

SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL Minutes

of the Annual Meeting of Sawbridgeworth Town Council held at 19.30 in the Council Chamber, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street on **Monday 28 June 2021**.

Those present

Cllr Angela Alder
Cllr Eric Buckmaster
Cllr Ruth Buckmaster
Cllr John Burmicz
Cllr Craig Chester

Cllr Annelise Furnace
Cllr Greg Rattey
Cllr David Royle
Cllr Nathan Parsad

In attendance:

J Sargant – Interim Town Clerk
Lisa Dale – Admin Officer

Chris Carter Bishop's Stortford Independent
2 members of Hertfordshire Constabulary

Welcome by the Town Mayor followed by thought for the day from Cllr Nathan Parsad

21/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr P Gray – Illness
Cllr D Patel – Work commitment
Cllr P Coysten - Absent

21/27 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of Pecuniary Interests.

21/28 PUBLIC FORUM

There were two questions from a member of the public, submitted to the Interim Town Clerk prior to the meeting, on matters within the remit of the Town Council:

Question 1 – On South East News there has been mention of a tramway starting at Hemel Hempstead, then on to Harlow and then to Stansted Airport, so was wondering where it will go from Harlow- please could councillors advise what they know about this?

Cllr E Buckmaster responded– This is part of the Mass Rapid Transit Initiative and in connection with the Hertfordshire Growth Board, at present it has not specified what kind of vehicle this will be, it is focused along the A414 corridor, this is at the exploratory stage of the project. Full information about this can be found on the Hertfordshire County Council website - <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/news/news-archive/hertfordshire-essex-rapid-transit>

Question 2 – What plans are being made for the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the town for June 2022? Also, could there be a seat dedicated to the queen in the town as there was not one produced for her 90th birthday.

Interim Town Clerk had responded that an email explaining the current staffing situation at the town council had been sent and did not allow for event planning to be undertaken at this time, but that the town council were aware that preparations should be made and coordinated under one committee. Presently there are different elements of the jubilee that are falling under different committees, i.e. the Queens Green Canopy

has been discussed in Amenities Committee Meetings.

Cllr R Buckmaster suggested that a working party / Task & Finish Group be formed under the direction of the Town Projects Manager. Interim Town Clerk to send out an invitation to heads of community groups and arrange a September meeting, Interim Town Clerk advised that there had been no provision made financially this year for events and projects in relation to the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Cllr E Buckmaster suggested that Cllr N Parsad coordinate with the Memorial Hall as he is a delegated town council representative on SMHT.

Cllr A Furnace suggested that as a town council we should keep things more concise than large scale events like participating in the Queens Green Canopy.

Cllr D Royle advised that the Sawbridgeworth History Society were already in discussion with other groups around the town i.e. The Memorial Hall, there was still unfinished business in relation to VE Day that had been postponed twice because of the pandemic.

Cllr A Alder stressed the importance of this historic event and would like to see a well planned and coordinated event from the town council on this significant celebration. A church service, a celebration event for volunteers in the town, it must recognise the efforts of the town in commemoration of the 70 years of our Majesty's reign.

Resolved: Interim Town Clerk to send out an invitation to community group leaders, schools etc. to attend a meeting in September to formulate a coordinated approach to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations from Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June 2022

[prop Cllr A Alder; secd Cllr R Buckmaster]

21/29 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24 May 2021 (M01) *[prop Cllr A Alder; secd Cllr R Buckmaster]*

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

21/30 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Received and noted: the minutes of the planning committee held on 24 May 2021 (P20)

Received and noted: the draft minutes of the planning committee held on 14 June 2021 (P01)

21/31 FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Received and noted: the draft minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee held on 14 June 2021 (F01)

21/32 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2020-21

1. **Noted:** the report of the Internal Auditor as reviewed by the F&P committee at its meeting on 14 June.

2. **Resolved:** to approve and sign the Annual Governance Statement, as recommended by the F&P committee at its meeting on 14 June.

