



The Old School House
37 Green End Road
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These are the minutes of the Amenities Committee on Wednesday 26th July 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 Mulcrone, Cllr Gadsby	
2	Minutes of last meeting dated – 22 nd March 2023 - approved	
3	Matters arising from previous minutes – none	
4	Members Declaration of Interest for agenda items – Cllr Rose item 12	
<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 at least 24 hours before the meeting – one member of the public attended.</p>		
5	<p>Allotments – Lead Councillor – Cllr White</p> <p>5.1 Update – Allotments are looking much better but still some plots are causing issues.</p> <p>The Monthly inspections with Sarah and the Caretakers are working well and highlighting the issues quicker than previously.</p> <p>There is also an issue with the tenancy agreement which will need updating soon.</p> <p>There has also been a request from the Allotment holders for CCTV and a fence with a gate – the Clerk will look into prices – proposed by Cllr Sanderson and seconded by Cllr Bingham and all in favour.</p>	Smallholdings and Allotments Act 1908
6	<p>Green Spaces – Lead Cllr White</p> <p>6.1 Update – Still trying to find out who owns certain areas of land in the village – Cllr Potter offered to go through the Neighbourhood plan with Cllr White to confirm ownership.</p> <p>6.2 Planters update – Cllr Sanderson – Currently have done an uplift with some of the planters and spent £50, they are looking to have a big clean up around October time and potentially buy some new topsoil – the main area for concern is the watering, one consideration is maybe we could ask for residents to volunteer to help water the planters.</p>	Open Spaces Act 1906
7	<p>Play Areas – Lead Councillor – Cllr Whittaker</p> <p>7.1 Update – The new play equipment has been installed at Green End Road, At St Judiths the new accessible gym equipment and Table Tennis Table has been installed along with the new entrance and footpath. These have all been met with widespread praise from the community on social media.</p>	LGA 1972

8	<p>Cemeteries – Lead Councillor – Cllr Tuplin</p> <p>8.1 Update on St Andrews drainage – Spirotech/Midlevel drainage board – The main hold up is still with the head wall issue with Spirotech which should be completed any time soon. Mid-Level Drainage board have also requested an otter survey to be carried out which should also be completed shortly. The Clerk has requested CDS to send out for Tender so as soon as we get the all clear from Mid- Level that the work has been carried out by Spirotech we should be able to start work.</p>	LGA 1972
9	<p>Benches/Bus Shelters – Cllr White</p> <p>9.1 Update – No issues with the Benches or Bus shelters.</p> <p>9.2 2 Benches to be at St Judiths – Donation from Sawtry Youth Projects £266.40 – update from the Clerk – The bench should be installed next week by the footpath at St Judiths.</p>	LGA 1953
10	<p>Highways Grass Verges – Update Clerk – Cllr Tuplin, Cllr White and the Clerk attended a meeting with Highways 14th July to determine ownership of 14 extra areas of Land in the Village which is causing issues as currently not being cut, Highways offer of paying the Parish £1727.80 to cut the grass in the Village pales in comparison to the actual cost of maintaining the grass in the village, discussions with Highways are ongoing. The Parish Council are also looking at ways to reduce cost but to not affect the appearance on the Village grass.</p>	
11	<p>Working Party - Accessibility around the village – Cllr Bingham</p> <p>11.1 Update – Cllr Bingham – The accessibility working party have provided 3 options to complete a survey of the village which would give us a full and unbiased accessibility survey of the village, option 1 is a full comprehensive survey for £5500 was proposed by Cllr Whittaker and seconded by Cllr Sanderson and all in favour.</p> <p>11.2 Accessibility survey – Old School Hall and The Old School House – Update from Clerk – Survey will be carried out 23rd August.</p> <p>11.3 Footpath Barriers – Cllr White – Was decided would hold off on the barriers until we have had the village accessibility survey carried out.</p> <p>11.4 Request from working Party for Bench. Councillor White to draft Letter for approval. The bench requested was for £5000 was to have Welcome to Sawtry on it and a donation letter to be sent out to businesses in the Village – this proposal was rejected so as an alternative Cllr Sanderson requested a Metal Bench similar in design to the commemorative Bench on Tinkers Lane but this will have coloured butterflies on, by the entrance to the Village by the Roundabout to be funded by the accessibility budget the Price is £1395 plus VAT proposed by Cllr Bingham seconded by Cllr Sanderson and all in favour.</p>	
12	<p>Slimming World Banner – Cllr Rose – Slimming world have requested a banner to go up in the car park for advertisement. The Parish Council agreed they could have the space for 3 months at £50 per month providing</p>	

