



SAWSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the RECREATION & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT SPICERS PAVILION ON 18th JANUARY 2022 AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT:

Parish Clerk Jo Keeler

Councillors

Neil Reid (Chair)

Jayne Merrick

Paul Smith

Colin Groves

Kevin Cuffley

Michael Mallows

Sue Whitney

+ Will Cook – Sports Grounds Keeper
Aaron Church – Grounds Keeper
Kevin Pride – Sawston & Babraham Cricket Club

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:
Councillor Ian Reeves – Personal

Will Cook and Aaron Church were welcomed to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FOR THIS MEETING

None

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RECREATION & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD ON 30 NOVEMBER 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2021 were read, confirmed and signed.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley and **seconded** by Councillor Colin Groves to **accept** the minutes.

VOTE: 7 FOR : 0 AGAINST (UNANIMOUS)

4 MATTERS ARISING – New information only

None

5 SPORTS CLUB MATTERS

Kevin Pride asked if there was a start date for the work to start on the extension at Spicers Pavilion. Councillor Kevin Cuffley explained the planning application has been approved but we have no start date as yet.

6 UPDATE FROM NEW GROUNDS KEEPERS

Will Cook explained that he and Aaron Church have started well and their first job was to sort out the ground store. They cleared out the ground store and have filled an 8-yard skip with all the stuff the previous grounds keepers haven't been able to dispose of like old play equipment that has been replaced, damaged signs and general rubbish. The machines are

in the process of being serviced and the whole area has been tidied up with easy access to all machinery and tools.

They started all the machines and now have a good indication of the work they both need to do and the machines they will need to use.

They have been in contact and met with the relevant members of the sports clubs.

He explained that the blue Ford tractor we have is now leaking in two places and there was quite a substantial oil leak. This has not been serviced yet as the company that came out explained that it could cost us a couple of thousand pounds to get it in good working order. He explained that we would benefit from purchasing a new smaller tractor which could then be used all year round. The two tractors we currently have are too heavy for the grounds at the moment and will make more damage whereas if we got a smaller tractor they could carry on with the work. He asked TNS (Thurlow Nunn Services) for a quote and for a smaller tractor to the specification required by both grounds keeper, the discounted cost would be £21k, we would also be able to trade the blue Ford tractor in as it is for £3k. The Clerk confirmed we do have money in the budget if the council wanted to go head purchase a new tractor.

Councillor Michael Mallows said that we kept the Ford tractor so we could use the flail for hedge cutting but Will Cook explained that the flail we have fits on the Toro tractor.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Jayne Merrick and **seconded** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley to **RECOMMEND TO FULL** that we purchase a new smaller tractor and trade the current Ford tractor in its current state but to get two more quotes before the full meeting.

VOTE: 7 FOR : 0 AGAINST (UNANIMOUS)

He then explained that there should be a walk along sprayer but they cannot find it. It is used on the grounds and is needed urgently. It is not in any of the storage areas and he has checked with the cricket club and they have confirmed it has not been stored at Babraham. They have found the manual but not the machine. The cost of this machine is approximately £900.00.

This was discussed and the Clerk was asked to report it missing to the police but as we are not sure when it went missing the Clerk was asked to speak to our insurance company first to see if we would be able to claim off our insurance with the little information we have.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley and **seconded** by Councillor Neil Reid to **RECOMMEND TO FULL** that we purchase a new walk along sprayer and get two more quotes before the full meeting.

VOTE: 7 FOR : 0 AGAINST (UNANIMOUS)

The grounds keepers asked if it was possible to install a workbench in the ground store as they are both able to sharpen the rotary blades on the push along mowers etc whereas we normally send them off to be sharpened so by the grounds keepers doing this we will save time and money. The bench is approximately £100 and the grinding discs around £30.00. This was discussed.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley and **seconded** by Councillor Jayne Merrick to go ahead and order the workbench and grinding discs.

VOTE: 7 FOR : 0 AGAINST (UNANIMOUS)

The trailer and water bowser are taking up quite a lot of space in the ground store and the ride on mower currently sits on the trailer as there is not enough room. They have asked if the water bowser and trailer can be kept outside in the compound to make it easier for them to get machinery out. There are heavy duty wheel clamps that can be used and they will be

in a locked compound with security cameras. This was discussed. It was agreed to get quotes for the clamps and make it an agenda item for full parish in February.

7 PAVILLION AND GROUNDS

SPICERS –The Assistant Clerk is currently getting quotes to get the guttering replaced.

MILL LANE – The Clerk confirmed that there are still some unresolved jobs to be completed before building control sign it off and the pavilion can be hired to the public. It is hoped this will be by the end of February.

LYNTON WAY – Nothing to report.

8 TO DISCUSS REQUEST FOR FAIR AT LYNTON WAY

The Clerk explained that Thurston’s Fun Fair has asked if they can visit Sawston w/e 15th May 2022 for 4 days. They used to visit Mill Lane but have since visited the site and they would not be able to gain access with their large vehicles therefore have asked for Lynton Way.

Councillor Kevin Cuffley and the Clerk both have concerns regarding the residents that surround the recreation ground but agreed after the past two years we have had with the pandemic it would be good for the village.

