

SWANLAND VILLAGE ASSOCIATION 26TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SWANLAND VILLAGE HALL 10th NOVEMBER 2014

Meeting commenced at 7:30pm

1. Apologies

Apologies have been received from committee members: Angela Carpenter, Claire Tait and Richard Fowler; from SVA members: John Downing, Rena Downing, Alan Boden, Jenny Boden and Alyson Ell (pond partnership).

2. Minutes of last AGM (2013)

The minutes were accepted by the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

4. Chairman's Report

Jan Rogerson welcomed the audience to the AGM and then thanked all the committee for their hard work and commitment throughout the year. She gave special thanks to **Belinda Jones** who had become the new treasurer last year and also to **Val Anderson, Julie Swift** and **Karen Cowing** who had also joined the committee last year. Thanks were given to **Roy Kennington** who has resigned as membership secretary because of other commitments and **Claire Tait** who has resigned due to family commitments.

Thanks were given to **Mally Cracknell** and his team for their hard work in all weathers to ensure the village looks so attractive. Over 400 people attended Swanland Open Gardens during the festival this summer. Special thanks were given to **Pam** and **Wallace Portal** who are retiring from the gardening group after many years of service.

Swanland Festival 2014 hosted over 30 events, with over 2000 visitors it raised about £4,500 for local charities.

Jan invited reports from the various groups:

On behalf of **Alyson Ell**, Yvonne gave the report for the POND PARTNERSHIP. A pond maintenance day was held on the 18th October with 16 volunteers attending. A recent pond / fish survey found 2 dead fish; neither showed signs of disease or damage. Unfortunately the fishing net stored at Mere House is missing (the police have been informed), making it difficult to remove things from the pond. The *Opal survey* to assess pond health generated a score for 2014 of 18; this places the pond in the "quite healthy" range. This was disappointing after a steady improvement had been seen over the years since the first survey in 2010 when the score was 17, increasing to 32 last year.

Following this report, Jan spoke about **Carol Ledgard** who sadly died this year. Carol's interest in and passion for wildlife has benefitted the pond and the village as a whole.

Linda Mitchelson reported on the LITTER PICKERS. There are currently 34 volunteers on the rota, 3 volunteers have had to step down in the past year. More volunteers are welcome who are able to give 2 hours of their time approximately every 34 weeks.

Jan gave thanks to the Heritage Centre committee and especially to Geoff Collier.

Jan reported on the purchase of a new village sign which has been bought and handed over to the Parish council; this is to be sited down Dale Road. This and previous signs have been made possible by donations from villagers, the SVA and the Parish Council.

Yvonne Dumsday reported on SWANLAND SCREEN & LIVE SHOWS. There were four shows in 2014 with varied content including: poetry, a musical and an evening of Indian food and entertainment. The new season had started with a performance of "Taming of the shrew". The next event is a pantomime (23.11.14, Peter Pan) and in the New Year there is a play about Sherlock Holmes. The programme of films has been booked. Financially these events "break even".

Jan thanked **Richard Fowler** in his absence for his work in running the FACEBOOK PAGE. Jan also thanked **Graham Latter** for his work in running the WEBSITE.

Jan spoke about how we are fortunate to have a hard working PARISH COUNCIL under the chairmanship of **Geoff Chapman**; about the continued success of the VILLAGE HALL which is a huge asset to our village and the great service the PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION provides to our village and its young people.

Jan thanked the SVA volunteers and commented that the SVA works hard in the village yet the membership remains static, she wished to speak further about this later in the evening.

5. Election of Auditor

Belinda Jones proposed **Mr Jeremy Allison** as AUDITOR, this was seconded by Val Anderson and accepted by the membership; he was duly elected.

John White commented that the term auditor was not accurate and it was agreed that **EXAMINER of the accounts** was a more accurate description of the role.

6. Treasure's report

Belinda Jones reported that at the start of the last year the SVA had funds of £ 7,000 and at the close £ 9,000. Of this £ 1,000 was held on behalf of the HERITAGE GROUP and just under £ 1,000 on behalf of THE WILD LIFE /POND GROUP. She gave thanks to Roy Kennington, Graham Latter and Mal Cracknell, £ 1,300 had been raised from OPEN GARDENS. Thanks were given to Jeremy Allison for examining the accounts.

A copy of the full accounts was provided and available for members to view if they wished.

John White asked if monies from the open gardens were to be used to repair paving in front of Swanland Institute. The SVA were not aware of this, Belinda discussed whether funding would be available from sources such as ENTRUST. Mal Cracknell advised that a quote to repair the paving was being arranged and that he would attend the next SVA committee meeting to further discuss this matter.

Following this Jan advised that the officers and committee would now resign and she invited Roy Kennington to conduct the election.

7. Election of Officers and Committee

CHAIRMAN: JAN ROGERSON proposed by Yvonne Dumsday , seconded by Val Anderson

VICE-CHAIRMAN: YVONNE DUMSDAY proposed by Karen Cowing, seconded by Belinda Jones

TREASURER: BELINDA JONES proposed by Val Anderson, seconded by Linda Mitchelson

MINUTES SECRETARY: KAREN COWING proposed by Yvonne Dumsday , seconded by Julie Swift

There were no other nominations for these roles

Re election of the existing committee was proposed by Geoff Chapman and seconded by John Mc Kain.

Jan invited a report on the membership.

Roy Kennington reported on the SVA MEMBERSHIP. This year a business membership was introduced with 17 local businesses becoming members of the SVA. Thanks were given to them (their names being listed in the recent SVA newsletter) and also to our advertisers .The current paid up membership is 375, which is down from 2013 when there were 523 members after a membership drive by **Claire Tait** and **Richard Fowler**. Membership remains at only £2 and Roy urged members to pay by standing order.

Julie Swift reported on the BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP. This stands at £5 per year and the aim is to increase the number of businesses involved.

Jan thanked **Julie Swift** and **Val Anderson** for organising this new venture.

Jan invited the audience to nominate a new MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY. There were no nominations at this stage.

Jan invited the audience for suggestions on how to increase membership:

Louise Mc Farlane suggested increasing the membership to £3 so that postage could be included.

John White commented that the village may not be fully aware of the role of the SVA and the work they do.

David Mitchelson suggested splitting the village into sections with someone responsible for chasing up membership in a certain area.

Richard Hoyes suggested using the recent news that Swanland has been voted the top commuter village in the country as a way to boost membership

9. A.O.B.

Following the discussion on membership there was no other business.

The meeting was then closed and followed by an interesting and entertaining talk by Captain Philip Cowing on his role as Harbour Master Humber. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all and Captain Cowing was given thanks by Roy Kennington and a gift of wine from the SVA.

The evening concluded with cheese and wine.

Following the meeting **Louise McFarlane** volunteered as the new MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.