



# SAWSTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES of the RECREATION & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON 24 OCTOBER 2019  
At Link Road Parish Council Offices - Meeting commenced at 7.30pm**

**PRESENT:**

**Parish Clerk** Jo Keeler

**Councillors**

Neil Reid (Chairman)

Kevin Cuffley

Beck Laxton

David Bard

Brian Milnes

Mr Alan Poole – Head Groundsman  
Mr Colin English – The Greyhound FC  
Mr Ian Reeves – Sawston & Babraham Cricket Club  
Mr Bob Rule – Sawston Rovers FC  
+ 2 members of public

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor Mike Mallows

Councillor Anand Pillai

Councillor Rajni Padia

Councillor Colin Groves

Mr Mike Roughead – Sawston United

Mr Trevor Davies – Sawston United

**2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS FOR THIS MEETING**

None

**3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RECREATION & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 16 JULY 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2019 were read, confirmed and signed.

It was **proposed** by Councillor David Bard and **seconded** by Councillor Brian Milnes to **accept** the minutes.

**VOTE: 5 FOR : 0 AGAINST (UNANIMOUS)**

**4 MATTERS ARISING – New information only**

None

**5 SPORTS CLUB MATTERS**

Mr Bob Rule explained that Cambs FA has recently made a complaint about the state of the referees changing room at Mill Lane pavilion stating they felt it was in an unacceptable condition. They went on to explain the facilities should be kept clean for the use of match officials and not used for storage.

This was discussed and the Head Groundsman said he would get some mould paint for the ceiling and have a general tidy up of the room.

The Clerk will speak to the cleaners asking them to give the changing room a deep clean.

The Parish Council has just received S106 money which will be used to refurbish/rebuild this pavilion and the Clerk explained she will start the ball rolling with this project and arrange a meeting with the Head Groundsman, Chair and Vice Chair of the Council, Chair and Vice Chair of the Recreation Committee and Sawston Rovers.

Mr Colin English explained the goals at Lynton Way are hard to move and the wheels sometimes collapse. The Head Groundsman said he will have a look at them to see what can be done.

Mr Colin English also asked if Sawston Greyhound FC could put up some club signs at Lynton Way as Sawston Rovers have at Mill Lane. He was asked to write his request to the Parish Council and it will be discussed.

Mr Ian Reeves gave a review for the Cricket 2018 season which is attached to these minutes.

Mr Ian Reeves thanked the Head Groundsman for all his hard work put into the grounds and explained that next year the cricket club would like to renovate the wicket. Every September the Head Groundsman renovates/top dress the wickets but over time the wickets are getting built up and now slope at either end. At the end of 2020 they would like to level the whole cricket square at a cost of around £2,000.00. Mr Ian Reeves asked if the Parish Council would support this work and contribute towards the cost.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Beck Laxton and **seconded** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley to **RECOMMEND TO FULL** we pay £1,000.00 towards levelling the cricket square in 2020 and put the money in the budget.

**VOTE: 5 FOR : 0 AGAINST (UNANIMOUS)**

Mr Ian Reeves asked if the Parish Council would look into installing WIFI at Spicers Pavilion. The Clerk will look into this.

## **6 GROUNDSMAN'S ISSUES**

The Head Groundsman explained he has received a couple of resident complaints about children getting the goals out at Lynton Way when there are no matches or training. They are entering the pavilion to get the keys for the goal enclosure so it will be someone who has keys to the pavilion who is letting the children do this.

The Clerk was asked to write to Sawston Greyhound and Sawston United Youth to explain this is not acceptable and the goals must not be used unless there is a match or training. This will be monitored.

The Head Groundsman explained he would like to plant 10 Mountain Ash trees along Spicers sports ground on Cambridge Road side. We have planted some trees along here but they were trees that we kindly donated but were too small and have not taken. A decent size tree will cost around £176.00 each and he confirmed that Mountain Ash was recommended by the Tree Officer.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Beck Laxton and **seconded** by Councillor David Bard to **RECOMMEND TO FULL** we support this request and purchase the trees using the money in the budget.

**VOTE: 5 FOR : 0 AGAINST (UNANIMOUS)**

## **7 PAVILIONS AND GROUNDS**

### **Spicers**

None

### **Mill Lane**

None

**Lynton Way**  
None

**8 TO DISCUSS NEW SAWSTON FOOTBALL TEAM USING LYNTON WAY ON SATURDAY AFTERNOONS**

Mr Connor Scott explained he is setting up a new men's football team in Sawston called Sawston Phoenix which will have a youth input by being run by younger people that traditional clubs do not have.

