



SAWSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 11 MAY 2021
Held Virtually - Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

PRESENT:

Parish Clerk Jo Keeler

Councillors

Kevin Cuffley (Chairman)

David Bard

Jayne Merrick

Brian Milnes

Beck Laxton

Michael Mallows

Colin Groves

Neil Reid

Kieran Cooper

Tony Orgee

Sue Whitney

Ian Reeves

Paul Smith

Members of the Public

+ 1 member of public

- Superintendent James Sutherland – South Area Commander for Cambridgeshire Police
- Zac Britton – Romsey Mill
- Jaynee Ramsurun – Sawston Timebank

Councillor Kevin Cuffley welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated Councillor Brian Milnes and Councillor Maria King on becoming County Councillors.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Anand Pillai (Work commitments)

Tony Fell (Personal)

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR THIS MEETING

None

3 MATTERS ARISING – NEW INFORMATION

None

4 PRESENTATION BY SUPERINTENDENT JAMES SUTHERLAND – SOUTH AREA COMMANDER FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE

Councillor Kevin Cuffley welcomed Superintendent James Sutherland to the meeting and asked for his update.

James Sutherland explained this has been a difficult year in policing as there was no guide to how people will respond to the pandemic. During the first lockdown there was an extraordinary fall in crime with a gradual return after this lockdown although crime has changed in subtle ways in the last year.

There has been a dramatic change in dwelling/home burglaries due to people staying at home but there has been a more noticeable increase in other areas like thefts from vehicles especially catalytic converter thefts. There has been a huge surge in online fraud during the pandemic and there is some increase in domestic violence following the lockdowns.

They have closed all but 2 of their enquiry offices in this area including Sawston. Outside of the 2 main city stations the use of the enquiry office has been dropping and people are contacting the police in different ways, like phone or webchat. The police had to save £1.7 million and this was one way to make some saving. Sawston police station will remain open as an operational station but the front counter facility will be closed.

He explained that we still have PCSO's but not as many. Great news that PCSO Chris Wiseman is staying within Sawston. There has been a lot of investment into the neighbourhood policing team and all PCSO's were given the opportunity to become regulars and some PCSO's are now training to become police officers so we will have less PCSO's over the county but more neighbourhood police officers dedicated to local teams. The overall hours of the PCSO's will be the same but an amend to the shift patterns.

They have increased neighbourhood policing inspectors from 2 to 3 and have managed to retain the Rural Crime Action Team which he feels is the biggest success story for this area.

With regards to GRT (Gypsy, Romany, Travellers) they have negotiated a stopping program to try and reach an understanding between the villages and the travellers which is ongoing. There is a new bill going through parliament to change legal powers which may dramatically change the expectation for police to deal with illegal encampments.

There has been a spike in anti-social behaviour which is ongoing.

Councillor Kevin Cuffley thanked him for his time and presentation.

5 PRESENTATION BY ZAC BRITTON – ROMSEY MILL

Councillor Kevin Cuffley introduced Zac Britton who gave his update. This is on the parish council website.

Councillor Kevin Cuffley thanked him for attending and giving an update.

6 UPDATE ON SAWSTON TIMEBANK BY JAYNEE RAMSURUN

Councillor Kevin Cuffley introduce Jaynee Rumsurun who gave her update.

There are currently 78 active members of Sawston Timebank and 5 going through the joining process. Even through the pandemic, there is still an interest and need for Timebank which is positive. The future should grow and the current Timebank members have lots of ideas and initiatives moving forward. There are lots of funding opportunities which she will investigate.

There are quite a few members who still do not wish to go out or meet face to face so she is engaging with them virtually.

Councillor Kevin Cuffley thanked her for attending and giving an update.

7 THE ANNUAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The report was delivered to every house in Sawston and can be found on the Parish Council website. For copies, please contact the Parish Clerk.

8 COUNCILLORS ATTENDANCE RECORDS 2020/2021

This report can be found on the Parish Council website. For copies, please contact the Parish Clerk.

9 UPDATE FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Councillor Kevin Cuffley explained that the last year was governed by the pandemic and staff had to be moved around. The councils – District, County and Parish Councils, all worked hard together with communities through the pandemic. The Community Hub in Sawston opened and the County Council managed to retain free school meals.

Councillor Brian Milnes paid tribute to Councillor Kevin Cuffley's work as County Councillor for the last 4 years and that he has also been a great Chair for the parish council and apologised for not being at the beginning of the last meeting when Councillor Kevin Cuffley was voted in as Chair for the parish council to give his support and vote.

10 UPDATE FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

This report can be found on the Parish Council website. For copies, please contact the Parish Clerk.

11 ISSUES FROM THE PUBLIC

Reg Cullum asked if there was any update on the Co Op car park. Councillor Brian Milnes offered to contact Reg after the meeting to discuss.

