



The Old School House
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Sawtry
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These are the minutes of the Community Committee on Wednesday 4th October 2023 at 7.00pm in the Old School Hall.

MINUTES

		Legal Power/ Budget Heading
1	Apologies for absence – Cllr Whittaker, Morgan, Bingham	
2	Minutes of last meeting dated 28 th June 2023 - Approved	
3	Matters arising from previous minutes - None	
4	Members Declaration of Interest for agenda items - None	
Public Forum:		
<u>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.</u>		
5	Community groups update: reports to be circulated. See appendix 2 Simon Parsons provided an update on the 3G pitch and requested a letter of support from the Parish Council to help with the FA grant window which closes 13 th October – the Clerk will provide the letter. If successful, the school will find out December / January time.	
6	Connections Bus Project AGM 24 th October Zoom 2 representatives required– Lead Councillor – Cllr Gadsby and Cllr Potter to attend	
7	Vibrant Community Funding, Creative Arts East Christmas Storyteller 14 th December- Update Clerk this has now been booked and will be arranging for advertisement and tickets will go on sale soon.	
8	Sawtry In Bloom – Set up working party for Anglia in Bloom 2024. Cllr Tuplin will work with Cllr Sanderson and Tom Gosling.	
9	Planters – Update Cllr Sanderson – Currently looking into a complete overhaul ready for next year, some of the planters need to be repaired or replaced.	
10	Armed Forces Covenant 10.1 – Armed Forces Covenant, need to elect a Champion – Update Cllr Potter has been busy preparing the Neighbourhood plan and will now start to work on this.	
11	Accessibility Around the Village – update from the working party – Update Cllr Bingham – No Update	
12	Greenfield Development – Update from the clerk – Currently under tender awaiting completion, once the tenders are in, we will look into the best option to move forward, will arrange a meeting as soon as possible.	
13	Litter – Cllr Sanderson – The litter situation in the village is currently getting worse, looking at ways to improve – options are signage and education, will look to link the litter with Tom Gosling’s plan for Eco Sawtry See appendix 1	

14	Fireworks Display 5 th November – the clerk confirmed tickets now on sale and advertisement will go up around the village.	
15	Remembrance Day – Organising Parade 12 th November 2023 – Update from the Clerk, the route has been planned and sent to Ringways and Highways have all the necessary documents, RBL will invite all the groups to attend, and we have invited the Lord-Lieutenant who has confirmed attendance.	
16	Parish Council Food Basket Donations at Full Council – Cllr Sanderson requested a food basket to be present at every Full Council meeting this was declined due to already having a regular Food Basket at the office and Councillors regularly donating.	
17	Meet N Greet – Cllr Sanderson suggested to hold an open session for the Council to provide refreshments as a way of thanking the local groups who help out around the village, would also be open to the general public – Cllr Tuplin will hold a open meeting in the Old School Hall, date to be confirmed	
18	Christmas – 18.1 Carols – Date confirmed 11 th December 2023 18.2 Christmas Tree – Cllr Mulcrone will arrange.	
19	Spotlight On Sawtry – Friday 20 th October in the Old School Hall 10.00am – 4.00pm	
20	Budget Plan 24/25 Full Details required for F&GP 22 nd November – Update from the Clerk please have all Budget requirements to hand for the next Committee Meeting.	
21	Date of next meeting – TBC	

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 – Tom Gosling – Biodiversity Sawtry Eco Action Plan.

Biodiversity –

Currently working Two projects – St Ives Eco Action and Hunts Eco Action and looking to set up Sawtry Eco Action with the help of the Parish Council and looking for volunteers – These groups look at minimising waste, litter, trees and rewilding areas and will meet once per month, any interested parties should contact Tom or the Parish Council.

The Challenges of the Parish is the ownership of land – This action group once ownership is confirmed will look to maintain the area with rewilding, Tom will manage the land with the Parish Council supporting with funds.

This plan will be discussed at the next Amenities Meeting 25th October 2023.

Appendix 2 – Community Group reports



Charity Number 229016

WI is a national organisation open to all women. At Sawtry WI we are currently accepting new members. Guests are welcome at our monthly meetings held on the first Thursday of each month, 7pm, WI Hall, Gidding Road, Sawtry PE28 5TS. Monthly meetings start with a speaker or activity followed by refreshments and some business after which we have a raffle, competition, crafts, books and produce for sale. There is a talk by CARESCO in October, Hinduism and Indian Culture in November and a seasonal a craft demonstration in December. Our national campaign this year is for 'Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife' and you may have noticed our campaign banner for our 'River of Action' week campaigning in September.

