

SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes

of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held at the Council Offices, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth at 21.00 hrs. on **Monday 12 May 2014**.

Those present

Cllr Angela Alder - Chair
Cllr Pat Coysten

Cllr Tom Reeks
Cllr Andrew Wincott

In attendance:

Cllr Eric Buckmaster
R Bowran - Town Clerk

Cllr Joyce Vincent

A13/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Derek Filler on holiday and from Cllr Jane Adams – family illness.

A13/27 PUBLIC FORUM

To receive representations from members of the public on matters within the remit of the Amenities Committee. There were none.

A13/28 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

A13/29 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 10 February 2014 (A03) [*prop Cllr Reeks; secd Cllr Coysten*]

A13/30 ALLOTMENTS

To report on matters relating to Allotments

- Allotment Association. The AGM of the Association is scheduled for 15 May 2014. Notice will be given that Allotment rents will increase in October 2015 to £3.50 a rod and pro-rata. Water charges will remain the same at £5 a plot pro-rata.
- Bellmead. Further works are being demanded, this time to remove a Sycamore tree.
- Vantorts. An overgrown hedgerow adjacent to Greenstead will need to be cut back at a cost of approximately £600.
- Waiting list. Ten people on the waiting list have been allocated plots. There remain 22 on the waiting list of whom 11 are inflexible about their choice of site.

A13/31 CEMETERY

To report on matters relating to the Town Cemetery

- Inspections. Continue to be carried out on a regular basis.
- Letter to all ERB holders reminding them about Cemetery Regulations and especially inappropriate decorations which hinder maintenance

- Memorial Wall. £350 has been spent on repairs to the wall including replacement of some of the coping stones.
- Parterre. The garden has been striped and re-laid with blue slate by our own labour.
- Trees. Three trees which are diseased and dying near the entrance gates have been removed at a cost of £1700. The owner of an adjacent house is claiming compensation from the council for alleged damage to his garage floor and boundary wall. A surveyors report will be submitted to our insurers.

A13/32 OPEN SPACES & FOOTPATHS

To report on matters relating to Footpaths and Open Spaces.

- Bullfields
 - Inspection and maintenance continue.
 - An unofficial football club has started using the area and causing damage. The committee of the SYPRC are taking steps to deal with the situation.
- West Road
 - Inspection and maintenance continue.
 - The broken slide has now been repaired.
 - A memorial bench has been installed
- Other areas
 - Bell Street flower beds have been maintained.
 - London Road flower beds are subject to a new scheme is being thought out in conjunction with the erection of a town sign.
- Footpaths
 - We have established regular meetings with Rowan Perrin, the EHDC officer responsible, which has produced a positive plan of working together to maintain our footways and footpaths.
 - It has been emphasised that the correct route to getting footpaths cleared is to undertake the work at town council level and seek funding from the County Councillors Locality Budget.
- Rivers Heritage Site and Orchard
 - Members requested that the new RHSO be included as a regular agenda item in future.

A13/33 CIVIC AMENITIES

To report on matters relating to Civic Amenities

- Ranger Activities
 - Steve Parrish continues to be a valuable asset, it is likely that we may be able to use student labour in the summer months to assist him
 - We have been offered first refusal on storage space at the farm, available from the beginning of July. Members agreed to proceed to arrange occupation.
 - Farmers Market. March, April and May markets attracted 880, 670 and 700 visitors respectively. We continue to attract new traders.
 - It was proposed that the June market be held on Town Green, to see if the concept worked and as background to any proposal for the development of the area.

- Floral Displays
 - Displays for 2014 have been arranged by Cllr Coysten and will consist of red Geraniums.
- London Road Tree
 - Steps are to be taken to require Herts Highways to remove the tree which is causing infrastructure damage in the area. Suggested that local shopkeepers to lobbied to support the proposition.
- Town Signs
 - We await the attendance of Ringway to erect the new town centre direction signs that have been promised for the end of March
 - The St Marys Church PCC has asked for direction signs to be erected showing the way to the oldest building in the town.
- Bell Street Conveniences
 - The capital project has been included in the EHDC 2014-15 budgets. Clerk to progress the project.
- EHDC Champions
 - In the last six months no contact has been made.

Meeting ended at 21:50

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Monday 11 August 2014.