12 ISSUES FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillor Kevin Cuffley thanked all councillors and clerks for all their hard work over the last year and especially to those who helped in the neighbourhood during the first lockdown.

Meeting closed 8.30pm

District Report for Sawston Annual Parish Meeting

South Cambridgeshire District Council – May 2021

This report covers the last 12 months of activity by your District Council and local Councillors; a year dominated (of course) by the coronavirus pandemic. SCDC has been active in the local government response to the pandemic. Significant numbers of Council officers have been redeployed from their usual duties to those dealing directly and urgently with the Covid response, such as the Business Recovery team. Although this has meant some disruption to normal council services, most have been delivered in a timely way and hopefully local residents have not been too severely affected.

1. Covid related grants to businesses and discretionary/hardship grants

The new **Business Support Team** at SCDC has been supporting all local businesses, big and small, through our website, our business newsletter and by direct contact with the team; we have advised a staggering 2,000 businesses over the past 12 months. We have paid out a total of £10,570,066 in Government business grants to 4,447 local businesses since last November and £3,550,204 in discretionary/hardship grants. We are awaiting details of what further monies we can expect and hence what activities and businesses we will be able to help going forward.

2. Community Volunteers

One of the most heartening things that has come out of the pandemic has been the terrific volunteer community response. It was estimated that, at the height of the Covid emergency, over 4,500 people were engaged across South Cambridgeshire in helping their fellow citizens get through the worst of the crisis. Sawston was well served by “self-organising” Mutual Aid, run by some of Parish Councillors and others, with support from many other local volunteers, and we would like to record our thanks to them for their work.

Now that there appears to be an end to the lockdown and the vaccination programme is reducing the infection risk to us all, SCDC is looking forward at how the community response might be continued into the recovery period. In the coming weeks, council officers will be contacting volunteers to ask them for their views on this. It is appreciated that many will be very tired and looking forward to a break and this is understandable. It may be that a different set of residents step up and continue the work. Whatever the volunteers decide, SCDC will support them in whatever way it can.

3. Mobile/Community Wardens

In the last 12 months SCDC has increased the number of district Mobile/Community Wardens schemes by 7 and 20 are now operating across the district. This includes the scheme in Sawston, which is organised by Anita Gilchrist. By supporting people in their homes, the wardens help people to live in their own homes for longer.

More information can be found here: <https://www.scams.gov.uk/community-development/mobile-warden-scheme/>

4. Flooding

Although the Covid response has played a huge part of all our lives in the last 12 months, there have also been other very notable events, as well as the 'normal' casework. One of these notable events was the flooding that we experienced over the Christmas period and early part of 2021. The exceptional amount of rain that fell during this period tested the drainage systems of our villages to the limit and beyond. Whilst the local authority response to the emergency worked as planned, as one of the category 1 responders SCDC is in talks with Anglian Water, the Environment Agency, the County Council and Internal Drainage Boards and parish councils to see how our joint response can be improved. There will also be a review of riparian watercourses to make sure that they are not obstructed and an impediment to drainage. SCDC will seek to facilitate local emergency plans that tap into local knowledge including that of Parish Councils. We are pleased that the work, instigated and done by Brian with the other agencies involved over the last 2 years, meant that Sawston drainage system was able to cope well.

5. Construction of new council housing

We have a policy of increasing the number of council properties available for people on lower incomes and, we have built 66 new council homes in the last 12 months (the target was 50). These are built to a high specification and some of the properties have solar panels and air-source heat-pumps.

6. SCDC 5 Year Housing Land Supply

Local planning authorities, like SCDC, must demonstrate that they are on track to deliver the minimum number of new homes (in the projected five-year period) that the national government has set. Widely known as the 5-year housing land supply (5YHLS) the failure of the previous Conservative administration to demonstrate one led to developers bombarding the council with speculative applications, many of which got approved at appeal. We are delighted to be able to report that the 5YHLS

figure for Greater Cambridge (South Cambs and Cambridge City) has recently been reassessed and it now stands at 6.1 years. This means that we can apply our Local Plan policies for affordable housing, standards, sustainable locations, green belt and place-making without the fear of speculative and unsustainable development. Good news indeed!

7. Being 'Green to our core'

One of the priorities for the present administration at SCDC is a commitment to being 'Green to our core'. In early 2021 we released details of our 'Doubling Nature' strategy in which we seek to increase wildlife-rich habitats and the tree canopy and improving access to green spaces. Some of the other projects that we have in the pipeline have, inevitably, been delayed by the coronavirus pandemic but we have still delivered on most of our commitments, such as:

All SCDC street lighting is to be replaced by low energy LED lights. This is nearing completion and should give a reduction of 60% of energy usage and a commensurate saving in parish councils' street-lighting energy bills.

