

# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting** held on **Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 6:30pm** at the Lardner Hall, The Ghyll, Pevensey Road, Southwater, West Sussex RH13 9XZ.

*Note this is not a Council meeting, but an Annual Parish Meeting (also known as the Annual Meeting of Electors) hosted by Southwater Parish Council.*

## **PRESENT**

**Community Representatives:** Neighbourhood Wardens, Southwater Youth Project CIO, Southwater WI, Southwater Village Hall, Southwater Neighbour Network, Southwater Art Club, Southwater Community Partnership, U3A, Southwater Bowls Club, Southwater Scouts & Guides, Southwater Pet Food Bank, 4Sight Vision

**Public:** 29 persons present in the Lardner Hall.

**Minute Taker:** Justin Tyler (Executive Officer & RFO to Southwater Parish Council)

### **1. Welcome from the Chairman and opening of the Meeting.**

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting, went through fire safety guidance and gave an overview of the meeting. He highlighted it was a meeting for the Parish, residents and the community and not a Council meeting.

### **2. Apologies of Absence**

Apologies received from:

- Councillors Watkins, Vickers, Villis, Everard.
- District Councillors Jeffrey, Von Der Borgh, Blackburn
- County Councillor N Jupp.
- N Dowling of Southwater First Responders
- C Paul of QE2 School

### **3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**

Steven Chapman proposed approval of the Annual Parish Meeting minutes of 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023 seconded by James Tillier both being present at last APM, and **AGREED** by those present at the previous meeting.

### **4. Chairman's Annual Report**

The Chairman of Southwater Parish Council summarised his report as circulated and published to the Parish Council website. He highlighted some of the awards made under the Chairman's Discretionary Fund over the last year. He thanked all the Parish, District and County Councillors for their time, effort and support to Southwater over the year.

## **5. Annual Report from Southwater Neighbourhood Wardens**

Dom and Bettina (Southwater Neighbourhood Wardens) provided an overview of their annual report highlighting some of the following topics:

- Engagement with local businesses and retailers who had experienced theft and supporting them with contact with the police.
- Interaction with Sussex Police to provide intelligence and communication.
- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) – decreases in ASB in Southwater with the large majority of ASB reports relating to parking at Castlewood School and other school collection/drop offs.
- Engagement with the community, Parish, drop-in sessions, outreach and community events including the Summer Fun Fest.
- Providing support to vulnerable residents, medical emergencies, assistance to rough sleepers and providing advice/support, broken down vehicles, welfare checks on various residents.

## **6. Annual Reports from organisations who received grants from the Parish Council – to receive reports from:**

### **i. Southwater Ghyll CIO**

The Chair of Southwater Ghyll CIO, Nikki Knott provided an overview of the charity's annual report (as circulated and available on the SPC website), highlighting the work of the organisation's only employee (Amy Reed). She provided updates on the future projects and improvements made over the year. She thanked all the trustees for their time, efforts and also recognised the importance of the licensees and users of the centre.

### **ii. Southwater Youth Project CIO**

Rev Kath Jones, Chair of SYP CIO and Angie Choat, Youth Worker for SYP CIO provided a detailed report of all the achievements and action taken that year. They provided updates but not limited to the following areas:

- Mental health issues of children, teenagers and providing a safe space.
- Confidence building of children.
- Providing support to teenagers and engagement with them via the secondary schools.
- The various activities and schedule of SYP CIO including Fridays in the Lardner Hall, Duke of Edinburgh Award, various outings and trips, life skills, bridging the gap between schools, and Wednesday Hang Outs.

- Making lasting change and impact to youth.
- National trends and the importance of maintaining youth facilities and projects for the benefit of youth where so many were losing financial support.
- Importance of volunteers and gratitude to the volunteers and trustees that give up their time to support and assist SYP CIO.
- Thanks, and gratitude to Southwater Parish Council for grant funding, a funded premises to operate, the residents and Southwater Ghyll CIO for their support.

Kath Jones emphasised her appreciation and gratitude to the Youth Worker Angie.

**iii. Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee School**

Report circulated and available on the SPC website.

**iv. Southwater Bowls Club**

Les Andrews, Chairman of Southwater Bowls Club, provided an overview of the report circulated and published to the SPC website. He encouraged more residents to join emphasising that bowls was for all ages, providing an example of a teenager who played avidly. He recommended residents come to one of their taster sessions and expressed a willingness to work with SYP CIO to engage youth into the sport.

**v. Air Ambulance Charity (Kent Surrey Sussex)**

No response, report or apologies received.

