Chairman’s report February 2025

Sawston Greenway was discussed at the February Parish Council meeting. Plans for the route through Stapleford are being finalised but the start date for the work is not yet known, although likely to be in May. Work will start by the Spar shop, remodelling the cycle and pedestrian route in front of the shop to make it safer for both cyclists and pedestrians with separate pathways. The bus stop will be moved from it’s present position to a position nearer Adcroft piece. The present bus shelter which is about 90-100 years old but in sound condition, will remain. It is to be repurposed for the village so ideas for it’s new use should be submitted to the clerk. A new wooden bus shelter with glazed sides will be placed at the relocated bus stop.

7th March is the deadline for submitting comments about the planned 5 mile busway between Babraham and the Biomedical Campus. If you feel strongly about this proposal, either for or against, submit your objections urgently. Stapleford Parish Council along with other bodies and individuals is supporting, on your behalf, objections to this proposal. Some parishioners attending the Parish Council meeting were concerned at the cost of legal action which may be unsuccessful. Sponsors along with the Parish Council are Hobson’s Conduit Trust, The Magog Trust, Cambridge Past Present and Future and Stephen Partridge Hicks. A cap of £50.000 costs for the Parish Council has been agreed with these Sponsors (who are pledging different amounts) agreeing to work together to instruct Buxton’s solicitors, and to fully contribute to Stapleford Parish Council’s costs. The Parish Council costs will be taken mainly from reserves, not from the precept.

Work is planned on the unstable grave markers in the cemetery. Where they cannot be made safe upright, they may be laid flat, level with the grass to enable grass cutting. Efforts have been made to contact those responsible for maintaining the grave markers for the last 6 months, with some success. Work is also planned on the benches around the village, some of which may need replacing because of their poor condition.

The Tree Project Group has been working hard planting over 100 trees around the village, including on the school field. Trees planted by the group are marked and protected. A presentation from the group will be made about the excellent work done so far at the next Parish Council meeting.

Plans are currently being submitted for the pavilion refurbishment, but no start date for the work is available yet. Notice will be given in advance of the works.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Thursday March 6th at 7pm in the pavilion. Members of the public are welcome. This is your opportunity to air your views and to hear about the Tree Project.