	all the A Frame advertisement around the village were removed proposed by Cllr Bingham seconded by Cllr Tuplin and all in favour– Cllr Rose to report back to Slimming world.	
13	Additional Kick Wall for St Judiths long term project – Cllr Gadsby – Due to time restraints this item will be deferred to the next amenities meeting.	
14	Sawtry Parish News Sawtry Eye – Cllr White can we request a small advert in the Sawtry Eye each edition just a small report of what the Parish Council have done over the last few months in the community, the clerk advised we get charged and will try to negotiate with CARESCO.	
15	Speed watch – Cllr Rose 15.1 Update – We currently have all the equipment in the office and will arrange a test shortly. Need to arrange some speed watch high Vis vests and then will set up a training session with the volunteers. 15.2 Speed signs / Camera / Warning – Cllr White some of the current speed signs are not working and need to be upgraded, Highways have previously been contacted and won't fund replacements for these. The cost quoted by Highways would be £3500 per sign. The Clerk will look into pricing options elsewhere.	
16	Noticeboard – Cllr Whittaker and Cllr Mulcrone – This was previously quoted and was too expensive, the Clerk will look into CARESCO cave making the noticeboard headers.	
17	Youth Shelter – Update – It was discussed as no issues reported with the Shelter and it was agreed to be painted previously work has already started on the painting by the caretakers.	
18	Defibrillators – Cllr Gadsby - Due to time restraints this item will be deferred to the next amenities meeting.	
19	CCTV around the Village – Cllr Gadsby- Due to time restraints this item will be deferred to the next amenities meeting. Cllr White left the meeting.	
20	Litter 20.1 Request from Litter pickers – St Judiths Field – email to be circulated. The Clerk will contact Bradgate to leave a 1-meter strip of uncut grass by the Hedge at St Judiths as the issue is all the litter goes into the ditch. 20.2 Sawtry Junior and Academy – Competition – email to be circulated. The clerk will email the school for the litter competition.	
21	James Town Circus – requested St Judiths Field 12 th May – 15 th May 2024 – The Parish Council will allow the Circus with a £200 deposit – Proposed by Cllr Tuplin seconded by Cllr Whittaker and all in favour.	

22	Red Telephone box – Cllr Mulcrone and Cllr Gadsby – Update - The clerk advised the Defibrillator, and the phone box are currently on order and should arrive within the next 2 weeks, the phone box will need to be installed before Power networks can connect the power.	
23	New Structure – A1 – Cllr Mulcrone - Due to time restraints this item will be deferred to the next amenities meeting.	
24	Biodiversity – update Cllr Sanderson is currently waiting on HDC, Mid-level drainage Board have granted us permission to get a Biodiversity study carried out for the area by Bill Hall Way, Highways have also granted permission for the land by the roundabout for the bench. Where the bench is going Highways are looking at making it a sensory area.	
25	Middlefield School – Restricted lines – Update – The clerk has paid the application fee of £250 to the school.	
26	Date of next meeting – 25 th October 2023	

Steve Browning

Clerk to the Council/Proper Officer

Committee: Cllr Rose (Chairman)Gadsby, Mulcrone, Potter, Sanderson, Tuplin, White, Whittaker, Bingham