



SUTTON WEAVER PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

June 2023



Playground Update

As many of you may be aware, having raised a staggering £48,000 for the playground re-development, the Parish Council were delivered the devastating news in December, from Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWAC) advising the Parish council to put the playground redevelopment on hold for a short time due to information they had received regarding the wheelchair swing that we were about to install.

This was the fact that another swing of this design had been taken out of use in Cheshire East, following a serious accident.

CWAC followed this up with advice that due to health & Safety issues that this design of swing should not be installed in unsupervised playgrounds, and should only be installed in fully supervised playgrounds, i.e., at a school, as it had the potential to seriously injure an individual if not used correctly.

As the Parish Council are solely responsible for the playground and having considered the safety aspects of the swing were unable to say that if we went ahead with the installation then we would also be solely responsible for any incidents occurring, the Parish Council were not prepared to take this risk, we were also informed by our insurance company that due to the risks associated with this item of equipment and incidents occurring would not be covered on the insurance, as the playground is unsupervised.

The Parish Council were hugely disappointed but continued to work with the playground design team from CWAC to come up with an alternative inclusive playground. Although this did mean changing the swing from a wheelchair swing to another inclusive swing, and retaining the inclusive roundabout, both of which have been installed across many of CWAC's playgrounds.

The Parish Council have had discussions and meetings with the various CWAC departments that added considerably to the funds, and have issued updates to all other funders, anyone who donated has been given the opportunity to receive a refund of their donation, and we are pleased to say that this has been very little, with most people understanding the position the Parish Council had been put in.

We will now press forward with the playground in its new re-design.

The full plan of the proposed playground can be seen on the notice board and on the website.

PLEASE NOTE THE ACTUAL DESIGN/SUPPLIER OF THE EQUIPMENT HAS NOT BEEN FORMALLY DECIDED UPON AT THIS STAGE -photo's are examples only.



Saint Peter's Church

You may have noticed a change to our services recently, which is due to the retirement of 2 Readers. In addition, our vicar Rev Collette had an accident last year, which resulted in a couple of operations to repair the damage caused by her fall. This meant she was unable to drive for a period of time. Therefore, we are currently alternating the Communion service between the 3 churches in the parish – Aston, Little Leigh and Lower Whitley. As Collette improves, we hope to see a service at St Peters on most Sundays – we wish her well for a complete and successful recovery.

A schedule of the services is posted on the Church noticeboard and usually the details for each week appears on the Sutton Weaver Facebook site. If in any doubt, please contact a Church Warden.

Our gardeners from “Garden Savings” have now started cutting the graveyard again for 2023. Although the cost to the church is challenging with our small congregation, we hope those of you that regularly visit the graveyard will find it in good order making your visit more enjoyable. We continue to collect food and cleaning items for Runcorn Foodbank. Since the beginning of the year, they have been consistently providing more food than they have received each week and so this ongoing support is vital for our community.

Coffee mornings in the Church Hall will be starting again, now the weather is getting better, and we hope you will be able to join us for refreshments to meet your neighbours and support the church in meeting its financial commitments.

We wish you all the very best for the coming months and look forward to seeing you at St Peters, where a warm welcome awaits.

**To book the Church Hall contact Jacky Hancock
jacky.hancock@btinternet.com or Tel 01928 712159**

A533 Expressway Bridge Replacement Scheme, Pedestrian Crossing

The bridge replacement scheme is approaching the end, and many of you will have noticed what a difference the temporary crossing has made to anyone on foot or cycling.

The Parish Council have been in contact with National Highways and are hopeful that this crossing may indeed become a permanent fixture.

Pedestrian Crossing request on the A556

The Parish Council have received requests to investigate the possibility of a crossing on the A556.

This is something outside of the scope the Parish Council, it would be down to Highways. Unfortunately, the Parish Council are aware of the criteria required to even start looking into this, and Sutton Weaver does not meet it in respect of the number of pedestrians needing to use it.

A pedestrian crossing in the village would cost in the region of £250,000, and as Highways budget from Central Government has been cut again this year it is not something worthy of pursuing.

Lighting at the defibrillator area

The Parish Council received a request to install a light near to the phone box containing the defibrillator, of which enquiries were made. Unfortunately, this is not something that Highways have the funding for, there present funding is purely for the upkeep of any existing lighting.

The Parish Council have made enquiries to putting a light on the outside of the phone box to enable the area to have some light if the defib was to be required during the hours of darkness.

Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) update

The PCSO has been active in the village over the past few months, carrying out regular speed checks, she sends an update to the Parish Council each month.

PCSO Deborah Netherton has sent this notification to the Parish Council

We continue to have of reports about owners with their dogs running free in public places and fields, this includes livestock/sheep worrying and dogs being out of control these can be very serious offences with large fines and possible consequences for your dog.

Please be reminded as a dog owner you are responsible for:

Keeping your dog under controlling a public place. This includes keeping your dog on a leash when on a public foot path through fields especially where there is livestock in the field.

Getting it chipped and putting a tag on its collar with details (in case it gets lost)

Cleaning up after your dog in public.

Please be a considerate dog walker and consider other when letting your dog off the lead, you may know your dog well other people and animals don't.

Speed on the A556

Last year the Parish Council began communications with highways to reduce the speed limit, entering the centre of the village from Murdishaw and leaving the village towards Frodsham.

