

SWINGFIELD STREET COMMUNITY GROUP

10.30AM SATURDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER, ST PETER'S CHURCH

MINUTES

1. **Present:** Barbara, Heather, Leo, Marianne, Sylvia P, Rachel, Pat, Tony H, Anne H, Julie, Ufuk, Jan, Chris, Steve **Apologies received** from Jacquie, Tony, Wendy, Martin, Monica, Nigel, Fee, John, Sylvia, Tom, Ted, Trevor
2. **Minutes of last meeting and matters arising** – decisions deferred from last meeting:
 - i. Village planters – **Motion** to pay the £285 requested from community group funds towards the planters - *prop Heather, sec Jan, passed nem con*
 - ii. Defibrillator battery – it turned out that we did need the new battery, so Steve reported he had gone ahead with purchase as per our constitution at a cost of £221 including discount
 - iii. Foodbank – Marianne had spoken to Lorna and Sue, who are happy to continue collecting from village – advantage of collection from the village (rather than a supermarket) means they can take fresh produce. **Motion** to continue foodbank collection from the village – *prop Leo, sec Julie – passed nem con*
3. **Treasurer's report** Balance of £186 will be left after payment for planters and defib battery, which leaves enough to cover public liability insurance. **Motion** to accept the Treasurer's report – *prop Barbara, sec Heather – passed nem con*
4. **Village events** –the following events have been programmed in the calendar:
 - i. **Macmillan Coffee Morning – Saturday 1st October** Jacqui, Tony, Steve and Barbara will organise – request for raffle prizes, please bring cake — agreed to leave price of raffle tickets at £1 per strip
 - ii. **Folk evening – 11th November** Marianne has been in touch with the Kimberleys, who are a very entertaining folk duo, to organise a folk evening in the church. They ask for £200 or 80% of takings, whichever is greater. Tickets will be £10 per head, so we just need to sell 20 tickets to break even. Marianne will provide the food, such as chilli, for interval or end of the evening, bring your own drink. Any profit to go to Kent Wildlife Trust. For more information about the Kimberleys or to watch them on YouTube, see <https://www.thekimberleys.org/> **Motion** to go ahead with these arrangements – *prop Ufuk, sec Rachel – passed nem con.*
 - iii. **Remembrance Day – 13th November** Tony H reported council will try to finish work on lychgate by 13th November. There has been no contact with school this year about doing anything together.
 - iv. **This Is My Theatre Christmas show** This year TIMT are touring *Nutcracker and the Mouse King* (date TBC Nov/Dec) Steve has been in touch about booking them, but has not heard back yet, probably because they still touring. This could be our December CCT fundraiser – *prop Marianne, sec Pat, passed nem con.*

- v. **Churches Conservation Trust fundraiser** – see 4(iv) above – alternatively, Chris suggested minced pie and mulled wine in December instead of coffee morning, when we can also have judging of potato competition. Date agreed: **Sunday 18th Dec 3pm**
- vi. **Christian Grosselfinger** (who performed the Celloop concert in the church earlier this year) has been in touch to offer another concert evening in the spring **end of March/early April 2023** — **Motion** to go ahead conditional on ticket sales, and if sufficient tickets not sold, postpone for a year – *prop. Marianne, sec. Julie, passed with 6 for, 1 against*
- vii. **Spring theatre** A theatre group is arranging a tour of CCT churches of a farce, *For Better or Worse*. No details of dates so far, we'll respond when more details are available.
- viii. **Other suggestions?**
 - i. Quiz night suggested by Julie – general interest – bring back proposal with some details;
 - ii. Fish and chip night in on a Thursday/Friday in January (prop Marianne, sec Rachel);
 - iii. Picnic July; BBQ August dates TBA

All events should be self-funding, as set out in our constitution. Steve pointed out it is not part of the aims of the group to generate surplus funds. We have a number of commitments which have to be maintained (e.g. maintenance of defibrillator, public liability insurance) in addition to other expenses we take on from time to time (e.g. village planters, pew cushions), and occasional contributions to some charities, as proposed by members. Expenses are likely to rise, and we may in future have to contribute to e.g. cost of electricity used in St Peter's for events.

Motion: all community group events are to be self-funding, but if there is an end of year surplus we will meet together to discuss how to spend it – *prop Marianne, sec Chris – passed with 8 for, 0 against*

Motion: next BBQ to be funded by raffle for the purpose – *prop Rachel, sec Barbara – passed nem com*

- 5. **Refurbishment of village phone box** – The phone box housing the defibrillator needs repainting. Last time paint was provided by the Parish Council, but since the phone box was removed from their asset list the PC no longer has no responsibility for this. **Motion:** cost of paint to come from funds – *prop Pat, sec Heather – passed nem com*. Chris offered to do painting next year.
- 6. **Village website** – Leo introduced the discussion paper circulated with agenda. The idea for a website came about in response to the problem of how to direct people to buy tickets for village events, but it could also be used for other purposes such as a news feed, repository for village information (e.g. Village Emergency Telephone System number), plus offers the possibility of attracting advertising from local companies. The three officers of the group + anyone else who is interested could be trained to update it – this should be no more complicated than managing a Facebook page. There was some concern that the website might end up generating much larger events which we don't have the facilities or infrastructure to handle. On the other hand, others thought it would be a great resource that could benefit a lot of people, as a resource for the history of the village, and a central depository for information about the village and events – and if it doesn't work, it can be stopped. In answer to the points raised in the discussion, Leo reiterated that the principal aim of the website would be to make it easier to sell advance tickets for events. A number of the events we have booked (such as TIMT and India Electric) in

any case have their own websites and sell their own tickets on line, and this has not resulted in excessive numbers coming to the village. The aim of generating advertising revenue would simply be to cover the cost of website. **Motion:** Leo to set up a website with ceiling of £100 expenses – *prop Leo, sec Tony H motion carried 5 in favour, 3 against*

7. **Village Group officers** – Steve announced that he had taken the decision to stand down as Chair of the community group – a meeting would be convened on 15th October to elect a new chair. Nominations, including self-nominations, should be sent to Julie (scojulie@gmail.com) or can be made on the day of the meeting. Barbara and Steve will still maintain the role of CCT liaison and hold the key for the Commandery. The Commandery will be open as part of Open Heritage Days on the weekends of 10th & 11th and 17th & 18th September from 10am – 4pm. Julie voiced the group's thanks to Steve for all his hard work and achievements on behalf of the group.
8. **AOB**
 - i. Marianne was concerned that the collection box in church is left unlocked.
 - ii. Marianne asked what is the capacity for events in church? This Is My Theatre operates with a capacity of 75 for the church.

Meeting ended 12.00.