

SAWBRIDGECORTH 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 15 June 2020**.

This was a Zoom Meeting.

Those present

Cllr John Burmicz
Cllr Angela Alder

Cllr Annelise Furnace
Cllr David Royle

In attendance:

R Bowran - Town Clerk

Joanne Sargent – Town Projects Manager

A20/01 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Resolved: That Cllr Burmicz be Chairman of the committee for the civic year 2020/21 [*prop Cllr Alder; secd Cllr Furnace*]

A20/02 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN

Resolved: To elect Cllr Alder as Vice Chairman of the committee for the civic year 2020/21 [*prop Cllr Burmicz; secd Cllr Royle*]

A20/03 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Coysten – unwell.
Cllr Gray was absent'

A20/04 PUBLIC FORUM

There were no questions from members of the public on matters within the remit of the Amenities Committee.

A20/05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Pecuniary Interest by Members

A20/06 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 10 February 2020 (A03)
[*prop Cllr Furnace; secd Cllr Burmicz*]

There were no matters arising from these Minutes and not dealt with elsewhere on this Agenda.

A20/07 ALLOTMENTS

To note and discuss matters relating to Allotments

- Admin Officer now returned to work to catch up on backlog of allotment requests.
- Complaint by an allotment holder of breach of conduct by the mayor dismissed "as no case to answer" by EHDC Monitoring Officer.
- It was agreed that there would be no increase in allotment charges that would need to be notified for 2021-22, There having been an increase of 20% to £60 per 10 rod allotment already agreed for 2020-21.

A20/08 CEMETERY

To note and discuss matters relating to the Town Cemetery

- Cemetery partial closure maintained to ensure safe working for grounds staff. Noted that cemetery now remains open as directed by ICCM guidelines.
- Water supply extended in K Section as a facility to visitors and to enable grounds maintenance.
- Cemetery manager has purchased a number of new memorial trees to extend that area of the cemetery.
- No increase in volume of business but funeral directors are busy.

A20/09 FOOTPATHS & OPEN SPACES

To note and discuss matters relating to Footpaths & Open Spaces

- DMMO submitted to Herts CC in respect of asking for the Elmwood footpath to be designated a Right of Way. 52 evidence statements submitted.
- Champion's report
 - Footpath 21 (Brook Road to) partially and well completed in May. I have asked that the part from Vantorts Play area to Fair Green is also done (as in original request).
 - Footpath 32 from Fair Green to London Road remains partially completed. I also reported the Fair Green footpath (degraded surface/trip hazard) at residents' request: no action so far taken. Japanese knotweed on Footpath/Right of Way 27: still to be removed, pending contractor quotation.
 - I've been in contact with residents about a Modification Order for Public Bridleway 11 from Tharbies Lodge on West Road and tree preservation orders for the lime trees on the continuation as Footpath 26. HCC are taking action on removing vegetation round the signage at the start of the bridleway and on making the continuation of Footpath 26 across a field clear.
 - Another resident has made the interesting suggestion of a cycle way using this route and continuing straight ahead to Tharbies Farm and beyond. Currently it is not a formal path and there is a padlocked gate at the end. It's possible the landowner might agree to it being a permissive path. I note that the current (November 2019) Herts Cycling Map excludes Sawbridgeworth entirely and has scant coverage of Bishop's Stortford.
 - I now have several regular walkers who are happy to give feedback on footpath issues.
 - My colleagues on the Bishop's Stortford Climate Group have been asked to make cycling and walking suggestions. Cllr Eric Buckmaster assures me that we are not forgotten
 - Open Spaces. No update on reported issues in the river. The Environmental Agency is allegedly investigating and will take the lead.
 - Dog fouling. No update to hand.

A20/10 OPERATIONS

To receive, note and discuss matters relating to Operations

- Sawbobus remains suspended. Plan to reintroduce on a “Dial-a-Ride” basis from July. Plans in hand to provide for social distancing and protective PPE.

A20/11 CIVIC AMENITIES

To receive, note and discuss matters relating to Civic Amenities

- Town Green. It was agreed at the meeting of the ED&STAP committee on 26 May that the case for the development of this area would be managed by them and transferred to this committee for operational review when completed.

A20/12 SUSTAINABLE TOWNS

To discuss plans for creating Sawbridgeworth as a Sustainable Town. Such plans to be included in the Town Action Plan.

A20/13 ECO-AUDIT WORKING PARTY

To report on the meeting of the Eco-Audit Working Party held on Wednesday 10 June 2020.

A20/14 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

To note items for future agendas

Meeting ended at 19:35