Had this been successful there would have been a cost implication to the Parish Council of @ £2850.

The response from highways was that they would reduce the speed limit, but not to the extent that had been requested, they were only willing to implement, on leaving the village centre, a 50 mph towards Frodsham and a 40 mph towards Murdishaw.

The Parish Council therefore took the decision not to implement Highways proposal as we could not justify the expense from the precept received from you, the council taxpayer, if it was not what had been requested.

Following on from this the Parish Council received requests to investigate further Speed Indicator Display signs (SID's) -for ease the flashing speed signs.

As the clerk has been involved with this in another parish, she gave the Parish Council the following details:

The cost of these must be met by the Parish Council.

The SID's need positioning approval from Highways, which can take up to 12 months to agree.

The SID's themselves cost between £3000 and £5000 for each unit.

The posts and installation of the posts cost £300 per post plus a licence is required by the contractor at a cost of £340.

Following this information, the Parish Council took the decision not to pursue this for financial reasons.

Christmas Decorations Competition Results

Although Christmas seems a long time ago, the Parish Council would like to thank everyone who decorated their properties, making Sutton Weaver look so festive.

We would also like to thank KDE for, once again, assisting the Parish Council with the installation of the Christmas tree lights on the triangle at Station Road, the Tree Lighting Event was a huge success.

The winners of the best decorations were:



1st 31 Beech Road



2nd 42 Cedar Avenue



3rd 56 Chester Road.

Tallest Sunflower Competition

Now that spring is upon us it is time to get your sunflowers growing!

As usual the Parish Council will be on the lookout for the 3 tallest sunflowers.

Judging will take place at the end of August.

KDE Ltd install a defibrillator for public use

KDE, a local plumbing, heating and electrical business has installed an automatic external defibrillator (AED) outside the gates of its Sutton Weaver office on Chester Road.

A defibrillator is a life-saving medical device that is designed for use when someone suffers a sudden cardiac arrest, a heart attack. For this reason, they are often found in local towns and villages across the country. However, in the surrounding areas of Frodsham there was only one defibrillator for public use prior to this installation, located inside the old phone box on Station Road.

Familiarising yourself with the location of the defibrillator is key because it will allow you to access it quickly in an emergency. Next time you are traveling past the KDE office keep an eye out at the main gates to see where exactly it is located.

Should you find yourself in an emergency situation, where you need to use the defibrillator, you will need to call 999 when you are at the device, and you will be given a code to unlock the cover.



Parking in the village

Throughout the year the Parish Council has continued to receive complaints regarding parking in the village. Parking on pavements forces pedestrians to walk out into the roadway, this is a particular risk for anyone with a pushchair or wheelchair users. “The wilful and unnecessary obstruction of the highway by a motor vehicle or trailer is an offence under The Highways Act 1980 and can result in the owner of the vehicle being prosecuted by the Police.” Please also consider the possible necessity of emergency vehicles using the roads in the village.

Playground anti-social behaviour/vandalism

As most of you will be aware there has been a spate of vandalism and anti-social behaviour in and around the playground.

Unfortunately, until the 1st of June the Parish Council can't lock the gates to the playground, due to a clause in the insurance policy, following a claim from a few years ago by a member of the public. After many hours on the phone the clerk has managed to get the policy changed to enable the gates to be locked.

This in itself will be a task for the Parish Council and we would welcome volunteers to assist with this, please contact the clerk if you are able to assist.

These instances have been reported to the police, and the Parish Council continue to liaise with Cheshire Police for a positive outcome.

CCTV is being considered.

If anyone notices any acts of vandalism or antisocial behaviour, please report it to the police on 101 or on line at:

www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime

Potholes, overgrown verges & hedges uneven footpaths

The Parish Council are well aware of these issues and would encourage all members of the community to use the CWaC “Report-it App” which can be downloaded to your smart phone, simply take a picture of the issue and forward to CWaC. The more reports they receive the more likely they are to do something about the issues.

Please see the link below

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/report-it-app>

Volunteers

The parish council would like to encourage anyone who would like to volunteer to assist within the village to come forward either to a meeting or contact the clerk.

The Parish Council would like to assist in supporting activities within the parish but simply do not have the time to organise events, with enough volunteers the Parish Council could assist in events and activities.

This could be anything from organising an event or organising a litter pick around the village. Please contact the parish clerk if you are interested in becoming a volunteer.

Your Parish Council

Brian Starkey (Chair) Tel 01928 719511

Jacky Hancock (Vice Chair) 01928 712159

Simon Richards Tel 01928 701020

Rob Hancock

Tony Spencer

Hannah Bullock

Clerk - Tracey Whitlow parishclerk@suttonweaver.com

Ward Councillors

Lyn Gibbon, Tel 07581 226814

Norman Wright

Phil Marshall

MP – Mike Amesbury Tel 01928 620061

Parish Council Meeting's

Parish Council meetings are held at 7pm on the 1st Wednesday of the month, at St Peters Church Hall, except for August. Members of the public are invited to attend.

Websites

Sutton Weaver Parish Council: www.suttonweaver.com

Sutton Weaver Community: www.suttonweaver.co.uk

Freedom of Information Act

In common with all councils, we now provide the information on our website relating to the working of your council. Current notices are also posted on the notice board.