



# SAWSTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES of the FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11 MARCH 2025**  
**Held at Spicers Pavilion - Meeting commenced at 7.15 pm**

**PRESENT:**

Clerk: Jo Keeler

**Councillors**

Kevin Cuffley (Chair)

David Bard

Paul Allen

Patrick Thouroude

Deborah Alderwick

Neil Reid

Brian Milnes

Paul Smith

Kevin Deeming

Colin Groves

Kieran Cooper

+ 1 member of public

Will Cook – Head Grounds Keeper

James Drummond – Grounds Keeper

**343 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Anand Pillai – Personal

Ian Reeves - Personal

**324 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME (15 Minutes allowed) \***

None

**345 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR THIS MEETING**

None

**346 TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25 FEBRUARY 2025**

Item 336 – second figure should read £95.00, not £9500.

The minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held on 25 February 2025 were read, confirmed, and signed with the above amend.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Kieran Cooper and **seconded** by Councillor David Bard to accept the minutes.

**VOTE: 11 FOR : 0 UNANIMOUS**

**347 MATTERS ARISING – NEW INFORMATION ONLY**

None

**348 TO DISCUSS PARISH COUNCIL MACHINERY**

Councillor Kevin Cuffley welcomed Will Cook (Head Grounds Keeper) and James Drummond (Grounds Keeper) to the meeting. Will Cook gave an update on their work to date and explained that he would like to replace one of the mowers. We have a ride on cylinder mower which is around 23 years old. He went on to explain that cylinder mowers only really work on short grass and therefore areas must be cut more frequently for the mower to work appropriately. They would like to replace this mower with a rotary mower which can cut various lengths of grass and can mow over twigs/debris that would damage

the cylinder mower. To repair the cylinder mower when needed would cost around £2-300 each time whereas if the blades were blunted on a rotary mower, they would be able to sharpen the blades and maintain in house. A rotary mower will cut grass from long to short more efficiently and will be beneficial and cost effective to the parish council. This mower is also road legal.

There is nothing wrong with the current mower and the Cricket Club have shown an interest in purchasing it or the parish council could trade it in.

They investigated an electric equivalent, but these are not road legal and it is recommended to have two batteries for one mower and these batteries can cost up to £15k each.

Councillor Brian Milnes suggested the parish council investigate HVO replacement for diesel if we do order a new mower as this is almost 100% emissions free.

This was discussed at length and the Clerk confirmed there was money in reserves for new machinery to cover this expense.

Three quotes were obtained.

- £19750.00 + vat
- £19593.00 + vat
- £18970.00 + vat

It was **proposed** by Councillor Kieran Cooper and **seconded** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley to accept the quote for £18970.00 from TNS and contact the Cricket Club about purchasing the old mower.

**VOTE: 11 FOR : 0 UNANIMOUS**

### 349 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS

<a href="#">25/00505/HFUL</a>	Replacement of existing garage into habitable space and new roof over porch at 1 Fairfields.  <b>Proposed</b> by Councillor David Bard and <b>Seconded</b> by Councillor Deborah Alderwick to <b>support</b> to this application.	<b>Support/No Objection</b>  <b>Vote: 11 For Unanimous</b>
<a href="#">24/04326/FUL</a>	Demolition of an existing building and the construction of new workshop at Factory, Unit 1 Common Lane.  <b>Proposed</b> by Councillor David Bard and <b>Seconded</b> by Councillor Deborah Alderwick to <b>support</b> to this application.	<b>Support/ No Objection</b>  <b>Vote: 11 For Unanimous</b>
Tree		
<a href="#">25/0200/TTCA</a>	T1 Leylandi (T18 in report) Shorten lateral branches over road and suspect limb by 4-5m. T2 Ash (T3 in report) Reduce crown by 3-4m. T3 Ash Shorten low branches by 3-4m to raise canopy. T4 Ash Shorten limb over drive back to upright growth, approx 2m. T5 Ash Shorten limb over drive entrance by 3-4m.	<b>Support/ No Objection</b>  <b>Vote: 11 For Unanimous</b>

	<p>T6 Mulberry Reduce height by 4m.  T7 Ash (T17 in report) Diagnosed as suffering from armillaria - Fell  T8 Crabapple Reduce height by 2m and shorten lateral branches by 1m  T9 Leylandi x 2 Reduce height by 2-3m and shorten lateral branches by 1-2m at 138 High Street.</p> <p><b>Proposed</b> by Councillor David Bard and <b>Seconded</b> by Councillor Brian Milnes to <b>support</b> to this application.</p>	
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### 350 ACCOUNTS FOR FEBRUARY 2025

The accounts for the month of February were presented.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Patrick Thouroude and **seconded** by Councillor Colin Groves to accept the accounts for February 2025.

**VOTE: 11 FOR : 0 AGAINST UNANIMOUS**

### 351 TO DISCUSS BEACON FOR VE DAY

The Clerk investigated prices for a beacon to commemorate VE Day. Only one quote was obtained from 21CC Group Ltd of £549.00 + vat. This appeared to be the only company selling these beacons.

Gas cylinders will need to be purchased nearer the time. This was discussed and Councillor Brian Milnes asked if it was possible to purchase an unbranded beacon so it could be used on different occasions. The Clerk agreed to investigate this and defer to the next full parish meeting.

### 352 UPDATE FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

The report is at the end of these minutes and can be found on the parish council website or from the parish council office.

### 353 UPDATE FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

The report is at the end of these minutes and can be found on the parish council website or from the parish council office.

### 354 CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you letter from Age UK for recent donation.

### 355 COUNCILLORS ISSUES AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Councillor Brian Milnes to investigate if the WEE bin can be placed in the CoOp car park.

Councillor Deborah Alderwick wanted to thank 2G3S for their recent litter pick on Lynton Way recreation ground.

Clerk to investigate Community Chest grant to install a picnic bench on the grass area by Link Road/Churchfield Avenue.

**Meeting Closed 8.25 PM**