We have completed an audit of the energy efficiency of existing council housing stock and will soon begin a campaign of improvement, beginning with enhanced insulation for the poorest performing properties. This will have the dual benefit of reducing carbon emissions and helping council tenants with their fuel bills. Where possible, Council House refurbishment will include air or ground-source heat pump systems, accompanied by better glazing.

The 'greening' of South Cambs Hall is the main project that has been delayed by Covid, but it should be completed in the coming year. This will retrofit renewable energy generation and energy-saving measures with the objective of reducing by up to 50% the amount of CO₂ used to heat and light the council's home (with commensurate cost-savings too).

We have purchased an electric bin lorry – one of the first local authorities to do so – and with an option to purchase others. The performance of the vehicle is still being evaluated but, so far, it has exceeded expectations. These vehicles have a much higher upfront cost but running costs are considerably lower and should be cost neutral over the vehicles' lifespan. We shall be considering other greener vehicle options including hydrogen fuel-cell, and there are plans to install a solar generation park (planned 2021-22) as a renewable source of electricity to charge the vehicles, which will add to the financial case as well as the considerable environmental one.

Our Zero-Carbon Communities Grant scheme has been very successful. In the last year, almost £100,000 of grant funding has been made available to 17 parish council and community group projects to help them with carbon reduction and energy efficiency measures. The scheme for 2021-22 opened on 10 May 2021 and funding

will be available for community buildings, tree Planting and other initiatives to reduce carbon emissions. <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/nature-and-climate-change/zero-carbon-communities/zero-carbon-communities-grant/>

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Shelford and Stapleford Youth Initiative – Report

April 2021

Introduction

SSYI, established in 1997, is a community-based Christian charity serving the villages of Great and Little Shelford, Stapleford and Sawston, providing youth activities and support for local 10–18-year-olds, with a focus on those who are vulnerable, hard-to-reach, and most in need, supporting them through open access and targeted activities, 1-1 support, schools work and community projects. Our activities provide opportunities to build relationships with young people, encouraging positive behaviour, community involvement and informal education.

This report covers the last year of work from April 2020 to March 2021, including photos, feedback and a case study. We hope you find it informative and encouraging.

Overview

COVID-19 has had a massive effect on our work this year. For the initial part of the first lockdown we moved to online delivery, increasing our social media presence, and posting daily video updates. Lead youth worker Zac Britton (left) has done over 250 of these inspiring messages to date! They can be viewed on our Instagram and Facebook pages (@ssyiyouth). We also kept in contact with many of our young people over the phone. As the lockdowns have eased, we have been able to meet for socially distant one to ones and relaunch detached work in the Shelfords, Stapleford and Sawston. As of March 2021 group work has restarted both online and in (socially-distanced) person.

The pandemic has had a significant impact on young people's mental health and wellbeing, with lockdowns and remote learning being particularly challenging for those whose home lives are not ideal. According to the mental health charity Young Minds 87% of young people questioned said that they had felt lonely or isolated during lockdown and 80% said that the Coronavirus had made their mental health worse. Youth work provision is more important than ever.

This year, we have taken on additional work in Sawston through our partnership with Romsey Mill. As well as the work within the Village College and the detached sessions, we are expanding the provision of open access and targeted support for hard-to-reach young people in that area.

Refurbishment work at the Youth Centre above the Memorial Hall in Great Shelford has continued, with significant funding from Gt. Shelford Parish, South Cambs., and Cambridgeshire County councils, as well as the local communities. We have stripped out the old flooring, ceiling, and kitchen, and are in the process of having new electrics, insulated wall panelling, ceiling, and flooring installed. There will be new furnishings and kitchen area. Altogether once finished it will be a fantastic modern space and will be well resourced to allow us to support local young people better than ever.

We have installed an office in the youth centre, which will mean that SSYI has a presence there through the week, to support the use of the facility for the benefit of the community for as many hours as possible. We strongly believe that the best way to support young people is through building strong relationships and engaging with them in multiple contexts, both in and out of school, in the community and in groups and through a variety of activities.

Activities and Youth Clubs

From Summer 2020, we were able to start **indoor and outdoor small group** provision including our **targeted group for vulnerable girls** and the **RED** group which has a focus on discussion and support around Mental Health and Identity, held at the Johnson Hall in Stapleford. Later in the year we restarted smaller group versions of our Friday groups in the Free Church in Great Shelford along with the **Wednesday Night Dinner** group running in partnership with Great Shelford Free Church and All Saints Little Shelford.

These groups went online during the second and third lockdowns. RED and the Girls Group are once again running in person now with plans to restart **Wednesday Night Dinner**, a **football** group, and the **“Shred-it-Up”** skate/scooter/BMX group soon. The **larger open access** work in Shelford and Sawston will restart when it is feasible to do so.

