



The Old School House  
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These are the minutes of the Community Committee on Wednesday 28th June 2023 at 7.00pm in the Old School Hall. Members of the Press and public are welcome to attend.

## MINUTES

		Legal Power/ Budget Heading
1	Apologies for absence- Cllr Morgan	
2	Minutes of last meeting dated 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2023 – Sub-Committee no minutes	
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. 3 members of the public</p>		
5	Community groups update: reports to be circulated – see appendix 1	
6	Connections bus project – Lead Councillor – Cllr Gadsby will reach out to the Connections bus project for summer holiday dates. It was previously agreed the Parish Council will fund 6 summer sessions.	
7	Vibrant Community Funding, Creative Arts East – Mary Poppins Dance-Along – booked 9 <sup>th</sup> August 2023 2pm Old School Hall – Volunteers required. The Clerk gave an update – Ticket prices will be £3 per adult and children will be free if they are accompanied by an Adult. Creative arts East will do all the advertising.	
8	Sawtry In Bloom – Consider Entering the village for Anglia in Bloom 2024. Cllr Tuplin will take lead on this project and work closely with the office	
9	Planters – Update Cllr Sanderson Due to the hot weather some of the planters have been affected and its difficult to stay on top of the watering. Some of the planters will need to be replaced and will be looking to have a commemorative planter at the Village Hall for King Charles, especially with Anglia in Bloom. This has also raised another issue around the village with the amount of litter that is just being thrown on the floor, the disappointing theme is this is coming from all ages as cars down Bill Hall Way are throwing litter out of their car windows – Will set up a Litter picking working party to be approved at Full Council.	
10	Armed Forces Covenant 10.1 – Armed Forces Covenant, need to elect a Champion – Update Cllr Potter – Due to working commitments with the Neighbourhood plan no update at present, will look to move this forward once the Neighbourhood plan is completed.	
11	Accessibility Around the Village – update from the working party – Cllr Bingham – See report appendix 2	

12	Greenfield Development – Update Cllr Tuplin / Cllr Sanderson We are now sending out the amended plans to tender, once those come back, we will know costing.	
13	Consider Councillor introduction video – for social media – Deferred to Full Council to discuss.	
14	Remembrance Day – Organising Parade 12 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 – Consider lead Councillor and volunteer Marshalls – The Clerk confirmed Ringways will manage the road closure, Lead Councillor will be discussed at Full Council along with 5 Volunteers for Marshalls.	
15	Date of next meeting – 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	

## Steve Browning

Clerk to the Council/Proper Officer

Committee: Cllrs Potter (Chairman), Cllr Mulcrone, Cllr Sanderson, Cllr Tuplin, Cllr Whittaker, Cllr Gadsby, Cllr Bingham, Cllr Morgan

Representatives from – Village Academy, Infants School, Junior Academy, Carnival, CARESCO Sawtry Foodbank, All Saints Church, St Benedicts, Methodist Church, Litter Pickers, WI, Royal British Legion, Neighbourhood Plan.

## Appendix 1 – Community Reports

### All Saints Sawtry Report

#### Little Saints

We continue to welcome 40+ Babies, Toddlers and their Carers each Thursday to our Little Saints group run from the Methodist Hall. As well as storytime, nursery rhymes, bible based crafts and refreshments we offer vital community, a space to belong and grow friendships. We are excited about our day trip to Sunny Hunny happening at the beginning of August and looking for sponsorship for another coach as demand was so high.

#### Messy Church

Monthly Messy Church runs on the 3rd Saturday every month (well nearly) welcomes over 60+ for a multigenerational time of exploration and enjoyment. We are looking forward to our Summer Extravaganza including an ice cream van in July and returning in September after the summer holidays.

#### Churches Together Open Air Service

On Sunday 30th July at 11am in the Greystones pub Garden we are hosting a Churches together service and really excited to join together for an informal time of prayer and worship. All this will be followed by a BBQ.

#### Light Factory

This year the theme is 'Wonder Zone' and we will be exploring God's amazing creation through the marvels of science. The club will be running from Monday 7th through to Sunday 13th August and is open to any children from Y1 upwards free of charge – [www.sawtrylightfactory.uk](http://www.sawtrylightfactory.uk)

#### Launch of the Coffee Ark

In the next few months and particularly in the Autumn you will be hearing more about the Coffee Ark, a mobile Coffee shop run out of a converted Land Rover Defender coming for our area, in partnership with the church this initiative will offer brilliant refreshment and a focal point for community. This community interest company will be working with local partners to mobilise action around mental health and well being for all ages as a priority, with a hope to work with schools, specialised events and partner organisations. We are REALLY excited about what is to come and invite you to join us.

