

Minutes of the Community Committee Meeting held on March 3rd 2021

Present: Cllrs Smith (Chairman), Gadsby, Huntingdon, Laxton, Martin, Mulcrone, Parkes, Poole, Potter, Rose, Tuplin, Whittaker
 The Clerk and Assistant Clerk,
 6 Representatives from Community groups and 2 members of the public

1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Liz Coates (Methodist Church), Simon Parsons (Village Academy)
2	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – November 18 th 2020 – approved at Full Council Dec 9 th 2020
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 VERBAL/WITTEN UPDATES:</p> <p><u>Sarah Flack – Sawtry Junior Academy</u> – updated on how the money donated by the Parish Council for the purchase of laptops has helped students and will continue to do so in the future.</p> <p><u>Sarah Wilson – CMAT:</u> Village Academy: Testing – we move to mass testing from next Monday where will be testing over 850 students (currently >95% of the school population). Parents have been hugely supportive as we move to re-opening school from next week. The sheer response and scale of this will ensure families, staff and the community are even safer from Covid transmission and infection because of the uptake. We hope to exceed 95% of students with further communications this week; Volunteers from parents (over 40) will be helping with testing in the sports hall over two weeks from the 8th March and their response has been nothing short of immense as the logistical operation of setting up a full testing 'centre' is a real challenge on top of educating students; Staff will switch from in school testing to home testing twice a week; Survey results summary from 2021: >92% of parents very or quite satisfied with communication from school, >84% remote learning went well or quite well. Over 90% of students are completing all/most of their work remotely.</p> <p>Leisure Centre: Has been renamed Academy Leisure Refurbishment being undertaken whilst closed No timescale for re-opening, dependent on completion of refurbishment, being fully staffed and compliant with COVID guidelines New website available shortly - https://www.academyleisure.org/</p> <p><u>Tony Stefanelli –</u> CARESCO – relying on grant funding due to loss of income from the shop and attendance fees. No staff have been furloughed. The Christmas Day lunch went ahead with reduced numbers and 21 hot meals were also delivered to people at home. Hot meals are delivered twice a week to members who would have attended the day centre. This totals 40 meals a week. The Man Cave is ready to open once guidelines allow. Covid Response group continues to support the village with prescription collections for 30</p>

people, 4 food shops and the car scheme.

Methodist Church:

The Methodist Church reopened for public in-person at the beginning of December with a 'blended' morning service also available via Zoom for those not willing or able to join us.

Everyone who attended followed all the hands-face-space guidelines, plus no singing apart from the worship band. We were planning for two morning services per month, but only managed our traditional candlelit carols in the evening of the following week.

Unfortunately the next in-person service planned for the end of the month was cancelled and we have had to continue online during lockdown #3 following Methodist guidelines.

Building refurbishment has necessarily come to a halt, though plans and preparations have continued behind the scenes.

The children's Advent online session, 'Countdown to Christmas' went well, led by a team of people from local congregations. All participants received a craft pack delivered to their door including activities for the session and on through Advent plus a small gift of a torch to be opened on Christmas Day.

Another similar online session is planned for Good Friday by the same team and we are hoping to be back in-person by the normal annual August Holiday Club – if restrictions allow!

Revd Becky Dyball – All Saints Church:

Baptisms and Weddings are encouraged and bookings for later in the year are starting to come in.

All Saints is a Parish Church and the Parish Priest is available for everybody, whether attend church or not.

Pat Furzeland – Sawtry Foodbank:

Gave out 66 parcels (241 people) at Christmas in addition to weekly parcels
Moved out of the temporary accommodation of the Old School Hall at the end of December. Thanks to Parish Council for providing the use of the room which allowed the work to carry on uninterrupted.

25 food parcels (75 people) are given out weekly.

Tony Stefanelli – St Benedicts:

No services at present in Sawtry

Mass is streamed every day from St Lukes

Weekly contact is made with the elderly in the village

Thank you to All Saints who provided lent boxes for 20 people

Christine Doody from the Census team advised how to help people complete the forms

Cllr Martin raised the suggestion of a village celebration later in the Summer. It was agreed that a working party of Cllrs Smith, Martin, Huntingdon and Parkes would meet and report back to the April Committee meeting with suggestions.

6 CONNECTIONS BUS PROJECT – situation to be reviewed at April Committee meeting.

7 FINANCIAL REPORT to Feb 16th – noted

8 NEXT MEETING – April 21st at 7.00pm