WI offers the opportunity to make new friends, learn something and get involved in our community. Our social groups are open to any member of the community. Knit and Knatter held weekly on Wednesdays 2-4pm, Sewing, Patchwork and Quilting held on the second Monday of each month 11am-3pm and Evening Tea, Craft and Chat held on the third Thursday of the month 7-9pm. All members have access to our own on-line college as well as outings, workshops and events at WI Centre in Huntingdon. There is an alternative to attending meetings in person. 'Filoxenia Virtual WI' meets entirely via Zoom, 7.30pm on the second Monday of each month.

Tickets are now on sale for our Halloween Tea Thursday 19th October. Our Festive Bazaar will be held on Saturday 11th November doors open at 11.15am. Sawtry Community Café run by volunteers from the community as well as WI volunteers continues to be a successful community space with free food, optional donation and residents of all ages coming together to eat and chat.

Jacqui Svensson, President

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. 7-8 members attending.

Membership – Branch membership currently stands at 63 members. Increase of 2 since last meetings – however both based in Yaxley.

Events –

AGM – we have our AGM on Monday 2nd October 2023 where the election of committee members takes place.

Xmas Social – Friday 1st December. This is held in conjunction with the History Society. This will our first social since Covid. We didn't have on in 2022 as we could not generate enough interest from Branch members. We were invited to the History Society social.

Xmas Bingo – Thu 7th December

Poppy Appeal –

The 2022 Poppy Appeal (1st Oct 2022 to 31st September 2023) has now closed with a closing total of **£9766.25**.

I am now in the planning for the 2023 Poppy Appeal and especially the 2 weeks Remembrance Tide period launching on 26th October until 12th November. Despite placing adverts on Social media and within the Sawtry Eye it has not generated any new volunteers. I have so far lost 3 volunteers from last year. The door to door is becoming less popular due to many people not having cash but we will continue to do as much as possible whilst I have volunteers. A lot of areas around the country no longer carry out door to door. There will be a stall in the Co-Op and on Green end road over the weekends of the above period.

CARESCO Foodbank.

Our Summer scheme, for children on free school meals, went well this year. We made the decision to make one delivery at the start of the holiday, rather than one every week for six weeks. This helped to reduce the cost of mileage and volunteer time. We had 20 families on the scheme, 49 children. This was a 58% increase in the number of children from 2022.

Demand for food support has remained consistent and we continue to look for donations to maintain our stock levels. In August we received a donation of tinned items from Princes food in Wisbeach. Later this week, we will receive a Harvest Festival donation from Sawtry Methodist church. We are very grateful as both provide a boost to our stock levels.

At the start of October we have a Foodbank Volunteers meeting, where we will get together to share food and catch up with everyone.

Kind regards,

Pat Furzeland

The Connections Bus Project

Week Commencing	Number	Notes
24 Jul	12	used all the equipment and enjoyed outside setting. Conversations about work experience reviews, transitions for year 6s. Also some good engagement with parents.
31 Jul	16	Another good outdoors session using all of the equipment. Also engaged with those leaving the skatepark. Conversations about grandparents, trips out, names, making mistakes and ways to rectify.
07 Aug	11	engaged well in bead making, games of chess and use of other equipment. Conversations about unusual sports, saving money, looking after property, holidays and family.
14 Aug	8	engaged well with sports equipment with main conversation about nail varnish!
21 Aug	10	Used bus as van off the road. YP enjoyed first experience of the bus and it's equipment plus lots of games of bingo. Conversations about driving in different countries, Donald Trump, periods, sleeping in the garden, siblings and how annoying they can be. Couple of one-to-ones about attitudes of peers towards YP, asking for help at school, not feeling listened to, drama audition coming up.
28 Aug	10	Used bus again as forecast rain. Enjoyed Dobble, SNES, connect4 and doodling. Conversations about dentist appointment, mental health, sharing siblings, looking forward to going back to school, one YP in hospital with eating disorder.

Sawtry Village Academy:

It has been an excellent start to the 2023 autumn term and the year 6 open evening on Thursday 28th September was a great success. It was lovely to welcome so many year 6 students and their parents/carers. We received many kind comments about how well the students and staff of SVA made the evening so welcoming and informative. We have approximately 200 students in catchment which will make this the biggest intake for many years.

Over the course of the summer significant investment from Meridian Trust continued. Three science laboratories were fully refurbished. This continues to bring SVA in-line with modern secondary schools.

Examination results in summer 2023 were exceptional at both GCSE and A Level.

Press releases can be found here:

<https://www.huntspost.co.uk/news/23744492.gcse-results-day-2023-top-results-sawtry-village-academy/>

<https://www.huntspost.co.uk/news/23729417.a-level-results-2023-sawtry-village-academy-students-celebrate/>

We also celebrated this prestigious kite mark:

<https://www.huntspost.co.uk/news/23808970.sawtry-village-academy-given-highly-regarded-award/>

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