



The Old School House
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These are the minutes of the Community Committee on Wednesday 16th November 2022 at 7.00pm in the Old School Hall. Members of the Press and public are welcome to attend.

		Legal Power/ Budget Heading
1	Apologies for absence - none	
2	Minutes of last meeting dated 5 th October 2022 – all approved	
3	Matters arising from previous minutes - none	
4	Members Declaration of Interest for agenda items - none	
<p>Public Forum: If residents of Sawtry wish to speak on any item on the agenda (max 3 mins) the meeting will be suspended for a 10 minute open forum. If you wish to speak, please inform the Clerk or the Chairman (Cllr Potter) at least 24 hours before the meeting.</p>		
5	COMMUNITY GROUPS UPDATE: reports previously circulated	
6	Youth Projects - Lead Councillor – Cllr Gadsby 6.1 Connections bus project – no updates	
7	Tree Donation – CARESCO 7.1 Oak Tree and Bench Donation – Cllr Sanderson and Cllr Whittaker to liaise with County Council for suitable siting if on their land, The Parish will maintain, potential site area also is around Bill Hall way, Cllr Sanderson to look in to further.	
8	Sawtry sport 4 all – Future plans – Cllr Martin 8.1 Outdoor table tennis donated – need to recommend site and installation cost. Cllr Whittaker has requested the table to be sited near to the gym equipment on St Judiths, on the Alwin Close side, the Council have recommended a full concrete playing area and a path leading from the main path in St Judiths to the table tennis table, as part of the inclusive play equipment, Clerk to obtain some quotes for Full Council.	
9	Planters – Update - Cllr Sanderson All planters have now been refreshed	
10	Armed Forces Covenant 10.1 – Commit to Honour the Armed Forces Covenant – Update Cllr Potter Cllr Potter has forwarded on the draft version as reduced a couple of points, clerk will forward the email on to the full council to approve at next Full Council Meeting 14 th December 2022, Still looking for an Armed Forces Champion. It was requested by the RBL that as a Parish we need to find the criteria for the Champion, so they fully understand the expectations of the role. Cllr Potter will defer the role criteria until after the Covenant has been signed off.	

11	Coronation – Subcommittee - Update Cllr Martin The Committee has discussed various possible sites to hold an event, St Judiths, and Sawtry Village Academy looking like the best options so far, The Parish Council are looking at renting a large screen, with people being able to bring their own food and drink and watch the Coronation together. The committee is keen on involving all the community groups to bring the village together. Potentially holding a B-B-Q , Cllr Martin has spoken with the SVA regarding the use of their facilities	
12	Carol Singing on the Green 12 th December– Cllr Potter is working closely with All Saints Church and has confirmed that the Co-Op will kindly donate some mince pies and Greystones will provide Mulled wine	
13	Budget – 2023/24 – please bring your Budget requests to the next F&GP meeting 23 rd November	
14	5-year plan – To identify medium to long term projects – Please bring requests to the next F&GP meeting 23 rd November	
15	Date of next meeting – TBA	

Steve Browning
Clerk to the Council/Proper Officer

Committee: Cllrs Potter (Chairman), Mulcrone, Sanderson, Tuplin, Whittaker, Gadsby, Bingham
Representatives from – Village Academy, Infants School, Junior Academy, Carnival, CARESCO Foodbank, All Saints Church, St Benedicts, Methodist Church, Litter Pickers, WI

Appendix 1 – community reports

Sawtry Village Academy – Sarah Wilson and Simon Parsons

I have recently changed roles so will no longer be attending the Parish Council meetings.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all members over the last 8 years for supporting the academy and my work, both in the school and community.

I believe that not only did we pick up and repair a very broken school, but we engaged a community along the way. I feel the Academy is a school to be proud of and is a good representation of the whole locality and how working together can facilitate real change. I am proud to have been part of this journey.

Simon Parsons will continue to be the link to the Parish, and I wish everyone all the best in what comes next

It has been an excellent start to the second half of the autumn term and the year 12 open evening on Thursday 3rd November was a great success.

Over the half term break the Academy site had some speed bumps and a new pedestrian crossing installed to increase site safety. It has ensured more drivers stick to the 5mph limit.

From Monday 14th November year 11 are taking part in mock examinations.

The Academy produces a fortnightly Sway which is made public on our Facebook site:

CARESCO – Sawtry Foodbank – Pat Furzeland

In the last two months we gave out 98 food parcels which helped 135 local people. We added four new referral agencies to our online system.

We had an amazing amount of donations from our local community for Harvest Festival. We rely on these donations to stock up our shelves for the coming Winter. It was so good to see children from our local schools coming into Foodbank with their donations and learning what a Foodbank looks like. Thank you to the Parish Council for the grant of £500 to buy fresh fruit and vegetables for our Christmas Hamper scheme. We are planning for Christmas now and if any Parish Councillors would like to come along and help us pack the Christmas hampers, we would welcome the help. We have a very busy month ahead!

We are looking ahead to 2023 and the expected increase in demand after Christmas. We are having to make some careful choices about stock to ensure that we can keep operating with rising running costs and food prices.

All Saints Church – Becky Dyball

We are delighted to be working with Sawtry WI to support a warm hub for sawtry offering a soup and roll lunch and company during the colder months and hope to hear news of funding from both district and parish council soon.

Little Saints our Toddler and Carer group continues on Thursdays (term time) in the Methodist Hall 9-10:30am and is growing weekly welcoming 30+ each week.

We are pleased to be attending Hill View Nursing home monthly for a service and visiting all schools regularly.