For more information please be in touch [revdyball@gmail.com](mailto:revdyball@gmail.com)

## CARESCO

**Staff changes** – Our General Manager, Emma sadly left us on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June to take up a new role with Care Network Cams. As a result, the trustees have reviewed our management structure and are splitting up her role into three as it had become too much for one person. Recruitment for these new roles is now underway.

**The Cave** – We are currently advertising two upcoming open sessions on Saturday mornings this Summer, 8<sup>th</sup> July and 12<sup>th</sup> August, to gauge the level of interest. If these prove popular, they will continue into the Autumn. These drop-ins may also attract new Cavers to the existing weekday sessions or prove demand for additional ones. In which case we will need extra staff in place.

**Carnival** – Sawtry Carnival was a great success, if rather too hot, thanks to the planning committee. Sawtry WI teamed up with CARESCO to provide tea and cake from our Centre as usual and the team worked hard in the heat. The reduced footfall meant lower takings, but the cakes were plentiful and very enjoyable for those of us who partook.

**Health Inequalities Project (HDC)** – We have been able to use some of this funding to offer both Adult Mental Health Awareness training and First Aid training for staff and key volunteers. Any spare spaces on the mental health sessions have been offered to partner community organisations which all helps to spread the knowledge gained as well as providing networking opportunities.

Regards

Liz Coates  
CARESCO Secretary

### **Sawtry WI**

Report for Parish Council Communities Meeting on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

The Free Community Café is popular. We are reaching residents who need assistance to access the foodbank and other services whilst providing a meeting place for all residents. During the summer months we are running the Café on Saturdays only. The Café is run from the WI Hall, Gidding Road, Sawtry and we thank Sawtry Parish Council for the recent additional funding. Parish Councillors are very welcome.

Sawtry WI had a successful Carnival stall with County and Parish Councillors trying out the tightrope, hula hoops and juggling. The Carnival Teas were jointly provided by WI and CARESCO.

Sawtry WI continues to offer day time and evening social groups and other events open to anyone in the community. Our monthly meetings have a varied programme of speakers and activities and women of any age and background are welcome at WI.

Our Ploughman's Lunch with Puddings is open to anyone in the community at £5 per ticket, 17<sup>th</sup> August 12.00 till 2pm. We are also planning to repeat our very successful Festive Bazaar on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

Jacqui Svensson, President  
26<sup>th</sup> June 2023

## **The Royal British Legion**

The Sawtry & District Branch continues to meet in the first Monday of each month in the Sawtry Social Club @ 7:30PM.

**Meetings** - We have had 2 meetings since the last report with approx. 3-4 members attending.

**Membership** – Branch membership currently stands at 61 members.

### **Events –**

Sawtry Carnival – we had a Poppy Appeal stall and recruitment table at the Carnival on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Dressed as a large Poppy I took part in the Parade. It was a bit hot to say the least.

We had some interest from people asking about joining the legion and they were directed to the online membership forms.

We had Poppy Appeal items, Poppy Craft and plants and a game on the stall to raise money for the Appeal. We raised £263.

### **Poppy Appeal –**

The current 2022 Poppy Appeal which runs from 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> September 2023, now stands at a total of **£9728**.

I will shortly be starting to advertise for Poppy Appeal volunteers to help during the 2 weeks in October/November running up to Remembrance Day.

### **Sawtry Methodist Church**

- The United Good Friday Walk and service were well attended with good numbers staying to enjoy the fish & chip lunch.
- The lunches from Rumbles have proved so popular, this has become the default option after any special services, replacing the traditional bring and share style. On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July we will be celebrating Chapel Anniversary, the birthday of Sawtry Methodist Church and this too will lead into a fish & chip lunch – all are welcome to join us.
- The new fortnightly Monday friendship group is going well with a range of age groups dipping in.
- Plans are now underway for the Churches Together annual children's Sawtry Light Factory holiday club. This year the theme is 'Wonder Zone' and we will be exploring God's amazing creation through the marvels of science. The club will be running from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> through to Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August and is open to any children from Y1 upwards free of charge – poster attached. [www.sawtrylightfactory.uk](http://www.sawtrylightfactory.uk)

Regards

*Liz Coates*

Sawtry Methodist Church Secretary

## **Sawtry Junior Academy**

Pupil numbers continue to rise, expecting to be close to capacity in September in most year groups. However one of our bulge year groups will be moving up to secondary so will be dropping to 9 classes. This gives us capacity to create an additional learning space which will benefit pupils in the school.

Successfully completed 2 residentials this month with pupils in years 4-6 to Burwell House and Hautbois. We are also participating in an Arts festival showcase event on 26<sup>th</sup> June at Nene Park Academy. This year our production requires a bigger hall due to pupil and consequently audience numbers being larger. This is very exciting for the children and will aid their transition to secondary. We have also been hosting Great Gidding Year 6 pupils on a Friday to support them and they are also joining us for our production of Peter Pan this year.

