



The Old School House
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These are the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee on Wednesday 24th April 2024 at 7.30pm in the Old School Hall. Members of the press and public are welcome to attend.

MINUTES

		Legal Power/ Budget Heading
1	Elect a Chair: Cllr Bingham was elected proposed by Cllr Whittaker seconded by Cllr Tuplin and all in favour. Apologies for absence – Cllr Potter and Cllr Sanderson - Approved	
2	Minutes of last meeting dated – 24 th January 2024 – Previously 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 at least 24 hours before the meeting.</p>		
5	<p>Allotments – Lead Councillor – Cllr White</p> <p>5.1 Update – Both allotments are going well with no real issues, A continuing theme at St Judiths is a fence has been requested, this has previously been looked into and the cost is too high, and there is an issue with the dog exercise play area, which the clerk has confirmed they will look into.</p> <p>5.2 Boot scraper at Entrance to St Judiths Field – request from tenant. Both sites can get extremely muddy, and it was also mentioned that all users of St Judiths field would benefit from a boot scrapper, it was proposed the Clerk will look into options and costing for Full Council 8th May, proposed by Cllr White seconded by Cllr Mulcrone and all in favour.</p> <p>5.3 Polytunnel (4m x 2m) Email request from tenant. This was rejected and the Clerk will inform the resident, proposed by Cllr Gadsby seconded by Cllr Tuplin and all in favour.</p> <p>5.4 Garden Waste Composter in the Village – Email request from resident. This was rejected, there is also a Saturday Waste Freighter service provided by HDC, The Clerk will inform the resident, proposed by Cllr Tuplin seconded by Cllr Whittaker and all in favour.</p>	Smallholdings and Allotments Act 1908
6	<p>Green Spaces – Lead Councillor - Cllr White</p> <p>6.1 Update – Generally everything is ok, just starting to have some issues with the green bins and general garden waste with fly tipping, The Clerk advised must report any issues of fly tipping to HDC.</p> <p>6.2 Grass areas – Cllr White has requested we contact HDC and CCC to discuss options of the Parish Council taking over all responsibility for maintenance. The Clerk will look into options.</p>	Open Spaces Act 1906

7	<p>Play Areas – Lead Councillor – Cllr Whittaker</p> <p>7.1 Update – All play areas are looking good, and the new Accessible Roundabout has been ordered as part of the phase 2 project for Green End Road, Wicksteed have confirmed this will take between 8-10 weeks to arrive.</p>	LGA 1972
8	<p>Cemeteries – Lead Councillor – Cllr Tuplin</p> <p>8.1 Update on St Andrews drainage – Update from the clerk – Currently the drainage plans have been signed off and have gone out to tender, the closing date is 26th April.</p>	LGA 1972
9	<p>Benches/Bus Shelters – Lead Councillor - Cllr White</p> <p>9.1 Update – Generally no concerns</p> <p>9.2 Bus Stops, Bushes, lighting, and painting of Frames on all bus shelters - Cllr White has requested a light to go in the Bus shelter on the Green, the Clerk will look into options. Currently overgrown bushes by the Bus Shelter on Fen Lane by the roundabout, The Clerk will arrange to have them strimmed. Painting of frames - The Clerk advised the Bus shelter in question on Fen Lane is owned by HDC.</p>	LGA 1953
10	<p>Working Party - Accessibility around the village – Lead Councillor - Cllr Bingham</p> <p>10.1 Accessibility Survey – Public consultation Cllr Bingham will work with Cllr Potter with the possibility of setting up the Public Consultation for the village survey.</p> <p>10.2 CIL funding – Recent press release St Neots Riverside – Cllr Bingham will take this away and do some research.</p> <p>10.3 Accessibility and Community Allotment – Cllr White – Has requested an accessible allotment approx. size of the Village Hall to be installed on the Belgrave Square car park, The Clerk has suggested a more suitable area to be used would be the garden at the rear of the office, this will be discussed at the next accessibility working party.</p> <p>10.4 Belgrave Square Car Park – Cllr White has concerns that the Parish Council are being blamed for the poor state of the unadopted road leading from the Social Club to the entrance of the car park, when the actual damage is being caused by HDC waste collection vans, heavy haulage vehicles and residents using the car park for skips, can we look into option of a height restriction barrier to stop heavy goods vehicles from using the car park and also look into options of a pay and display parking machine. The Clerk will also look into the lease we had with the social club regarding the poor condition of the car park.</p> <p>10.5 Walkways – Cllr White has concerns regarding overgrown hedges blocking paths and alleyways and can something be done – The Clerk advised take pictures of any affected areas and send through to the office, and we will report to the responsible councils.</p> <p>10.6 Defibrillators – It was raised why had we installed a Defibrillator on the Social club when it should have been the WI – The Clerk advised this was a government scheme and we only had 4 weeks once we ordered the defibrillator to install it and provide proof of installation otherwise we would have to pay back the funding, The WI unfortunately didn't want to use their building as they have concerns over the wall, so we only had a short space of time and decided to ask the Social club as next option and they kindly agreed.</p>	

	<p>10.7 Article in the Eye – Reporting issues – The accessibility working party will write up a report for the Eye – proposed by Cllr Whittaker and seconded by Cllr White and all in favour.</p> <p>10.8 Accessibility Open Morning and advertisement – The Study Saturday 13th July 2024 – It was agreed to hold the open morning – Proposed by Cllr Gadsby seconded by Cllr Rose and all in favour.</p> <p>10.9 Alleyway Barriers – The accessibility working party are going through the barriers in the Village, but at this stage no action is to be taken as they are just mapping the locations and will research them to discuss if they are fit for purpose moving forward.</p> <p>10.10 Electric Door / Wheelchair access for entrance for the Old School Hall. The Clerk has been looking into options and is awaiting quotations. Cllr Bingham advised the accessible working party are looking into options to future proof the sound in the hall to help for the hard of hearing.</p>	
11	<p>Planters – Lead Councillor – Cllr Sanderson</p> <p>11.1 Update – Deferred due to absence.</p>	
12	<p>Sawtry Miniature Railway – Email request to use St Judiths – The Clerk will request full costing details, The Parish Council will also view the miniature railway at the Sawtry Carnival, the best location for St Judiths would be near the gym equipment, and proposed to agree in principal but will confirm after the Carnival, proposed by Cllr Tuplin seconded by Cllr Gadsby and all in favour.</p>	
13	<p>Greenfield Development – Update from the Clerk</p> <p>Building works are continuing, they are laying the flooring in the social area and kitchen next week, the home changing room is nearly complete and work is still ongoing in the referees changing room. The car park at the front has the gravel down now and looks good, and the rear car park is progressing well. Solar lighting for the car park and building is being priced up over the next couple of days, and the CCTV has been installed. The Blue container has been moved to the rear far end and the new Container is now onsite, the 2 previous damaged containers have been removed. Work hopefully will be completed in the next 4 weeks.</p>	
14	<p>Date of next meeting – 24th July 2024</p>	

Steve Browning, Clerk to the Council/Proper Officer,

Committee: Cllr Rose, Gadsby, Mulcrone, Potter, Sanderson, Tuplin, White, Whittaker, Bingham, Bhamra,

Date published – 19th April 2024