

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on March 3rd 2021

Present: Cllrs Whittaker (Chairman), Gadsby, Huntingdon, Laxton, Martin, Mulcrone, Parkes, Poole, Potter, Rose, Smith, Tuplin,
The Clerk and Assistant Clerk
Janet Spencer (Tree Warden) and 8 members of the public

1	Apologies For Absence – none
2	Minutes of Last Meeting – November 18 th 2020 – approved at Full Council on December 9 th 2020
3	Matters Arising From Previous Minutes (for information only) – none
4	Members’ Declaration Of Interest for items on the Agenda – Cllr Huntingdon – item 5.1, Chairman of SSLA
Public Forum: No members of the public wished to speak.	
5 Greenfield	<p>5.1 Update from Sports and Leisure Association – closed for the past year due to covid restrictions.</p> <p>5.2 Redevelopment of premises – it was agreed by Councillors and representatives of SSLA that the architect drawings were very impressive and could be put forward to planning</p> <p>5.3 Non-member use of the fishing lake – a representative of the fishing club spoke about how inappropriate use of the lake caused problems and harm to the fish and environment. It was noted that there is a contact number displayed for information regarding day tickets during the week. Non-members are encouraged at the weekends when there are members of the club available to advise and supervise. The Parish Council confirmed that the SSLA lease Greenfield which includes the fishing lake and it is up to the members of SSLA how they manage the facilities and membership.</p>
6	<p>Allotments:</p> <p>2 people on the waiting list for Rowell Way (The Mulberries)</p> <p>9 people on the waiting list for St Judith’s Lane</p> <p>It was agreed that those on the waiting list at St Judith’s would be asked if they wanted a half or full plot. Once this was known the grassed over areas would be marked out and offered to the waiting list in order. Rent would cover the tenancy until September 2022 which would recognise the work required to get the plot into planting order.</p>
7 Green Spaces	<p>7.1 CCTV Update – electricity connected, wi-fi signal to control box at Parish Council office being installed on March 19th.</p> <p>A request had been received from an allotment holder for the central hedge of the field be cut down to allow vision of all allotment plots. It was noted that the CCTV is not intended to cover everything. It was noted that the hedge was included in the annual maintenance programme in the autumn.</p> <p>Proposal to Full Council – the request should be denied, it is important to maintain hedgerows for wildlife.</p> <p>7.2 Village Planters</p> <p>Janet Spencer advised that she would be willing to continue to maintain the planters and replenish the plants. She will try to recruit additional help. As the option of growing plants from seeds is not now possible, plants would need to be bought. The wooden boxes at the bottom of the planters require attention.</p> <p>Proposal to Full Council – a budget of £300 from the village maintenance budget would be available for Janet to purchase plants.</p>

	<p>It was noted that the refurbishment of the boxes is included in the caretaker's maintenance plan.</p> <p>7.3 Ditches around St Judith's – proposal to Full Council that the Clerk seek three quotes for the work.</p> <p>It was agreed to put an item into the Sawtry Eye, on face book and the website about the requirement for home owners to cut back overhanging vegetation from their property to avoid blocking paths and ditches.</p> <p>7.4 Request for community orchard – it was agreed that this should be considered and would be an agenda item at the April meeting. The tree warden to look into potential sites. The Neighbourhood Planning group to be requested to include the potential sites for an orchard in their plans.</p>
8	<p>Tree Warden – will bring suggestions to the next meeting regarding planting more trees around the village.</p>
9 Play areas/ Equipment	<p>9.1 To note annual inspection booked for April 2021</p> <p>9.2 Skatepark update – Certificate of Lawful Development in progress. Request received from Middle Level Commissioners for detailed drainage plan – this is in hand.</p> <p>Sawtry Youth Project (SYP) have confirmed that they will transfer the money they have raised – £19,020.34 – to the Parish Council subject to agreement that if the money is not spent within 12 months it will be returned to SYP – this was agreed.</p> <p>9.3 Gym equipment – complaint received that the equipment was covered in mud and that there should be additional signage advising parents not to allow children on the equipment. It was noted that the caretaker had cleaned the mud from the equipment.</p> <p>Proposal to Full Council – the signage already in place is sufficient.</p>
10	<p>Cemeteries – Update on St Andrews drainage – talks are continuing with the land owner regarding the positioning of the drainage pipe to the drain. Once this is concluded, the easement document will be completed and the contractor will be able to start work.</p>
11 Benches	<p>11.1 Damage reported to bench at corner of Green End Road/Rockingham Road – caretaker recommends replacement in the next 12 months.</p> <p>11.2 Request for memorial bench</p> <p>Proposal to Full Council – that the bench is replaced with a memorial bench.</p>
12	<p>Footpaths – Overgrowing vegetation and hedges</p> <p>It was noted that the County Council have the powers to contact residents to cut back vegetation or be charged if the work is carried out by the County Council contractors.</p> <p>It was agreed to include an item in the Sawtry Eye regarding cutting back vegetation. A link to the County Council to report overhanging vegetation would be included.</p> <p>The caretakers will cut back what they can within their capabilities and workload.</p>
13	<p>Financial Report to February 16th 2021 – noted</p>
14	<p>Date of next meeting – April 21st 2021</p> <p>It was agreed to propose to Full Council that the meeting starts later than 7.30pm to allow the Community Committee to complete the items on their agenda.</p>