We have been able to run some extra activities at various points over the last year, including a couple of trips **mountain biking** at Thetford Forest, a **Zorb Football** session at Sawston Sports Centre, multiple visits to **Tenpin Bowling** in Cambridge and a selection of outdoor sports and activities. This has included further work on **The Copse** on Great Shelford Recreation ground, continuing to expand the features and improve the area there. Our young people have been involved in all aspects of the project from the design and ideas to planting new shrubs and installing den structures. This was made possible through funding from the Cambridgeshire Children’s Area Partnership Fund and support from Shelford Playscape.

Detached Work

Within the limitations due to the pandemic one of the first things we were able to open up was detached work. This involves clearly identified members of our team meeting local young people in parks and public spaces, engaging with them on their terms and beginning to build relationships. This enables us to engage with new young people, many on the fringes who might not otherwise join our work and to focus our other activities on the needs of the young people we meet. When restrictions have allowed, we have been doing at least two and more recently four sessions a week. These take place in all the villages that we work in, with a focus on the recreation grounds and popular hang-out spots.

One-to-one and Mentoring Work

Throughout the pandemic we have expanded our 1:1 support work, initially through regular phone calls with many of our young people which continues. As restrictions eased, we began running these face-to-face, engaging in this way with up to 10 young people a week. Some of these take place within Sawston Village College, at the request of the college, and some in the community. This work is of particular value as it enables us to offer really in-depth support. A lot of the young people we work with in this way are struggling with their mental health and find meeting a member of our team of real benefit to their wellbeing.

Case Study

James* has been involved with SSYI for several years, regularly attending various groups and activities. He has struggled with his mental health for a few years and has had support from other agencies. Recently he left college for work but after being furloughed his mental health began to deteriorate again. James began having a 1:1 with Zac to chat through what he was dealing with and to explore ways in which he could improve his wellbeing. As part of this Zac met with James and his Mum to discuss his mental health and how they could support him in the home, and how they could help each other to make their home environment better. James' mental health is improving, and we are currently supporting him in finding a new job and accessing some professional mental health support. James says:

"I enjoy my 1:1 and find it helpful. It's helped me realise what I need to do and how to do it."

*The name of this young person has been changed

The Team

Throughout this year the work of SSYI has been carried out by our team of youth workers alongside Zac. These are Tina Mogg (left), Charlie Trueblood (centre) who joined us in March 2020 and Jon Sanders of Romsey Mill who continues to provide management oversight and guidance. We also have a strong team of volunteers supporting all the work that we do. All staff and volunteers are fully DBS checked and safeguarding trained.

Funding

Our overall expenditure in 2020-21 was £54,700. We are most grateful for funding received from the parish councils of Great Shelford, Stapleford, Sawston, and Little Shelford, as well as the local churches and the regular and "one-off" donations from individuals in our communities.

Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin

We have also benefited from a number of institutional and government grants, particularly via South Cambs District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, John Huntingdon Charity, and UK Youth. SSYI normally plays a full part in local events, which in 2020-21 have been restricted to the Sawston Fun Run, and the Drive-in Carols at Shelford Rugby Club. For the new year, we will participate in village events once again as well as planning our own annual summer Garden Party (June 2020), Big Breakfast (October 2020), and the Grand Opening of the refurbished Youth Centre (July 2020).

Future Plans

Aligning with the National Youth Agency's guidance we are hoping that our face-to-face work will increase greatly over the next few months. From the 12th of April indoor and outdoor work is allowed with any young people and from May the 17th Residential and indoor trips may be possible. We are planning to restart several indoor and outdoor smaller groups in April and aim to be running larger open access work by June. If it is feasible, we will run a summer Residential as before, as well as a programme of trips and activities over the summer holidays.

Once the Youth Centre is reopened, we will make increasing use of the facility for specific groups, as well as "drop-in" availability during the week and the larger open access youth club evenings. Work in Sawston will grow, with full engagement of groups involved in existing youth provision there, to meet the needs of hard-to-reach young people in Sawston.

With this expansion, our costs of delivery are growing with a budget for 2021-22, excluding the completion of the Youth Centre Refurbishment, of around £64,000.

We wish to say a massive thank you to all of you who continue to support SSYI financially. Your investment in SSYI and the young people just shows how much you truly care about the local young people and wish to see them flourish as individuals. This includes the local parish councils, churches, businesses, organisations and generous individuals who have given us financial support either directly or indirectly.

More information

If you would like any further information about SSYI, then please contact:

Lead Youth Worker Zac Britton: zac.britton@ssyi.club or 07599024210

Chairman David Jones: davidjhjones@btinternet.com or 01223 847213 / 07711 063722

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Secretary Polly Stanton: polly.stanton@ntlworld.com or 01223 722509

...or access the SSYI Website: www.ssyi.club