Currently recruiting for 3 TAs for September due to pupils requiring additional support moving into the school.

Good progress being made with Sawtry infants on the parking restriction lines application (2<sup>nd</sup> stage) – due imminently to be submitted following a positive meeting and discussion with the Police Liaison officer – part of the planning requirements. The police officer suggested it could be as early as September!

Kind regards

Sarah Flack

## **Sawtry Foodbank.**

April saw a consistently high demand for food support, averaging 17 food parcels a week. The government issued a Cost of Living payment to some families at the end of April/beginning of May. We then saw a fall in demand in May, down to an average of 13 food parcels a week. In June, so far, the average number has risen to 16 food parcels a week. The largest proportion of our food support is still for single people.

A volunteer suggested that we look at the Olio app. We had a look and saw that it is free to join and there are food items and non-food items available to collect for free. I have joined the App and will keep checking it for suitable items.

We have had one new referral agency sign up and one Basket Challenge returned to us.

We are in the middle of planning our Summer Scheme, providing food support for children on free school meals. The government is providing supermarket vouchers for these families during the summer. It will be interesting to see the effect this has on the number of families on the scheme.

I will be attending the meeting.

Thanks,

Pat

## Sawtry Village Academy

Welcome to the latest 'Made in SVA Blog'. I would firstly like to commend year 11 and 13 on showing great resilience over the past few weeks; with very warm conditions this week in particular, maintaining focus with the pressure of terminal examinations is not an easy task. With a few examinations left on Monday and Tuesday both year groups can then sit back and relax after 5 or 7 years of hard work.

This week's editions contains much of what we Strive for at SVA in terms of extending the boundaries of learning: year 7 geography field trip to Ramsey, phenomenal maths ability shown across year 7 and 8, year 8 careers event, many sporting successes and art success to name but a few.

Within our registration activities and assemblies, we map very carefully topics and current issues that raise awareness, promote thought and ultimately lead to enhanced personal development of our students. Within this week's Sway you will find an assembly myself and Mr Yeomans (Assistant Principal) presented last week to all houses on 'respect and manners' and more broadly what a 'Made in SVA' student after 5 or 7 years with us should Strive to be. There are areas where I will be forever restless as Principal to ensure that high standards of conduct and attitudes are built upon strong mutual relationships with our young people. Within this week's Sway I also have pleasure in sharing the plans for a 3G pitch which will be located on SVA grounds but become a truly exceptional facility for the future. The support of the whole community is key to ensure this facility in excess of £1 million becomes realised.

I hope all families have a pleasant and relaxing weekend.

Best wishes,  
Simon Parsons,  
Principal

Here is the report.

Numbers are a bit down this term. We think this is due to the excellent weather and a number of the young people are heading to the recreation ground instead of coming to youth club. We have invited year 6s to start attending and a flyer for the summer holidays is shortly to go out via the Village College, to year 6s in Junior school and to our attendees. We will also continue to promote on the village Facebook page.

Thanks  
Alan

## Connections Bus Project

Here is the report.

Numbers are a bit down this term. We think this is due to the excellent weather and a number of the young people are heading to the recreation ground instead of coming to youth club. We have invited year 6s to start attending and a flyer for the summer holidays is shortly to go out via the Village College, to year 6s in Junior school and to our attendees. We will also continue to promote on the village Facebook page.

Thanks  
Alan

17 Apr	16	Enjoyed table football, darts, music, table tennis and loom bands. Conversations about Easter hols, chocolate, grandparents, merit points at school, watching women's football and exams.
24 Apr	8	All the usual equipment but YP enjoyed cake and chat and making badges. Conversations about weddings, family and changes in family circumstances meaning can't be at club every week.
01 May	8	enjoyed table tennis, pool, table football and outside games. Also pebble painting. Conversations about Coronation, royalty, conspiracy theories, moving house.
08 May	7	New games console appreciated, table tennis, table football and darts, plus Kahoot. Conversations about Pokémon cards, banter stamps, experiments with jelly babies.
15 May	6	Vegetarian week with ragu pasta. Conversations about food, pocket money, swimming, conspiracy theories, food tech at school and food at home, Pokémon cards.
22 May	10	Played Switch, football, table tennis and used outside space. Also doughnut on string game and Kahoot. Conversations about half-term plans and ideas for next term.
29 May	Half-term	

