

The Friends of All Saints' Church, Swanton Morley

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the church on Tuesday, 29 May 2012

1. Apologies

Harold Collinson, Denise Janes, James Keith, Aaron Hall, Rosemary Northall, Daphne Palmer, Ted Peachment

Present

James Layte (Acting Chairman), Adrian Aubrey-Jones, David Ashford, Iain Bone, John Carrick, Ann Cokayne, Horatia Diggle, Jack and Rhoda Edwards, John Leary, Bernie Marsham, George Northall, Gerry Palmer, Tony & Pamela Simkins, Dougal Smith, David & Judy Stone

2. Minutes of the last meeting

These were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising

None

4. Report of Acting Chairman and Treasurer

James began by giving a brief review of last year's activities. He also noted that King Henry's Band, which is the first event of this financial year, had made a profit of just over £400. He concluded by thanking David & Judy Stone for their efforts during the year. He then tabled the Financial Report, noting that income from subscriptions was slightly less than last year, and that income from fund raising had produced £2,895, which was substantially lower than last year. However, the statement did not include £764 which was due from Gift Aid. Also the sum due to the bell ringers had now been paid. The General Fund now stood at £21,225, most of which was currently earmarked for the work on the electrical system. Together with the funds already held by the PCC (estimated to be nearly £15k) this should cover the majority of the work.

James concluded on a personal note by saying that his house was now on the market and that he was looking for somewhere more suitable. It was therefore quite possible that he would be leaving the area. However, he was willing to continue in his present roles for the time being. Judy Stone proposed a vote of thanks to James for his hard work over a number of years and this was supported enthusiastically. David Stone said that, whilst he was quite prepared to continue as Secretary, James's departure would leave the Friends in a perilous position and he urged all those present to consider carefully what we should do.

5. Election of Officers

David Stone proposed that James Layte be re-elected as Treasurer and Acting Chairman on a *pro tem* basis, and this was seconded by John Leary. James Layte proposed that David Stone be re-elected as Secretary, and this was seconded by Ann Cokayne. Both proposals were passed unanimously.

6. Election of Committee

The current committee confirmed that they were willing to continue, and there were no volunteers to join, so this was agreed.

7. Membership and Subscriptions

David Stone said that, thanks to Pamela's hard work, the membership list was now up to date and he now had full details on a spreadsheet. We currently have 107 members.

8. Land on Gooseberry Hill

James explained that James Keith had kindly offered to give this plot of land to the Friends, if they succeeded in obtaining planning permission. If successful, the proceeds from the sale of the land would be used to fund the proposed kitchen and toilet facilities. However, this land was just outside the village guidelines for development, and planning permission would only be granted under very special circumstances. John Carrick then enlarged on this, noting that the committee had agreed to employ Paul Took, a planning consultant to present our case. He explained that the grounds for approving development would have to demonstrate that we would (i) be providing a facility for the whole village and (ii) be saving a heritage building. It would also be necessary to demonstrate that no other sources of funding were available. He added that David Stone had recently prepared a very useful briefing document for Paul Took setting out our case and that we were currently waiting for his response.

Overall the meeting supported this project, although John Leary expressed his concern that the Church was being used as a 'stalking horse' that would open the way to further development in that area. John Carrick assured him that this would not be possible under current planning regulations.

9. Future events

These were listed on the agenda and were briefly discussed. The following issues were raised:

James reported that the availability of Gresham's School Choir was a little uncertain because of a change in their academic calendar, but it was still hoped that they would be able to give a concert in late September/early October.

Action: James

James said that the Friends would be happy to assist John Carrick with the Fireworks at the Village Hall, as we had done last year and John confirmed that he had booked the hall. David Ashford said that he was willing to assist John, provided that he was kept fully informed.

Action: John to inform the Friends on what help he requires

With regard to musical events, Dougal Smith confirmed that he was in touch with Reprise and he added that the Icení Choir might also be available. It was noted that the previous concert by the latter had been a PCC event and the Friends would only involve themselves if the PCC did not wish to. The lack of response from Geoff Davidson regarding Songbyrd was reported and Pamela offered to investigate.

Action: Dougal and Pamela

Auction of Promises

James said that this had done every well some years ago and he was very keen to run it again in 2013, even if he were no longer living in the area.

Action: James

10. AOB

Pamela noted that the Dereham Festival had had some success in selling tickets for events on line, and wondered if the Friends could do this. David S. said that we had no facilities for debit or credit cards, so we could not sell tickets on-line, however we might be able to set up a booking system, with payment on the door. He would ask Aaron Hall about this.

Action: David S.

11. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT YEAR'S AGM

This will be held in the church at 7 pm on Tuesday 28 May 2013