



The Old School House  
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The Annual Parish Meeting is not a Council meeting- it is a meeting of the Parish electors who can contribute and debate current issues in the community.

## THESE ARE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR SAWTRY

Held at the old school Hall, Green End Road, Sawtry on **Wednesday, May 22nd 2024 at 7.30pm**

1. Welcome by the Parish Council Chairman – See Appendix 1
2. Annual report of the Parish Council – will be published on [www.sawtry-pc.gov.uk](http://www.sawtry-pc.gov.uk) and the noticeboards after the meeting.
3. Guest speaker – Sgt Anna Martin the Neighbourhood Sergeant for Huntingdon – See appendix 2
4. Guest speaker – Rachel Elding Cyber Fraud – See appendix 3
5. Open Forum

### **Chairman Sawtry Parish Council 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

In accordance with the law, Sawtry Parish Council (SPC) only collect a limited amount of information. The personal information you provide (name, address, email address, phone number), will be processed and stored so that it is possible to contact you and respond to your correspondence and provide information. SPC do not use your data for purposes other than those specified. SPC do not use profiling, sell or pass on your data to third parties. SPC ensure your data is stored securely and delete all information deemed to be no longer necessary. SPC constantly review Privacy Policies-copy available on request.

Appendix 1

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2024

Firstly, I would like to thank our staff for their work throughout the past year. Everything that has been asked of them has been given their full attention, and there has been no lack of enthusiasm for getting things done.

With the folding of Sawtry Sports and Leisure Association, the Parish Council has taken over the running of Greenfield. The changeover has gone quite smoothly, and the new booking system is working well. Finally, the refurbishment and extension to the Clubhouse is well underway and should be completed by the time this report goes out.

After such a wet winter, the drainage of St. Andrews Cemetery is an on-going problem. The Parish Council has had a scheme in place since the beginning of the financial year but getting the necessary permissions for the outfall from the proposed system has been a nightmare, and until this is resolved through the different organisations involved, the proposals remain 'on ice'. I hope the scheme will soon be underway.

The village looks well cared for, thanks to the dedication of our caretakers, the volunteers who tend the flower beds, and the litter pickers who do a fantastic job keeping everywhere tidy.

On a different level, we are constantly short of Parish Councillors. We should have 15 Councillors but haven't had a full complement for most of the life of the present Council. This puts more pressure on the existing members. There are four main committees where most of the council's work is discussed, and numbers are so low that it is sometimes impossible to carry on because there isn't a quorum. This wastes the time of Councillors who have given up their evenings to attend, as well as putting more pressure on the clerks who have prepared the necessary documents. With 15 Councillors the workload would be more spread out as well as getting new ideas.

Finally, I would like to thank the Clerk for his dedication to his job. We haven't had so many projects underway for a long time, and he takes the initiative to make things happen.

### Appendix 2

Sgt Anna Martin and PC Tom Russell – Gave an update on current Police priorities in Huntingdonshire, these are, Parking, Knife crime, Speeding and Drugs – There are current operations in place going on behind the scenes, and arrests have been made.

Anti social behaviour still needs to be reported to the police, one resident of Sawtry has recently been to court and fined for anti social behaviour

There are also currently Car cruises in Peterborough that are starting to affect the outer villages – Patrols are in place

Social media is currently getting out of hand with abuse and posting pictures of suspected crimes – Police do monitor social media, and again rather than posting on Facebook please contact the Police on 101.

Parking is still an issue in most areas especially around schools, and on curbs blocking pathways this is currently still a police issue so again please report, police will look into photos taken of illegal parking – Please consider others when parking, please do not park on double yellow lines and block paths.

## Appendix 3

### Rachel Elding Cyber fraud.

Currently 45% of all crime reported is for fraud – spreading awareness for scam protection is their main duty.

Main targets –

Impersonating the banks

HMRC

Impersonating The Police

If you receive any phone calls you feel are suspect please use a different phone to contact that company to check credentials

Be careful with emails – before you open any links hover your cursor over the link to see where the link really goes

You can text 7726 to report scam phone calls and texts – you will need to write in the text CALL then the number who called you

### How to protect yourself Online

- Be wary about personal information you post online, and ensure you check your privacy settings on social media
- Use Three random words to make sure your password is strong
- Storing passwords in your browser is a good tactic
- Have a strong and separate password for your email account
- If available, set up a two-factor authentication on all important accounts
- Use anti-Virus software on all devices and update it regularly
- Update your software when new patches are released
- Back up important data regularly using an external device or cloud storage service.
- Secure your tablet or smartphone with a screenlock.

For more information, visit the Cambridgeshire Constabulary website:

[www.cambs.police.uk/information-and-services/fraud](http://www.cambs.police.uk/information-and-services/fraud)

The little book of scams is also held at the Sawtry Parish Council office.