



SAWSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28 JANUARY 2025
Held at Spicers Pavilion - Meeting commenced at 7.15 pm

PRESENT:

Clerk: Jo Keeler

Councillors

Kevin Cuffley (Chair)

David Bard

Paul Allen

Colin Groves

Brian Milnes

Kieran Cooper

Paul Smith

Deborah Alderwick

Kevin Deeming

Ian Reeves

+ 1 member of public

288 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Anand Pillai – Work commitments
Patrick Thouroude – Work commitments
Neil Reid - Personal

289 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME (15 Minutes allowed) *

Reg Cullum asked for more information on the devolution and local government reorganisation. Councillor Kevin Cuffley explained this was an agenda item if he would like to stay at the meeting for this item.

290 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR THIS MEETING

None

291 TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 JANUARY 2025

The minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held on 14 January 2025 were read, confirmed, and signed.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Colin Groves and **seconded** by Councillor Paul Allen to accept the minutes.

VOTE: 10 FOR : 0 AGAINST

292 REPORT OF THE TASK & FINISH MEETING HELD ON 21 JANUARY 2025

The notes of the Task & Finish Group meeting held on 21 January 2025 were read. Councillor Kieran Cooper asked the councillors if anyone had any questions regarding the notes. There were no questions, so this was noted.

293 MATTERS ARISING – NEW INFORMATION ONLY

None

294 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS

25/00068/HFUL	Single storey rear/side extension at 55 Challis Close.	Support/No Objection Vote: 10 For Unanimous
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	Proposed by Councillor David Bard and Seconded by Councillor Deborah Alderwick to support to this application.	
24/04326/FUL	Demolition of an existing building and the construction of new workshop. Site address: Factory, Unit 1 Common Lane. Proposed by Councillor David Bard and Seconded by Councillor Kevin Deeming to support to this application.	Support/ No Objection Vote: 7 For 2 Abs 1 Against 1 No Vote Comment: The parish council support this application but would recommend a separate fire escape on the mezzanine.
24/04406/FUL	Demolition of eight existing school buildings (Blocks EFAD, EFAF, EFAK, EFAL, EFAM, EFAN, ANC1, ANC2), refurbishment of the Marven Centre (Block EFAH) and Blocks EFAG and EFAI, and the refurbishment and single-storey extension to the sports block (EFAC), and construction of a new replacement two-storey school building, along with access, parking, landscaping and associated infrastructure at Sawston Village College 12 New Road. Proposed by Councillor Paul Smith and Seconded by Councillor Paul Allen to object to this application.	Objection/Do Not Support Vote: 9 For 1 No Vote Comments: Below

The parish council object to this application, they feel there has been no significant adjustments to their previous comment which can be found at the end of these minutes.

Response from Sawston Parish Council (Full Parish 10th December 2024) at the end of these minutes.

Do not support – unanimous

295 TO DISCUSS SPORTS CLUB MATTERS

No sports clubs present.

296 TO DISCUSS DEVOLUTION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The Government recently published a white paper on plans to devolve more powers. The paper also includes plans to mandate a move away from two tiers of local government so district and county councils will be replaced with one council providing their services that both councils currently do.

Districts and County to be replaced by Unitary Councils

The existing multi-layer scheme

Mayoral Combined authority CPCA

Cambridgeshire (County Council) pop=678,000 members=61 and Peterborough (Unitary) 216,000, 60

5 District Councils within Cambridgeshire

- South Cambs 163,000, 45

- Cambridge City 147,000, 42
 - Huntingdonshire 184,000, 52
 - Fenland 102,000, 43
 - East Cambs 88,000, 28
- GCP is a Joint Committee of three Councils (County, S Cambs & City "Greater Cambridge") 310,000

Councillor Brian Milnes explained that the purpose of this is to save money and be more efficient but his will inevitably push additional work down to Parish Councils. The parish council await more information/updates.

297 TO DISCUSS HARSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN CONSULTATION

Harston Parish Council has submitted its Neighbourhood Plan to SCDC, and the Parish Council has been asked to make comment. This was discussed and as it does not directly affect Sawston Parish the council noted it.

298 TO DISCUSS THE CAMBRIDGE SOUTH EAST TRANSPORT ORDER

Cambridge County Council has made an application to the Secretary of State for transport for an Order under section 1 of the Transport and Works Act 1992 to make provision for compulsory acquisition of land and rights, temporary possession and use of land, the extinguishment and diversion of rights of way, the extinguishment of private rights and the carrying out of certain ancillary works, all within the County of Cambridgeshire, in connection with the proposed Cambridge South East guided busway project. This was discussed and noted.

299 TO DISCUSS QUOTES FOR CHAIR REPORT PRINTING AND DELIVERY

The Assistant Clerk obtained quotes for the printing and delivery of this year's Chair report.

Printing

- £269.00 + vat including amends
- £284.00 including amends
- £299.00 + vat (with 2 amends), £334 + vat (with 4 amends)
- £315.00 + vat including unlimited amends

Delivery

- £350.00 + vat
- 2 other companies contacted but no response so only one quote obtained

It was **proposed** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley and **seconded** by Councillor Colin Groves to go with the quote of £315.00 + vat for printing and the delivery at a cost of £350.00 + vat. This printer was chosen as they are local, have done the previous reports for the Parish Council and print the bonfire posters FOC.

