

SAWBRIDGECWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

AMENITIES COMMITTEE Minutes

of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held at the Council Offices, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth at 19.30 hrs on **Monday 17 June 2019**.

Those present

Cllr John Burmicz
Cllr Pat Coysten
Cllr Annelise Furnace

Cllr Peter Gray
Cllr Steve Jones

In attendance:

R Bowran - Town Clerk

One member of the public
Joanne Sargant – Town Projects Manager

A19/01 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Resolved: That Cllr John Burmicz be Chairman of the committee for the civic year 2019/20 [prop Cllr Gray; secd Cllr Jones]

A19/02 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN

Resolved: That Cllr Steve Jones be Vice Chairman of the committee for the civic year 2019/20 [prop Cllr Gray; secd Cllr Burmicz]

A19/03 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr David Royle – on holiday.

A19/04 PUBLIC FORUM

To receive representations from members of the public on matters within the remit of the Amenities Committee.

Mrs Hazel Mead asked about the Elmwood footpath.

Clerk said that the change to a Right of Way was being pursued; that the nettles to the sides would be cleared by a contractor and that the fallen tree had been cleared and chippings removed.

Mrs Hazel Mead asked about the state of a damaged bench on the canal path.

Cllr Gray said he would walk the tow path and check on the condition of the bench.

Mrs Hazel Mead asked about Footpath 27 still obstructed

Cllr Furnace had a view that this might be caused by an overflow from drainage in Church Crescent. She would investigate further with Thames Water.

Mrs Hazel Mead asked about overgrown allotments on the Southbrook site.

Clerk said that if he was given the plot numbers this would be investigated and rectified.

AF

A19/05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any Declarations of Pecuniary Interest by Members.
There were none.

A19/06 MINUTES

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 11 February 2019 (A03) [*prop Cllr Coysten; secd Cllr Furnace*]

To attend to any matters arising from these Minutes and not dealt with elsewhere on this Agenda.

A19/07 TERMS OF REFERENCE

Resolved: To recommend Terms of Reference for the committee and for adoption by the council. [*prop Cllr Gray; secd Cllr Jones*]

A19/07 ALLOTMENTS

To report on matters relating to Allotments

- Members were updated on allotment matters including the keeping of bees and chickens and the reducing waiting list.
- Agreed to take Members on visits to the allotments as and when they wanted.

A19/07 CEMETERY

To report on matters relating to the Town Cemetery

- Reports received praising the condition of the cemetery
- Agreed to take members on visits to the cemetery as and when they wanted.
- Explained to members the philosophy regarding trees as memorials and as burial sites.
- Explained to members provision that has to be made for unstable headstones
- Explained to Members the legal implications relating to the transfer of ERB's.
- Reported on progress relating to the road way extension
- Gave an estimate of how many years of space remained and the change in profile of interments
- Reported on the potential clearance of the Spinney as a possible future burial space.

A19/08 FOOTPATHS & OPEN SPACES

To report on matters relating to Footpaths and Open Spaces

- West Road being maintained as best as we can with limited resources
- London Road flower beds are being maintained by a contractor. Rodect have been engaged to deal with the rat infestation problem.
- Fair Green is now being grass cut by the town council. Concerns about lack of maintenance on lime trees has been referred to EHDC and HCC.
- Footpaths. Issues have been addressed elsewhere on this agenda.
- Parish Hall path. Contractor has been contacted but laying a tarmac surface would cost in excess of £2,000. Lobbyist advised that the town council can take no further action.

AT

A19/09 OPERATIONS

To report on matters relating to Operations

- Community Transport
 - Sawbobus is still scheduled for return to manufacturers for repair. Further breakdown has necessitation being taken out of service and a reserve vehicle used.
 - Hire minibuses are being used on a regular basis
 - Suggestion that any future buses should be low emission or electric powered. Clerk to research.
- Events
 - Fun on the Field – now set for 31 August and planning is well advanced
 - Christmas Lights – planning is under way
- Ranger activities
 - Report on current working arrangements
 - Sub-contracting works for Gilston and Eastwick PC

A19/10 CIVIC AMENITIES

To report on matters relating to Civic Amenities

- Public Conveniences
 - Currently waiting for EHDC to grant themselves planning consent so that work can commence.
- War Memorial Repairs
 - No recent activity, meeting to be arranged with monumental mason for next stages.

A19/11 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved: That pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item because of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed which relates to a contractual dispute. [*prop Cllr Gray; secd Cllr Burmicz*]

Part 2

A19/12 GRIEVANCE RESOLUTION

Resolved: To make an offer, without prejudice, of restitution to resolve a grievance made against the council. [*prop Cllr Gray; secd Cllr Furnace*]

Meeting ended at 22.04