

SLINGSBY WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER GROUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on Thursday 23rd November at 7.30pm
in the Grapes

MINUTES

1. **Present:** Jon Boots, Sarah Bowley, Jo Breckon, Joanna Bradley, Carol Buck, Keith Buck, George Dudzinski, Stephen Mackinder, Stephen Prest, David Thornley, Dave Wilmore, and 5 parish residents.
2. **Welcome and introduction:** Jon Boots (Chairman) welcomed all to the seventh AGM of the Group, and introduced new proposed members of the managing committee; Sarah Bowley, Jo Breckon, Joanna Bradley and Dave Wilmore.
3. **Apologies** had been received from Richard Flint.
4. **Chairman's report:** Jon gave an overview of another successful year for the Group. His written report accompanies these minutes. The year has been marked by changes and proposed changes in the Committee members and officers. Joanna Bradley has taken on production of alternate Triangles with ease. Keith and Carol Buck are moving to Dorset. Jo Breckon has agreed to manage advertising in Keith's place and Sarah Bowley has agreed to become Treasurer in Carol's place. Richard Flint has moved to County Durham but kindly agreed to continue as Webmaster. Stephen Mackinder has moved to Amotherby and Dave Wilmore will work with Jon to replace Stephen in website work. The website now functions without technical problems owing to Richard's work in transferring it to a new hosting company. The future of Triangle is more secure now Joanna had become an editor. Thanks were due to the many people now involved in the work of SWaNG.
5. **Treasurer's report:** Carol presented the accounts for the Group's financial year ending 31 Oct 2017. They had been audited and signed by a retired accountant and tax inspector who is independent of the Group. Finances were healthy and the recommended one year's expenditure reserve was still in place. However, printing costs were forecast to continue rising and as usual two editions of Triangle had to be paid for before any further money would come in from advertising or renewal subscriptions. The summary accounts accompany these minutes.

6. **Newsletter editor's report:** David Thornley presented the Newsletter Editor's report. He outlined another successful year for the Triangle with a 10% increase in subscriptions due largely to the new housing in Cavendish Court and Railway Street. He thanked Joanna for her excellent work as co-editor. Thanks were also due to Kay Hill for her regular article writing, and to the distributors, including the 4 new volunteers. David explained that, in view of increased printing costs, an increase in annual subscription from £5 to £6 was being recommended. Articles for Triangle were always wanted, and a team member could help anyone to write up an article.

7. **Webmaster's report:** Richard's written report accompanies these minutes and was summarised by Jon. The major event of the year had been the move to a new hosting company, made necessary as the old one was causing technical problems. The website had its highest ever number of page views in April. The average number of page views is 114 per day. The website ranks high on search engine results, improved this year through the addition of "green padlock" security encryption. The Twitter feed has 1035 followers and the Facebook page 292 fans/likes, both increases over 2016. There will be major changes to Wordpress, the website software, in the coming year.

8. **Election of officers and committee members:** As no other nominations were received, the officers were elected as follows:
 - Chairman:** Jon Boots
 - Treasurer:** Sarah Bowley.
 - Newsletter Editor:** David Thornley
 - Webmaster:** Richard Flint
 - Secretary:** vacant

Jo Breckon, Joanna Bradley and Dave Wilmore were elected members of the Committee.

9 Any other business

The committee proposed an increase in Triangle subscription from £5 to £6 a year. The subscription includes the annual Yellow Pages and the Pink Pages delivered with each issue. A question was raised as to why this was needed when the end of year surplus had increased each year. In response, the committee anticipated a rise in printing costs. The new subscribers had covered the rise in 2017, but this would not repeat. The proposal that the committee be authorised to make the increase was voted on by all at the meeting. 10 were in favour, 2 against with 2 abstentions.

Keith suggested that the name of the Group be changed to include the word "Triangle" in the title, e.g. "Slingsby Website and Triangle". The Triangle magazine had not existed under that name when the group was founded. Residents thought SWaNG an odd and unfamiliar name. The experience of Jon had been that residents did not register or question the name, which was usually only used by SWaNG members. A name change would need the constitution and the bank account amending. It was agreed that the Committee would look at the proposal for change.

Jon ended the meeting by thanking Keith and Carol for all they had done since (and before) SWaNG existed. It had been Keith who first suggested that there should be a village website, and this led to the foundation of SWaNG. Jon presented Keith and Carol with theatre vouchers.

The meeting ended at 9 p.m.

Stephen Mackinder, Secretary
24th November 2017