in the vicinity from people's properties.

Prop: Jacqui: Accept the offer from Susan Carey to replace the streetlight

Sec: Tony

Votes for: 5 Votes against: 5

Chair declined to use casting vote as opinions heated on both sides.

Prop: Marianne: Defer decision to next meeting

Sec: Jacqui

Passed nem com – decision deferred to next meeting

10. **Footpath:** The bridle path leading across the field behind Barry's house and the church and going through St John's farmyard has been moved for safety reasons, and a new sign in the village, and gate onto Swanton Lane, have been installed. In fact, the original path goes through the churchyard, and Steve has scheduled a meeting with Roger Bayly to suggest piggy backing the rerouting of the footpath adjacent to rather than through the church yard onto the updating of the definitive map.

11. **Food bank:** Sue will be collecting donations for the food bank on Tuesday – Steve will circulate reminder.

12. **Mobile library:** reminder from Steve that the mobile library is again operational, and we need to use it or lose it. Calls at the village fortnightly on Wednesdays.

Meeting closed

Chair: Steve Spitty.....

Treasurer: Marianne Ancel.....

Secretary: Julie Scott.....