

Minutes of the Community Committee held on April 21st 2021

Present: Cllrs Smith (Chairman), Gadsby, Huntingdon, Laxton, Martin, Mulcrone, Parkes, Poole, Potter, Sanderson, Tuplin, Whittaker
Clerk and Assistant Clerk

Representatives from: Academy Leisure, Village Academy, CARESCO, Foodbank, Methodist Church, All Saints Church, St Benedicts, Junior Academy,
1 member of the public

1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – none
2	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – March 3 rd – noted
3	MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES – none
4	MEMBERS’ DECLARATION OF INTEREST for items on the Agenda – none
Public Forum: No-one wished to speak	
5	<p>COMMUNITY GROUPS UPDATE:</p> <p><u>Village Academy:</u> Students returned to school on March 8th. It is hoped that from May 17th students can become involved with out of school activities. A summer school is planned for a couple of weeks in August.</p> <p><u>Academy Leisure:</u> Had a full internal refurb. The sports hall and astro turf are now open for block bookings Pool expected to re-open end of June Gym expected to re-open late August/early September Official re-opening August 28th/29th</p> <p><u>Junior Academy:</u> School roll has increased over last 2 years. Now have 260 children in 9 and a half classrooms. A mobile classroom is being installed over the summer. The laptop bought with the Parish Council donation are being used for after school catch up lessons.</p> <p><u>All Saints:</u> Thanks to all the volunteers who have worked so hard in tidying up the churchyard. A tree condition survey is to be carried out. All three churches will be working together to hold a Children’s Easter Party. From April 25th will be resuming worship in person. Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on May 19th in the Church.</p> <p><u>St Benedicts:</u> No in-person services at the moment. Continuing with the weekly check-ins with parishioners. Currently two elderly parishioners are in hospital. Daily services on zoom from St Lukes.</p>

	<p>St Lukes is starting to offer in person services. Parishioners are continuing to give money and food to the foodbank. <u>Methodist Church:</u> Aiming to return to in-person services a couple of times a month. Also looking at the possibility of evening services. Taking part in the Easter crafting sessions. Refurbishment – contractors are currently quoting for changes to the porch roof. A planning application has been submitted for the work. <u>CARESCO:</u> The shop and the Green End Road Day Club have both now re-opened. Covid Response Group will continue until September in the current format. A questionnaire is going on to social media to find out what people what like from the service moving forward. <u>Food Bank:</u> There is a constant demand for food parcels – 85 in March which provided food for 323 people. They are working with schools and referral agencies to meet the demand. They currently have enough volunteers. The Parish Council are asked to support a project that will run from July 23rd to September 3rd to provide weekly food for schoolchildren which would include fresh fruit and vegetables. <u>Neighbourhood Plan:</u> Cllr Potter updated the meeting on the progress of the project to date. He shared information regarding the face book page and also the plans for a questionnaire – different ones for residents, businesses and for community groups.</p> <p>Cllr Smith thanked all the local groups for their amazing work and for their commitment to the residents of Sawtry. The Parish Council are happy to promote projects on their website – details to the Clerk.</p>
6	<p>CONNECTIONS BUS PROJECT – still not able to open.</p>
7	<p>SUMMER CELEBRATION – update from planning group: Picnic on St Judith’s Field, August 8th 12.00 – 3.00 – details to be announced Working party – Cllrs Smith, Huntingdon, Martin, Parkes, Tuplin</p> <p>A sub-group of Councillors has been set up to look at how the unsung heroes of Sawtry during the pandemic can be recognised.</p>
8	<p>NEXT MEETING – To be confirmed</p>