VOTE: 10 FOR : 0 AGAINST UNANIMOUS

300 TO DISCUSS NET ZERO GRANT FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PROJECTS

The Clerk explained there is funding available from SCDC to support communities to deliver capital projects that deliver reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. This was briefly discussed at a previous meeting and solar panels on Mill Lane pavilion and electric charging points were discussed. Councillor Deborah Alderwick sent out information before the meeting regarding the electric charging and the Clerk confirmed that to install solar panels on Mill Lane Pavilion will cost around £19k. This was discussed at length.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley and **seconded** by Councillor Kieran Cooper to apply for funding from the Net Zero Village Grants to install solar panels on Mill Lane pavilion. The estimated cost is £19k and the deadline to apply is

Sunday 2nd February. The parish council also agreed to revisit the electric parking scheme.

VOTE: 10 FOR : 0 AGAINST

301 TO DISCUSS COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME

The Clerk received information from the Shelford Support Group who run a community car scheme which covers the Shelford's, Stapleford and surrounding areas. The drivers are volunteers who charge a fee for each journey which the driver keeps and the scheme is reimbursed mileage by the CPCA at 15p per mile. They generally take passengers who are unable to use public transport to hospital appointments, dentist visits, social visits etc. They are asking for volunteers and a co-ordinator. This was discussed and although no one offered to volunteer the Clerk offered to advertise this for them on the website and noticeboard.

302 TO DISCUSS QUOTE TO FELL TREE AT ORCHARD PARK

The Assistant Clerk received an email from a resident with regards to tree on Orchard Park that is close to his property, they explained their insurance company has told them no tree should be within 5 meters from their property.

The Assistant Clerk sought advice from an independent arboriculturist who advised the tree can grow to a tremendous size and whilst it is currently only displacing the fence, it would be a prudent preventative measure to remove the tree and poison the stump to prevent regrowth (it will grow back again if the stump is not treated). A tree such as this will almost certainly cause problems with the house foundations in the fullness of time.

The Assistant Clerk obtained a quote from a tree surgeon who is currently carrying out tree work on behalf of the parish council (from the tree report) in the hope he would be able to add this tree to his list.

The quote is £550.00 + vat. This was discussed.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley and **seconded** by Councillor Kieran Cooper to accept the quote for the tree work to be completed along with the other tree work.

VOTE: 10 FOR : 0 AGAINST UNANIMOUS

303 CORRESPONDENCE

None

304 COUNCILLORS ISSUES AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Councillor Kevin Cuffley mentioned the 80th year of VE Day and VJ Day and had been contacted by the RBL who would like to do something to commemorate these days. It was agreed that this will be an agenda item for discussion.

The Clerk explained that the application for the first registration of Mill Lane Recreation Ground has now been submitted to the Land Registry and is currently pending awaiting processing by the Land Registry. They have estimated this will be complete by mid-January 2026.

Meeting Closed 8.40PM

[24/04406/FUL](#)

Do not support – unanimous

The council objects to the creation of a single point of access and egress for vehicular traffic (apart from buses) immediately to the West of the Marven centre. The proposed access would create potential conflict between vehicles entering and leaving the site at busy times, adding to congestion in New Road. Placing the main vehicular access at this

point would also create conflict between vehicles and pedestrians approaching the main pedestrian access to the West from the direction of Cambridge Road – the main route for students and other visitors.

It is unclear how a 5.0m wide carriageway can be achieved between the Marvin Centre and No. 4, New Road in addition to a dedicated cycle and pedestrian path whilst remaining within the curtilage of Sawston Village College and without significantly impairing the amenity of No.4, New Road. The minimum recommended width for a single way cycle path is 1.5m¹ reducing the proposed vehicular carriageway to 3.5m, insufficient for two vehicles to pass safely and making the proposed access awkward and unsafe. This issue would be exacerbated by the proposed positioning of a controlled entrance gate at this point.

¹ (Cycle Infrastructure Design, Local Transport Note 1/20, DOT, July, 2020, Table 5.2,

p.43)c

Whilst the Council notes that it is intended to replace the 132 formal parking spaces on the site, only limited allowance has been made for replacing the informal parking which currently occurs on the hard play area during community events out of school hours. It is therefore of major concern that either the future intention is to restrict the availability of the school for such activities, or that during community events significant amounts of parking will be displaced onto New Road. Since a number of houses in New Road do not have on-site parking, there is considerable potential for this overflow parking to increase congestion and restrict residents' access to their properties. This concern extends to the lack of adequate parking during the construction phase. Little consideration appears to have been given as to how the school will continue to operate whilst building work is taking place.

There appears to be no provision for the parking of mobility scooters.

No cycle racks appear to be provided in the vicinity of the Sports Centre and the Council fears that the inconvenience of this arrangement may act as a deterrent to cyclists. It also notes that the single entrance/exit will increase the interaction between vehicles and pedestrians and requests that a dedicated, raised pedestrian route clearly distinguished from the vehicular carriageway, is provided between the entrance and the Sports Centre. Nearby residents have expressed concern over existing levels of noise disturbance arising from the music department and community activities such as the Sunday church services.

The Council therefore requests that adequate provision is made for limiting noise levels from the proposed development and that the opportunity is taken to upgrade existing buildings. In order to limit noise disturbance from both inside and outside activities, a planning condition limiting the maximum noise level at the site perimeter is requested. Concern has been expressed by residents about the proximity of the proposed electricity sub-station to the properties at 16 and 18 New Road and the consequent effects of low frequency electromagnetic radiation. Whilst recognising that there is little firm guidance, either local or national on the siting of sub-stations, the Council nevertheless wishes to bring this issue to the attention of planners.

Whilst the Council notes that the Climate, Waste & Environment Officer considers that no air quality conditions are required on the grounds that the application will not result in a larger number of vehicles entering the site, the proposal to concentrate the bus pickup point into a much smaller, more enclosed, area than at present has the potential to increase pollution levels in its immediate vicinity. The Council therefore requests that an air quality assessment is carried out taking this consideration into account.