FREE Pop Up Cinema, is back and showing films such as Paddington, It's a Wonderful Life, Narnia, The Grinch, Snowman and Snowman and the Snow Dog. Everyone is welcome to join.

Messy Church continues to meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month 4-6pm and offers a brilliant all age, relaxed, hands on, enjoyable way of being church and delicious food is the bonus to complete the fun.

Weekly Sunday services take place at 10:30am including live streaming via Zoom. For the latest service details and login details visit www.allsaintssawtry.org.uk

Works continue in the grounds of the church and extensive tree surgery following an in depth tree survey will be carried out in the coming months.

Methodist Church – Liz Coates

HDC have granted planning permission for solar panels and a roof-mounted air source heat pump. Now the hard work starts in preparing all the information needs for the funding applications. However there are some more urgent repairs needed before then to stop the rain coming in through various holes in the roof!

Our new Minister Rev James Bamber has settled in quickly and is with us twice a month. We also have the bonus of the Circuit's pastoral worker, Margaret, who is with us for a few hours a week.

We recently hosted the annual ecumenical All Souls service with All Saints giving people the opportunity to remember loved ones who have died.

There are a number of Christmas services coming up including an all-age Nativity (10.30am, Sun 18th Dec), a traditional candlelit carols (6pm, Fri 23rd Dec) and our joint service at All Saints on Christmas Day (10.30am). Everyone is welcome to join us for any or all of our services.

We are also looking forward to being part of the village carol singing on the Green on Mon 12th December.

Sawtry WI – Jacqui Svensson

Sawtry WI in partnership with All Saints Parish Church and Sawtry Parish Council will be providing a monthly Warm Space this winter. We are planning to start on Saturday 3rd December at the WI Hall with a free soup and roll lunch. Thank you to Sawtry Parish Council for granting funding to make this possible.

Sawtry WI has also applied to HDC for funding in order to provide a second monthly Warm Space.

Sawtry WI continues to offer the following groups open to anyone in the community to drop in for a cuppa and chat:

- Weekly Knit & Knatter group
- Monthly daytime Sewing, Patchwork & Quilting group
- Monthly evening Craft and Chat group

In addition to the above we hold Monthly members meetings with speakers on a variety of topics to which women of any age or background are welcome to attend twice as a guest at no cost. WI members have access to a variety of benefits, outings and activities including a Virtual WI that meets entirely via Zoom. Our members regularly donate hand-made items to charities.

The following events were held since the last Communities meeting and were open to anyone in the community for a small cost:

- September Coffee Morning
- October Halloween Tea.

Sawtry WI is planning the following events which will be open to the community:

- Festive Bazaar Saturday 12th November. The stalls are entirely run by WI members and all the items for sale have also been donated by them.

In 2023 we are planning:

- Stall Holders event
- Fun Auction
- Spring Party.

Our WI hall is available to hire for community and business events and Wi-Fi has been installed.

St Benedicts – Tony Stefanelli

Although there are no longer services held at the Methodist Church we are still taking Holy Communion to the sick and elderly in Sawtry at present there are 3 people requesting it.

We had a family Fun day at St Lukes during October St Benedict's provided a bowling game which was a success.

We have also just appointed a new Bishop in the Diocese of East Anglia, and apparently there is talk of changes in the boundaries, but discussions are continuing.

Caresco Office – Liz Coates

40th Birthday - Now in our 40th year we will be hosting an Afternoon Tea Party later this month and this will also be a chance for us to celebrate our Queen's Award with all our volunteers. We are tracking down and inviting some folk from the early days including the lady who started up the self-help lunch club which CARESCO was created to save.

Minibus Update - The second-hand minibus has arrived, but hasn't come without a few teething problems with various bits needing attention. Signage is on order and we are also currently recruiting a few more volunteer drivers to fill our rota.

Christmas Day Party - Plans are well under way for our eleventh party which will come with all the usual trimmings. Previous guests and team have been invited back while publicity is inviting new comers to join in the fun. The only limitation is that attendees would otherwise be on their own on Christmas Day.

CARESCO AGM - Thank you to those who attended.

The Annual Report for 2021-22 is now available to download from our website

<http://www.caresco.org.uk/?page=downloads&m=about>

Christmas Shutdown - all CARESCO activities will be officially closed from Friday 23rd December through until Tuesday 3rd January, with the exception of the Christmas Day Party.

Sawtry Junior Academy – Sarah Flack

The academy continues to grow steadily with numbers now above 270 and rising on a weekly basis.

We are delighted that our new Meridian Primary curriculum is working well and has been positively received by staff and pupils. This has included being able after two years of pandemic to begin regular out of school trips. So far this year the children in years 3 and 4 have visited Verulamium museum as part of the Romans topic and years 5 and 6 have visited Stibbington as part of their WW2 topic. We are also welcoming visitors such as "magistrates in the community".

We are currently recruiting for a couple of newly vacant posts – for a site officer and a midday supervisor.

Staff are benefitting from additional training as part of Meridian trust and several staff members are also embarking on National Professional Qualifications for teaching leadership, senior leadership and headship.

Since the last report, we are continuing to improve the environment with further classrooms being repainted and improvements to wet bays / art areas in two classrooms.

Children in years 4 and 6 will have had swimming lessons this term ensuring we will have fulfilled the statutory requirements for 2022-23 before the pool is unfortunately closed. We are putting plans in place for the future so swimming remains on our curriculum and a priority.

We have welcomed a school pet- a beautiful rabbit called Pearl. She is a rescue animal and the children are enjoying learning how to care for her, make toys and enrichment activities.

In order to protect our pupils, community and site CCTV will be installed over the coming weeks (weather permitting).