**GUSSAGE ST MICHAEL WARD ANNUAL MEETING**

**Minutes** – 19 May 2021

**Present:**

Cllr Kate Mitchell, Cllr Susan Hanstead

Vic Hatton, Peter Bending, Rosemary Tong, Simon Tong

Ian Hanstead (note taker)

**Apologies**:

None

**Minutes**

This was the first meeting since the village joined the Vale of Allen Parish Council, and as such, no previous minutes.

**Dorset Council Councillor**

No report

**PCC**

Peter provided a handout summarising his report.

**Community Hall Association**

Susan (as chairman of the GSMCHA) said:

* All saddened by the loss of Ann Friend who did so much - a lot unnoticed. She put a lot of time and effort over many years into making the hall what it is today. Condolences to her family Richard, Nigel, Tracy etc.
* Between Mar 2020 and May 2021, only eight hires (2 x Vale of Allen PC, 6 x art class) taken place,
* A Dorset Council grant had been received which has been welcomed to support the hall,
* Hall likely to reopen once the country is ‘opened up’,
* A ‘thank you’ given to Vic for maintaining the flower boxes by the entrance – always look lovely,
* A ‘thank you’ to Ian for painting and repairing items in the hall,
* The hall committee was also thanked for their continued support and for Kate in taking over the Treasurer role.

Kate told the story of the bat that was found by the cleaner on the entrance carpet. East Dorset Bat Protection organisation was involved. Agreed to name the bat ‘Ann’. After a few months, the bat was healthy enough to be released. It was, with Kate present, from outside the hall.

**VoAPC Councillors**

Activity was generally reduced with the pandemic. Meetings unable to take place due to the Covid Act 2020. Business continued, limited by email and later by video conferencing.

Thanks were given to Nigel Friend for applying salt and grit in the winter months.

**Finances 2020/21**

From the precept levied:

* 2 x fingerposts have now been refurbished, with one remaining,
* Cashmoor noticeboard install, formerly the village centre one,
* Bus shelter repaired and wood treated to prolong its life, although this will be a future project,
* Grass cutting around the bus shelter and Roman Road picnic bench area continues to be cut by volunteers,
* The village finances are in good position.

**General**

* Vic raised an issue about the status of Dorset Council’s Local Plan. It seems that the work undertaken by the village in 2018/19 suggesting changes to the ‘village envelope’ had not been taken despite their assurances it would. Kate, Susan, Simon, and Ian would discuss, at a later date.
* Simon and supported by all present, gave a ‘thanks’ to the VoAPC representatives.

Meeting ended: 6:25pm