**vi. 4Sight Vision Support**

A representative from 4Sight Vision Support provided an overview of their report. They explained that 32 residents in Southwater receive support from the Charity and explained the issues around impaired sight, the support the charity provides and identified the lack of support from County Councils to those in need.

**7. Annual Report from Southwater Village Hall**

James Tillier, Chairman of Southwater Village Hall, provided an overview of their report. He highlighted some of the improvements made over the year including, but not limited to:

- 24/7 fire monitoring systems
- Key fob entry system

- Car park lighting for the new car park
- Outdoor classroom and artificial grass utilising the grant from Southwater Parish Council.

He provided further updates on their future plans:

- Kitchen refurbishment
- Air source heat pumps and solar PV.
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event for Southwater Village Hall Pre School Charity
- 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event for Southwater Village Hall in 2025

He thanked all of the trustees of Southwater Village Hall for the time, hard work and efforts.

## **8. Annual Reports and/or Updates from Parish Community Organisations:**

### **i. Southwater Community Partnership**

Glynn Slowly, member of Southwater Community Partnership provided an overview of SCP being an organisation run by volunteers, non-profit, non-political, non-religious and non-lobbying. He confirmed SCP had now incorporated as a Community Interest Company (CIC) in March 2024 and requested they always welcomed more volunteers to assist and support with their various activities, events and initiatives.

### **ii. Southwater W.I.**

Jackie Pearce (President) and Suzie Lewis (Vice President) of Southwater Women's Institute provided an overview of their organisation, forming in 2018 and now with over 60 members. They highlighted the various engagement they had with community and other organisations including Horsham Matters, Safe in Sussex, Catherines Hospice and their efforts towards maintaining the War Memorial gardens, participation in the Christmas event and other events in Southwater. They encouraged more women to join noting they had meetings on last Wednesday of the month.

### **iii. Southwater Neighbour Network**

Nick Longdon (Chair and Safeguarding Officer of Southwater Neighbour Network) provided an explanation of the SNN. He highlighted they currently had 18 volunteers, thanking them for their time and diligent efforts. He noted they provide 100 hours of direct service per month to 45 residents. They provide social engagement opportunities to vulnerable and isolated and transport support to attend doctor appointments, pharmacy trips, and various other welfare/social groups. He encouraged more residents to volunteer emphasising the value and social impact SNN had on the community.

**iv. Southwater Community First Responders**

Pauline Flores-Moore (Senior Team Leader for Southwater Community First Responders) provided a summary of the work SCFR provide in Southwater. She had been a volunteer for 16 years and highlighted the benefits of SCFR, placement of defibrillators in Southwater, Southwater having the highest no of PADs in Sussex per capita. She noted funding and donations were always welcome to assist in funding battery replacement and parts for the numerous defibrillators in Southwater in various locations.

**v. Southwater Art Club**

John O'Grady spoke on behalf of Southwater Art Club advising they were coming up to their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He noted they provide two sessions per week on Monday afternoons and Wednesday evenings. They have an annual arts & crafts exhibition around September/October each year and thanked the generous support of local businesses and Southwater Parish Council. It was noted that The Little Tea Shop in Lintot Square displayed much of the members' artwork and highlighted that SAC would be holding an art exhibition 28/29<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at The Ghyll.

**vi. U3A**

The report as circulated and published on the SPC website was read out verbatim by a representative.

Southwater u3a, a small but growing group (75 members), offers informal learning and social activities for those not in full-time employment, primarily aged 55+. Due to limited venue options in Southwater, some meetings are held in Dial Post, where better facilities are available. The group remains active in the community, welcoming new members through open meetings and local events.

**vii. Southwater Scouts & Guides**

Not present.

**9. Public Forum – to hear from residents booked into speak at the meeting.**

Southwater Pet Food Bank representatives (Gilly and Sandra) provided an explanation of their non-profit organisation forming in October 2022. They provide support to pet owners from Roffey to Shipley to ensure pets can be fed, particularly importance with economic pressures where some owners may prioritise their own needs rather than their pets'. They have two volunteers currently and would welcome more. They are pushing their publicity to increase awareness so public know support is

available should they need it for their pets. They welcome donations and anything pet related. SPFB explained they had some storage issues and were looking for suitable storage.

A representative spoke in relation to Holy Innocents, Community Fridge, and highlighted the benefits and support it provided to residents in Southwater. It was held 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month for 1 hour and it saves food from going into landfill. They encouraged donations and support.

A member of the public, queried what was happening with The Café at The Ghyll. One of the Trustees of Southwater Ghyll CIO confirmed that options were being considered and a proposal to relocate SYP CIO to The Café at The Ghyll was being considered and work towards the project to progress a move from Beeson House.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

***MEETING ENDED 8:30pm***