

## SWANLAND VILLAGE ASSOCIATION 28<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SWANLAND VILLAGE HALL 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2016

MEETING COMMENCED AT 7.30pm

**Present:** Val Anderson, Janine Brownlie (covering as Minutes Secretary), Angela Carpenter, Yvonne Dumsday, Marion Escreet, Richard Fowler, Steve Killick, Louise Macfarlane, Jan Rogerson, Julie Swift

1. **Apologies:** Alyson Ell, Jackie Losh, John McCain, Linda Mitchelson, Jen and David Renoldson, Linda White.
2. **Minutes of last AGM (12/11/2015)**

The minutes were accepted by the meeting.

### 3. Matters arising

Jan mentioned that in Item 4 of the Chairman's report, there was no treasurer at this time last year, now Steve Killick has volunteered to be treasurer.

She also mentioned that the willow tree by Water's Edge has been removed and replaced.

### 4. Chairman's report:

**Jan Rogerson** welcomed the audience to the AGM and thanked the committee for their hard work over the past twelve months. There had been no resignations, but there were vacancies on the committee if anyone wanted to volunteer. Steve Killick had surmounted numerous problems with the banking system, so that internet finances were now in order.

Jan mentioned that the village was fortunate to have many volunteer groups that made Swanland such a special place to live. She thanked the Gardening Group that worked hard to maintain the colourful flower displays, and gave special thanks Mally Cracknell for designing and planting up the new 'Water's Edge' garden near the Pump House, which has become a popular area in which to sit and admire the view across the pond. The lovely seats were very kindly donated by the family and friends of Jamie Loncaster, Carol Ledgard and Admiral Branson, who all played important roles in the village, and were a reminder of three very special people.

The theft of the village entrance sign down Dale Road was pure vandalism and upset many people. The replacement has been made and will be in situ soon. Our Parish Council insures the signs, for which the SVA is very grateful. The bolts have been made tamper proof, but a welder will shortly be applying the final touches to all the signs.

Swanland Festival proved very popular this year, attracting almost 2000 people to 35 events. Jan thanked everyone who participated or organised an event; the festival brought together both villagers and visitors. Bookings have already been made for 2018!

The Pond Partnership, under the careful guidance of its Chair, Alyson Ell, has been hard at work over the past few weeks cutting the reeds and tidying up the vegetation. Extensive work to stem the leaking in the pond was completed last year, but the water levels continue to be a worry, especially in the summer season. Santa will be rowed across the icy waters in December, and Jan thanked John Gaze for 38 years of commitment to his Father Christmas duties. This year a Parish Councillor, Jon Barrett, will step into his shoes.

When new residents come to live in Swanland, SVA endeavours to hand deliver a welcome pack to each house. John White volunteered to coordinate this important project, so if anyone had a new neighbour, Jan urged them to contact John. The committee thanked him for all his work, and as usual first-class organisation.

After some distribution problems, the Parish Council Newsletter has been brought under the auspices of the SVA News. Jan welcomed them aboard, and thanked them for donating to funds.

Linda Mitchelson sent her apologies, but as Litter Picking Coordinator, she had reported that the 32 hardy volunteers do a wonderful job, although more are required. If anyone feels that they could help, they should see a committee member as soon as possible! The two hour job once or twice a year is not onerous, but very important, in that the Parish Council pays by the hour, and the money is then ear-marked for the flowers, bulbs etc. that make Swanland look so beautiful through the different seasons.

This year Graham Latter masterminded, designed and collated the new Signpost publication, and even organised a delivery to every house in the village. Jan thanked Graham on behalf of all the residents in Swanland for such an excellent source of information.

Jan mentioned the success of Swanland Show this year. The Heritage Centre also continues to attract many folk who are keen to trace the history of the village: the archives have been carefully copied and maintained, and the displays beautifully presented.

After many years of organising 'Swanland's Open Gardens', Mally Cracknell has decided that the time has come to retire! Thousands of keen gardeners have followed their maps with great enthusiasm over the years, and so enjoyed the many varied gardens their kind residents have opened to the public. Jan thanked Mally. Many items have been funded by the profits of the 'Open Gardens' and Mally has been meticulous in his book-keeping. Swanland owes him an enormous debt of gratitude for his hard work and great skill.

Many people have said how much they enjoyed the last SVA news. Jan thanked Marion for the hours of work necessary to edit and assemble the articles, and thanked Angela for arranging distribution to every house in the village. Jan also thanked Richard, who updates our Facebook page.

SVA works at the heart of our beautiful village and the hundreds of volunteers make sure that Swanland remains a very vibrant place in which to live. Jan thanked everyone involved.

The officers and committee members then resigned for the election to take place (**See 8.**)

- 5. Report from other committee members.** Yvonne Dumsday reported on the last season's **Swanland Screen and Live Events** and thanked all those present who were regular supporters of these events. At the regular monthly film shows, the audiences had ranged from 61 right up to an all-time record of 101. As 54 people are needed to break even financially, it is with great pleasure that she reported a resulting profit to the SVA of over £600. The Live Shows performed during the last twelve months were the fantastic dance company of *Balbir Singh*, the play *My Name is Saoirse* and the sold out production of the West Yorkshire Playhouse production "*Beryl*". Films, plays and music have been chosen for the coming season and all are most welcome. She encouraged the audience to ensure their SVA fees were paid up in order to obtain the £1 members' discount to all the Live Shows.

6. **Business Membership Report: Val Anderson** reported that membership had gone down but would hopefully go up next year. Three businesses had left the village in 2016 but four had joined, making a total of 25.
7. **Treasurer's report: Steve Killick** had put the accounts on to the internet during the first six months. There had been a healthy profit, with money in the bank for the History Group and Pond Partnership.
8. **Election of officers and committee:**

**CHAIRMAN: JAN ROGERSON**, nominated by Louise McFarlane, seconded by Angela Carpenter.

**DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: YVONNE DUMSDAY**, nominated by Pam Portal, seconded by Angela Carpenter.

**TREASURER: STEVE KILLICK**, proposed by Roy Kennington, seconded by Yvonne Dumsday.

**The rest of the committee were willing to remain in their posts**, proposed by David Losh and seconded by John White.

**ABSENT MEMBERS: LINDA MITCHELSON**, proposed by David Mitchelson, seconded by Karen Cowing.

There were no objections to the elections.

9. **Membership: Louise Macfarlane** said that there had been a drop in 100 members at the end of the year, but on a brighter note, there were renewals for the coming year.

She encouraged everyone present to enrol one household into the association and also suggested that everyone do a standing order.

She thanked those members that renew each year with no prompting.

Discounted Swanland cards and calendars are in aid of the Heritage Centre and were present and on sale.

## **10. A.O.B.**

To acknowledge the efforts and running of Swanland Festival and the committee, Jan and Yvonne were given a calendar each and thanks from Ian Macfarlane.

The meeting was closed at 9.15pm and followed by an interesting and entertaining talk by John Wheeler.

The evening concluded with cheese and wine. (There were 55 people present).