He has asked if they can play at Lynton Way on Saturday afternoons starting 2020/2021 season.

The Head Groundsman explained there is room for them to play at Lynton Way but there is no room currently in Sawston for training which they accepted.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Beck Laxton and **seconded** by Councillor David Bard to **RECOMMEND TO FULL** we offer them Lynton Way on a Saturday afternoons at a cost of £55 per game.

**VOTE: 4 FOR : 1 ABS**

**9 TO AGREE QUOTE FOR FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT AT ALL PAVILIONS AND OFFICE ON A THREE YEAR CONTRACT**

The Clerk explained that after meeting on site with the Fire Protection Officer to discuss the fire maintenance for the Parish Councils properties, it became apparent we do not have a current fire risk assessment which should be reviewed annually or when there is a change to the building. The Assistant Clerk contacted 3 companies and obtained 2 quotes.

- £1,120.00 + vat
- £1,180.00 + vat

It was **proposed** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley and **seconded** by Councillor Beck Laxton to **RECOMMEND TO FULL** accept the quote for £1,120.00 per year for three years.

**VOTE: 5 FOR : 0 AGAINST (UNANIMOUS)**

**10 TO AGREE QUOTE FOR FIRE MAINTENANCE AT ALL PAVILLIONS AND OFFICE ON A THREE YEAR CONTRACT**

The Clerk explained the current 3 year contract for the fire maintenance is up for renewal and the Assistant Clerk contacted three companies to get quotes and obtained 2.

- £596.65 + vat
- £1,208.42 + vat

The maintenance includes annual service costs of the office alarm and the emergency lights, fire extinguishers and fire blankets at the office and the 3 pavilions.

It was **proposed** by Councillor David Bard and **seconded** by Councillor Beck Laxton to **RECOMMEND TO FULL** we accept the quote of £596.65 + vat per year for 3 years.

**VOTE: 5 FOR : 0 AGAINST (UNANIMOUS)**

**11 TO DISCUSS THE RANSOMES MOWER**

The Head Groundsman explained that the Ransomes mower is now 16 years old and is needing repairs regularly to keep it running. Since April of this year the machine has cost the Parish Council around £3,700.00 and he asked if we would look at budgeting to get a new machine in the near future. We have discussed in the past replacing this machine with a wider one so it will hopefully reduce the amount of time to cut especially when we are gifted the piece of land at Cambridge City on Babraham Road.

The Head Groundsman had obtained one quote for a new Ransomes Mower with 6 cylinders at a discounted cost of £54,500.00.

The Clerk explained we budget yearly for new machinery and we would be able to purchase a new machine as early as 2020/2021.

The Head Groundsman was asked to get 2 other quotes and bring back to the next Recreation meeting in January 2020.

**11 TO DISCUSS MACHINE SERVICING QUOTES**

The Head Groundsman has tried to get three quotes for all our machine servicing for next year and obtained 2 quotes. The machines included are the Allet Mower, John Deere Mower and the Ransomes Mower.

- £1,373.92 + vat
- £2,681.94 + vat

He explained that these costs are for a basic service of the machines and that the cost may increase if they find things wrong when servicing.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Beck Laxton and **seconded** by Councillor David Bard to **RECOMMEND TO FULL** accept the quote for £1,373.92 + vat.

**VOTE: 5 FOR : 0 AGAINST (UNANIMOUS)**

**12 TO DISCUSS INSTALLING A REPLACEMENT SIGN AT ORCHARD PARK REGARDING THE PLAY AREA AND OUR CONTACT DETAILS**

The Clerk explained the sign at Orchard Park states that the Parish Council own and maintain the play area. We don't actually own this land we only maintain it. The Clerk obtained a cost for a replacement sign of £60.00 + vat.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley and **seconded** by Councillor David Bard to **RECOMMEND TO FULL** that we replace the sign at a cost of £60.00 + vat.

**VOTE: 5 FOR : 0 AGAINST (UNANIMOUS)**

**13 TO DISCUSS SMOKING POLICY ON PARISH COUNCIL PROPERTIES**

There is currently an external ash tray at Spicers Pavilion by the garage and it was discussed if there should be a designated smoking area at the flagpole end of the pavilion so it is out of the way of the main door. The Clerk was asked to check the legalities of if it is necessary to have a shelter if you have a designated smoking area and bring back to the next Recreation meeting to discuss. This would also include vaping.

