
SAWSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MASTERPLAN GROUP MEETING NOTES

Held virtually on Tuesday 1st December 2020 at 7.30pm

Present:

Councillor Kevin Cuffley
Councillor Rajni Padia
Councillor David Bard
Councillor Brian Milnes
Councillor Neil Reid
Councillor Kieran Cooper
Councillor Beck Laxton
Councillor Anand Pillai (arrived 8.07)
Councillor Paul Smith
Councillor Sue Whitney
Councillor Ian Reeves

Clerk: Jo Keeler
Natalie Blaken – Cambridgeshire ACRE

1 - Apologies for absence

Apologies – Michelle Wilson – Sawston Sports Centre
Councillor Jayne Merrick
Councillor Stephen Drew

2 - Representatives from Sawston Sports Centre

There were no representatives from Sawston Sports Centre. The Clerk to invite them to the next masterplan meeting but to speak to them first to explain what we would like to discuss.

Councillor Kevin Cuffley explained that a member of public attended the meeting to discuss item 6 so asked the committee to move this item.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley and **seconded** by Councillor Ian Reeves to move item 6 to discuss now.

VOTE: 10 FOR : 0 AGAINST (UNANIMOUS)

6 – To discuss resident’s correspondence regarding parking at Edinburgh Avenue

Councillor Kevin Cuffley welcomed the resident to speak. Mr Jon Hawkins explained that the parking around Edinburgh Avenue/Wakelin Avenue is terrible with the amount of cars and cars parking on grassed areas. He asked if the parish council can do anything to help. There are some areas he thinks are suitable for off street parking and could maybe be done with an LHI (Local Highway Initiative).

Councillor Brian Milnes explained that parking on residential estates is problematic and parking in general is a problem throughout the village which the parish council is trying to address.

Mr Jon Hawkins explained people do park on the grass areas which are being ruined and he would like to see a compromise so there is some off road parking and some grass areas. Councillor Beck Laxton questioned this should be a County Council issue and Councillor Kevin Cuffley explained that we need to come up with a strategic plan that we could take to County for discussion.

Councillor Kevin Cuffley agreed he would arrange to meet with the County Council Highways and Mr Jon Hawkins.

3 – Discuss project manager

Councillor Kevin Cuffley welcomed Natalie Blaken from Cambridgeshire Acre and explained that we wanted to discuss item 3 – a project manager and also item 5 – joining the Neighbourhood Plan and Masterplan.

Natalie introduced herself and explained the support they have given so far with regards to the Neighbourhood Plan. She explained the parish council now need to decide how to move forward. A project manager is absolutely key to the success of a neighbourhood plan. The project manager would need to lead and would need ambition, energy, a relationship with all the neighbourhood plan ambassadors. It would be a post for around 2-3 years and they would drive the neighbourhood plan forward and problem solve.

The locality grant will not pay for a project manager but will fund elements of it.

Councillor Kevin Cuffley asked if we should have this as a voluntary or paid role, which needs to be discussed at council. Natalie Blaken will help by pointing us in the right direction to help put together a job specification for this role.

There is a cross over between the neighbourhood plan and the masterplan, should they be merged?

Councillor Brian Milnes explained the parish council was under the impression that the neighbourhood plan must be driven by the residents and not the parish council therefore he recommended we do not merge them

Natalie explained there is no reason the neighbourhood plan cannot be led by the parish council. There are consultants who will create policies for us but this is our plan and we need to do what is best for our village. What do we want to achieve from our neighbourhood plan. She went on to explain we cannot merge both as there is a legislation in place to put forward a neighbourhood plan and the examiner will look at this to ensure we have complied. The neighbourhood plan has to be for planning purpose, it is a specific document.

Councillor Ian Reeves asked about the project managers role and if Natalie Blaken had any idea of how much time they would have to give. She explained it is not full time and the work will come in fits and starts. Natalie suggested we speak to other project managers to gauge what work is involved.

Councillor Ian Reeves and Councillor Paul Smith would both like to get involved with this and will be invited to future neighbourhood plan meetings to contribute.

Natalie Blaken explained we are at a point now where we have collated a lot of evidence but we need to define what we want to do next.

We need:

- Parish council vision
- Key set objectives
- Planning policies we want to develop

Councillor Brian Milnes suggested we produce terms of reference for the neighbourhood plan.

Councillor Kevin Cuffley thanked Natalie Blaken for attending.

4 – Updates from ambassadors

Councillor Brian Milnes – look at pedestrianisation priority of the High Street. He showed an image of what the High Street could look like with a roundabout outside the post office and widened paths with no kerbs.

Councillor Beck Laxton – will talk to Greener Sawston, local cyclists and people with disabilities to get some ideas and suggestions. Councillor Beck Laxton had no progress on this.

Councillor Jayne Merrick – will look at the Parish Council possibly building their own houses, how we can do this, what grants etc we can get from the government. – Councillor Jayne Merrick was not at the meeting so this will be deferred.

Councillor Rajni Padia – will continue to look at sporting facilities within the village. Councillor Rajni Padia explained the outcome and responses from the sport survey were poor. He is currently working on the sports database and will have by the end of December. Councillor Beck Laxton suggested the council contact the rugby club about facilities, support and future development. Councillor Neil Reid reported there are 35 members of the tennis club but only 5 tables available. Councillor Rajni Padia will investigate.

Councillor Anand Pillai – will look at parking issues – working with Councillor David Bard.

Councillor Neil Reid – will look at High Street improvements – Councillor Brian Milnes will co ordinate this with him. – Councillor Neil Reid is working with Councillor Brian Milnes on this.

Councillor David Bard – will look at transport issues around Sawston and will contact Stagecoach to see if they have any issues with a possible one-way system and alternative routes. Councillor David Bard explained it is probably too early in approaching Stagecoach until we know what's happening with the wider transport network. If we are serious about extending parking, we need to look at our land alongside the Co Op. He reckoned we could get around 31 parking spaces and 2 disabled spaces on this site. We would of course, lose the income we receive for this land from Vindis. We would need to discuss whether we would charge for parking if we went ahead.

Councillor Kieran Cooper – will look at the wider issue of a public consultation and will research the pros and cons of becoming a town rather than a village. Councillor Stephen Drew will work with Councillor Kieran Cooper on this. Councillor Kieran Cooper has not progressed much on this but he has started to research and will report back.

Councillor Colin Groves - will look at the provisions of charging points and will work with Councillors Anand Pillai on parking. Councillor Colin Groves was not at the meeting so this will be deferred.

Councillor Kevin Cuffley - will work with Councillor Beck Laxton on strategic cycleways and look into financial support to see what is available. Councillor Kevin Cuffley explained there is lots of potential funding for green projects and we can look into these once we know what we want.

7 – Potential Budget

Councillor Kevin Cuffley asked if we should be putting a budget together for this working group. It was discussed and agreed to be discussed at the next F&GP meeting.

Councillor Kevin Cuffley welcomed Councillor Sue Whitney, Councillor Ian Reeves and Councillor Paul Smith to this group and asked if there were any projects they wanted to get involved with. Councillor Sue Whitney asked where we are short of people and will then let us know. Councillor Ian Reeves offered to work with Rajni on the sports projects and Councillor Paul Smith was keen to help and add value where he can.

Councillor Kevin Cuffley thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting closed at 9.18pm