Will Cook didn’t have a problem with the fun fair on Lynton Way as long as there is the budget to repair the grounds after which the Clerk confirmed there is.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley and **seconded** by Councillor Paul Smith to **RECOMMEND TO FULL** we allow the fair to visit in May on Lynton Way recreation ground as long as it closed at 10pm each evening.

VOTE: 7 FOR : 0 AGAINST (UNANIMOUS)

9 TO DISCUSS SAWSTON ROVERS REQUEST AT MILL LANE

The Clerk explained she had met with Sawston Rovers at Mill Lane and showed them around the new pavilion. They have requested a TV and Dartboard in the main hall and a tv in the home changing room. The Clerk explained that she has ordered a TV which was agreed at full parish and that is being delivered and installed the beginning of February. Would the committee allow them to put up a dartboard and tv in the changing room? This was discussed.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley and **seconded** by Councillor Jayne Merrick to **RECOMMEND TO FULL** that we allow Sawston Rovers to put up a dartboard in the main hall at Mill Lane pavilion as long as they put up a backboard to so darts will not damage the wall. They do not allow them to put a TV in the changing room as there will be a TV in the main hall.

VOTE: 7 FOR : 0 AGAINST (UNANIMOUS)

10 TO DISCUSS TRAINING LIGHTS AT MILL LANE

The committee previously discussed the cost for upgrading the floodlights at Mill Lane at an approximate cost of £1000.00. The actual quote will be £1,580.00 and an extra £450.00 if the lamps are moved up the pole to give a better coverage. This was discussed and the Clerk was asked to put this on February’s full agenda so the whole council are aware of the additional costs.

11 TO DISCUSS OWNERSHIP OF FLOODLIGHTS AT MILL LANE

The Clerk explained that Sawston Rovers FC currently own the floodlights at Mill Lane and charge other clubs to use them. Barry Rule (Rovers) has asked if the Parish Council will take on ownership of the lights. This was discussed at length and the committee felt that if the

football club wants the lamps moved up the pole and better-quality lamps then we should be asking them for a donation. The other clubs have given donations before when work has been done. The committee appreciate the lamps need to be replaced but as the parish council do not currently own the floodlights do not see why we should be paying for them.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley and **seconded** by Councillor Jayne Merrick to **RECOMMEND TO FULL PARISH** that if Sawston Rovers want the parish council to take ownership of the floodlights we will but ask for a donation of £600 to get the lights replaced. £600 is the difference between what the parish council has originally agreed to spend and the additional charges to replace the bulbs only (not move them up the pole).

VOTE: 7 FOR : 0 AGAINST (UNANIMOUS)

12 TO DISCUSS CCTV CAMERA AT MILL LANE PAVILION

The Clerk explained that when the building work started at Mill Lane the CCTV was removed by the builder but the cameras were left up for a deterrent. The CCTV monitoring box then went missing for a while and turned up in the shed at the back of the building. There will be a cost to have this reinstalled, and not sure if it is damaged. There was also some damage to the defibrillator cabinet and the doors which had the key fob locks on were disposed of costing the parish council a considerable amount of money to have the locks replaced. This was discussed and Councillor Kevin Cuffley suggested having a meeting with the project manager, the Vice Chair and Chair of Recreation & Open Spaces committee to discuss these issues before we start on the next project. They will report back at the next appropriate meeting. The committee agreed for Councillor Kevin Cuffley to go ahead and arrange the meeting.

13 TO DISCUSS QUOTE TO REPLACE ALL LIGHTS AT SPICERS PAVILION TO LED LIGHTS

The Clerk explained that several lights have gone in the pavilion and it was agreed at the last full parish meeting to get a quote to replace all the lights at the pavilion with LED lights as they will last longer and are more cost effective.

The quote received to replace all the lights to LED, fittings, labour and parts will be £3,289.60 + VAT. This was discussed.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley and **seconded** by Councillor Colin Groves to **RECOMMEND TO FULL** to go ahead and replace all the lights.

VOTE: 7 FOR : 0 AGAINST (UNANIMOUS)

14 TO DISCUSS VILLAGE CONSULTATION

Councillor Sue Whitney gave a presentation regarding how we move forward with the consultation on what residents want in the village with regards to sporting facilities, recreation facilities and facilities for all ages/ethnic groups etc. This presentation is on the parish council website.

Councillor Kevin Cuffley thanked her for the presentation and asked the Clerk to put it on the full parish agenda for March so the whole parish council can have the discussion about moving forward.

15 CORRESPONDENCE

None

16 COUNCILLORS ISSUES AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING – CONCERNING RECREATION & OPEN SPACES ONLY

Aaron Church explained he has some ideas to brighten up the village with wildflowers, pots etc. One idea is to put some large planters on the corner by the post office which may help reduce people parking on the corner. He would also like to plant some more bulbs and wildflowers along Huckeridge Hill and along Cambridge Road and there are areas on each recreation ground which he would like to make into wild flower areas. He explained that 1 kilo of wild flower seeds costs around £132 and he would use approximately 1.5g per square meter.

The wildflower can be sown now but will probably be a bit too late for bulbs by the time we get them if agreed.

The Clerk was asked to make this an agenda item for July full parish to discuss the cost of bulbs and where they will be planted.

The committee was keen for him to purchase some wildflower seeds and sow asap and have a budget of up to £500. This will be an agenda item for February's full parish as this cannot be agreed now as it is not an agenda item.

Meeting closed 8.55pm