**14 TO DISCUSS RESIDENTS REQUEST FOR MORE BENCHES AT LYNTON WAY RECREATION GROUND**

The Clerk explained a resident has made a request for more benches around the outside of Lynton Way recreation ground. The Head Groundsman said there are already several benches on the ground and wasn't sure where they could go without being outside residents back gates. This was discussed and Councillor Beck Laxton suggested the Clerk writes back to the resident asking if they have spoken to other residents who support this and for suggestions of where they would like to see the benches.

It was **proposed** by Councillor David Bard and **seconded** by Councillor Brian Milnes to have an extension of time for 30 minutes until 10pm to complete the business.

**VOTE: 5 FOR : 0 AGAINST (UNANIMOUS)**

**15 BUDGET SETTING 2010/2021**

The committee went through the Recreation & Open Spaces budget for 2020/2021.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Brian Milnes and **seconded** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley to **RECOMMEND TO FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** and budget of £89,051.00 for 2020/2021.

**VOTE: 5 FOR : 0 AGAINST (UNANIMOUS)**

**16 CORRESPONDENCE**

None

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

None

**Meeting closed 9.55 pm**

## Sawston & Babraham Cricket Review of 2018 Season

As I wrote my review of the 2018 season, this time last year I was eulogising about the 'most successful year in the Club's history'. Having been involved with the Club for almost fifty years I thought last year was a once in a lifetime season.

How wrong I was! This year the first team dominated the Cambridgeshire and Hunts league with 12 maximum point wins from 12 games. However, after losing two more games to the weather than our nearest rival the end of season run in was tighter than it should have been. After a number of relatively easy games, and an unfortunate two weeks without a game the firsts had three difficult games to fulfil their title and East Anglian Premier League (EAPL) promotion dreams. They came through a very tight contest to clinch the title away at nearest challengers Histon, before completing an unbeaten league season by doing the double over former champions and local benchmark side Foxton. They became **Cambridgeshire and Hunts Division 1 Champions** for the first time in the Club's 150+ year history. In order to fulfil their dream of 2020 EAPL cricket they had to beat the Suffolk Champions Witham and then the Norfolk Champions East Runcton. We were blessed by some excellent late summer weather and two relatively easy victories. This confirmed them as **EAPL Play-off Champions**, and the only side from the three regional top leagues with a perfect (16-0) record for the season. Both play-off games were staged at home. This gave us a couple of opportunities, in front of huge crowds, not only to showcase our cricket but also our Club. The ground looked fantastic, packed to capacity, and sponsors boards to the fore. So I think the Club would have also impressed our opponents and the EAPL representatives.

The second team not to be outdone won the **CCA Senior 3 title** on the last day of their season. This confirmed back to back promotions, which was vital following the first team's elevation. They themselves only lost one league game this year, almost emulating 2018's unbeaten year. They were also crowned Cambridgeshire's T20 champions when they won the **Walker Cup**. They also won the 2018 **CCA Junior League title** in a game held over from last year. The quadruple was almost achieved when they lost in the final of the CCA Invitation Cup.

Our third team fell at the last hurdle as they chased their own back to back promotions. They had the consolation of lifting the **CCA Lower Junior Cup**, again for the first time in our history.

This meant that the Club had featured in three of the four County finals of 2019, and we were not eligible for the fourth! We again hosted the four finals at Spicers, and the ground was packed on four consecutive Sundays in August. We were again able to impress the Cambridgeshire Cricket Association, opponents and spectators alike with our organisation and professionalism off the field. Winning both the **Walker and Lower Junior cups** confirmed the Club's superiority in the T20 format as earlier in the season we had clinched the **Adams Harrison Midweek Division 1 title, the Adams Harrison Midweek Cup and the Adams Harrison Midweek Division 3 title**.

However perhaps the most satisfying statistic is that our four sides fulfilled all their games, in a league where there were 64 matches conceded for a lack of players. We were also able to give a number of youngsters their first taste of adult cricket.

This leads me into our objectives for 2020, we are realists and know that with, promotion into the East Anglian Premier League and into CCA Senior 2 that we are in for much tougher seasons. We also need to keep investing in our Junior section and our facilities, playing in the EAPL will also increase our cost base with increased catering, transport and official's fees.

We received an unapparelled amount of press coverage, backed by our own social media activities to up our profile considerably. Some 'jealous' neighbours even christened the local Cambridge papers as the Sawston and Babraham Times!

We were very fortunate to gain a number of new sponsors last year who contributed massively to the achievement of our goals and I hope we didn't let them down. We are looking to continue to develop long-term partnerships with our sponsors as well as finding some new ones to help with the next stage of the journey.

Paul Tibble – Sawston & Babraham Press Liaison