5 Jun	8	Used all the usual equipment and enjoyed biscuit decorating. Conversations about being accident prone, holidays, pets, school, teachers, differences between sexual harassment/assault/rape and the law, taking photos without permission.
12 Jun	12	Enjoyed making Father's day cards and playing party games. Conversations about hay fever, pregnancy, family, weather, football and C-card. Group of boys had to be asked to leave and not attend next week following disrespectful behaviour and piercing deodorant cans.
19 Jun	9	Good use of outside space, table football, games console and music. Conversations about drama club and productions. Reminder to those exhibiting negative behaviour last week that they were not being admitted this week. Football went over fence but yp politely went round to ask for it back.
26 Jun	9	YP Choice session with young people choosing their own activities. Went down well. Conversations about what's real and fake, sharing your data, tattoos, hay fever and eating too many sweets.
4 Jul		
11 Jul		Will be cancelled as insufficient staff
18 Jul		



## Accessibility around the Village working Party – Full report emailed to Community groups and available on request from the clerk.

Tracey walked around the Green with a local resident on Saturday 17 June 2023. who used a mobility scooter and showed her the tipping points, uneven surfaces, crossing places and potential hazards. Four wheeled mobility scooter has better balance than a three wheeled scooter and so some areas were easier to navigate than if a three wheeled scooter was used. Reminded that children use scooters, close to the road where there are holes, buggies and prams have the same issues. Requested more benches for rest areas, why none on the Green? Some people cannot walk very far around the village, the centre of the village is an advertisement for the village, at the moment it is not accessible by foot. Opportunity to show the history of the village on the Green, difficult to access the history board. Most people come to the centre of the village – no bench at the shops. People with accessibility issues, rehabilitation from heart failure, operations for joints, exercise regimes for health, may want to walk to the centre of the village, meet or rest, then walk home. Need to do this for people.

Benches around the village:

A main area of request from residents. There are some areas where there are no rest points exist. The end of Green End Road near the roadabout through to Fen Lane, prime site for a bench.

Karen has researched the height of the existing benches in the village, best option and the preferred height is the Armed Forces Bench near Tinker's Lane. Attractive, has arm rests, good height, 25 year guarantee. 48 cm seat height, good accessibility access, helps people to be able to get up from this height. Many designs, different costs, bespoke patterns available. Showed photos and had some costs £1395. VAT and fitting incl. Lee has researched composite benches that are attractive, brightly coloured, environmentally friendly, average cost £500 each (query VAT incl and fitting?). He showed pictures of various designs.

Emphasis on cost of living and impact on spending on fitting new benches– how would it look to spend a large amount of money on benches when people are unable to afford the cost of living. The funds for this year have been allocated and agreed, the cost breakdown to be proposed by this working party to go to the Amenities committee and the agreed at Full Council, only a few opportunities to discuss so that it goes through the process in a timely way by the end of the financial year. Pointed out that in residential areas where attractive areas are kept well, sense of wellbeing and being proud of environment, mental health improves. Raises spirits of people.

Proposal that if we had an ideal bench one of these benches would be sited at the roundabout area behind where the biodiversity woodland project is being sought. As this is the entrance to the village, a statement bench, Welcome to Sawtry would be good, bespoke design mirroring the Sawtry sign on the Green and the design on the Church gate – calculated cost for bespoke £3,200 plus £115 delivery and VAT. Perhaps an attractive bench in the style of the Armed forces bench but with flowers, fun design, bright and practical, long-lasting at each entrance to the village (4 in total). Vote – all agreed this was the ideal action, but funding would not be possible this year for all four. Suggestion 1 year? Suggestion that local businesses be approached to see if they would fund benches at entrances to the village – none presently have a bench and not to use our funds allocated to the group. We could co-ordinate the benches to match. – see actions.

### 3. Main themes

Pathways, alleyways, width of walkways, overgrown areas. Proposal – if a consultant did a survey of the village pathways and alleys, legal requirements needed by the County and District Council, we could use this as the evidence and represent the village with up to date and accurate information. Parish Council could put pressure upon the authorities to upkeep the pathways and fix holes, complete improvements. All voted that this would be a good start to understand what we needed to do and put forward a plan. This could be costly – proposal to the Amenities committee. Quotes needed – see actions. Buses – Stephen has written to Stagecoach regarding late bus timetable. Dewes has taken over Stagecoach, is awaiting update.

Biodiversity woodland project discussed – opportunity for a sensory garden, accessible green access, green spaces and the link to emotional wellbeing. This is on the drainage board land which we currently rent. Council has put Sawtry forward for a biodiversity assessment in the woodland copse on the drainage board land. We are seeking permission for this to take place from the drainage board. Could provide lots of opportunities for volunteers to access new skills.

Youth Parish Council – Tracey has spoken with Simon Parsons, Sawtry Village Academy who is keen to start this in September. Format to be discussed and membership to be confirmed. How would this be put in place, what would their roles be, mentorship, representation at the Full Council meeting.

Meeting