SWANLAND PARISH COUNCIL

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF SWANLAND**

**Was HELD ON TUESDAY 4th May 2021**

**commencing at 7.00pm via Zoom**

**followed by**

**THE ANNUAL MEETING**

**OF SWANLAND PARISH COUNCIL**

**then the usual monthly business meeting.**

MINUTES

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| 3152. | Present: Chairman Shepherd, Vice Chairman May Cllrs Brown, Chinn, Duthie. Clerk and 2 residents. |
| 3153. | Apologies for absence: Cllrs Hopton and Harle |
| 3154. | Chairman’s report: Chairman’s Annual Report for 2020/21  This is a meeting of the Parish rather than of the Parish Council. It is an opportunity for everyone to comment in what the Parish Council has done over the past year and what it should do over the next 12 months. I’ll now provide a fairly brief comment on what the Parish Council has dealt with over the past year. The first four monthly meetings were cancelled, and the remainder have taken place on “Zoom” which has had a mixed impact. Some residents (and councillors) have found these easier to attend as this can be managed more easily around other responsibilities; others have found it more difficult to play an active part. Of course, the over-riding aim has been preventing the transmission of COVID between residents.  The two biggest financial outlays the council continues to make in supporting the village infrastructure are on the village hall and the playing field. With the village hall, just over £27,000 was paid off from the loan that was obtained for its conversion a decade ago; this is just over a third of the precept. The loan will not be repaid until 2029 and is a significant investment of public money in a building that is owned by the Parish Council. Just under £15,500 was paid in rent to ERYC and in grants to the playing field committee to support the very good work going on there.  Work continues in and around the pond through the dedication of the pond partnership to carry out the regular maintenance it needs. The “Waters Edge” garden and extended seating area at the pond continues to be very well used, so many thanks to the gardening group for maintaining this valuable village asset.  Sadly, due to the restrictions arising from the Covid pandemic, we made the difficult decision to ask Father Christmas not to row across the pond just before Christmas. He will be available next year if the situation is “more normal”.  Work has continued to maintain, replace and add to what might be seen as the lower level infrastructure around the village – such as the bus shelter, litter bins, street lights, grit bins, benches, village signs and allotments.  The Council has been consulted about 32 planning and 12 tree applications (which is down from previous years due to the pandemic). Gladman appealed against the rejection by ERYC of their application for the controversial developments in Swanland (and Pocklington) which the Planning Inspector upheld. I understand that ERYC are seeking to have that decision overturned through the High Court.  There are many individuals and groups who play an important part in ensuring we have a great village, so can I just say thank you to them all – and please may they continue.  The priorities for the Parish Council over the last two years have been to increase the engagement of residents of the Parish in the work of the Parish Council and, in particular, with the Father Christmas event; and to endeavour to improve communications between various committees and organisations within the village. |
| 3155. | Open forum: A resident praised the Council for doing a brilliant job and carrying on under the current circumstances, and on the importance of keeping and eye on how Section 106 monies will be spent. |
| 3156. | Objectives for the coming year:  To increase the engagement of residents of the Parish in the work of the Parish Council.  To endeavour to improve communications between various committees and organisations within the village.  To monitor the income and expenditure of the Section 106 monies.  To continue investigations on the water level of the pond. |

Signed by the chairman ……………………………………………………………………………