[prop Cllr A Alder; secd Cllr R Buckmaster]

3. **Resolved:** to approve and sign the Annual Return for 2020/21 as recommended by the F&P committee at its meeting on 14 June. [*prop Cllr A Alder; secd Cllr N Parsad*]

21/33 WRENBRIDGE B8 LOGISITICS CENTRE

- To Resolve to contact Wrenbridge / Polity and require a meeting to discuss the impact of the proposed warehouse and distribution centre off St James Way upon traffic likely to transit the A1184 through Sawbridgeworth and the AQMA.
- To Resolve to contact the LPA (East Herts District Council) and require a response to why Sawbridgeworth Town Council, as an immediate neighbour, was not consulted of the proposed plans for a warehouse and distribution centre off St James Way, Bishops Stortford. District Plan 2018; Reference Policy BISH5.
- To Resolve to contact the LPA (East Herts District Council) and require a response to whether the LPA will honour and abide by the Bishops Stortford Neighbourhood Plan All Saints, Central, South and part of Thorley Para 3.10.
- To Resolve contact the LPA (East Herts District Council) and require a response to whether it will release the Metropolitan Green belt area off St James Way for Class B8 development.

Resolved: that all four resolutions were discussed and agreed to be consolidated into a response document to be sent to the planning department of East Herts District Council.

[*prop Cllr A Furnace; secd Cllr John Burmicz*]

21/34 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

To receive new Mayor's appointments and communications

Cllr G Rattey advised that it had been his intention to meet with the landlords of all the business premises, to date a meeting with three landlords has been achieve and eight more diary dates are booked. It has been very informative to get a different perspective on the town.

A date has been set for the 2nd August to have a social event with all of the traders in the town, there has been a very positive response to the invitation that has been sent.

Participated in a BBC Three Counties interview about the Men's Health Forum promoting the good work they do and why it was chosen as one of the charities of the year.

21/35 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

Received and noted: Representatives reports from:

- County Councillor E Buckmaster additionally added;
 - Highways update, Sheering Mill Lane (potential one-way system) public engagement should have taken place by the end of July.
 - Revised TRO for Fairway, some objections from residents has meant that it had to be revised.
 - Burnside double yellow lines – now complete with the exception of a small section where cars were parked and inhibited completion.
 - School Lane waiting restrictions – finalised drawings in progress for single and double yellow lines that will lead into a public consultation

- Cambridge Road, speed and volume survey to slow traffic down. Weight limits will also be considered but are difficult to monitor and enforce.
- Bullfields – revised waiting restrictions under review following consultation where some residents were against the scheme.
- West Road Update – continued engagement with the developers, there are currently some boundary disputes between residents and the Barrett's site, discussions ongoing between the developer and residents concerned. There has been some flooding issues, there are two blocked drains outside the Barrett's site that appear to be full of building rubble from the site, County Councillor will report and pursue. Highways to discuss with all developers the damage that has been caused to the road by construction traffic.
- Questions to the County Councillor:
 - Cllr D Royle for an update on the library relocation and requested that a letter requesting an update be sent to Cllr Terry Douris. Interim Town Clerk agreed to write and request further information.
 - Cllr D Royle asked if the Town Council should respond formally to the Mandeville expansion. Cllr Buckmaster commented that the expansion of the school was integral with the growth of the town and said that a response should be sent from the Town Council and should be member led to express the
- District Councillor Cllr R Buckmaster added the following updates to her report:
 - Shell Garage Petrol Station – Condition 4.1 has now been released from EHDC. Cllr D Royle thanked Cllr R Buckmaster for pursuing this and Chris Carter from the Bishop's Stortford Independent for covering the story in the press over recent months.
- District Councillor Cllr A Alder – no further information to report.
- District Councillor Cllr J Burmicz – no further information to report.
- Hertfordshire Police Report (Verbal report from PC S Marshall):
 - 9th June 2021 new policing priorities were set for the town and the focus is Great St Marys, drug dealing and anti-social behaviour, working closely with Father Simon and Pearl Devonshire (Crime Prevention Officer)
 - Community Voice event in Vantorts Park on 19th August
 - 11th June a team led drug warrant took place on a premises in the town and three people were arrested and currently remain under investigation following a substantial find of drugs at the premises. This was an intelligence led operation and a result of the campaign in the community – 'You Said, We Did'
 - Community Voice event on Saturday 3rd July in Pishiobury Park will take place.
 - A new Inspector who will replace Inspector Chris Hunt. Inspector Mark Collins is already in post to allow for a period of overlap before Inspector Hunt's retirement.
 - Nationally Operation Feline (theft of catalytic convertors) is active with several thefts locally of catalytic convertors.

Information is being shared to encourage people to get their catalytic convertors stamped with an identification mark to deter theft. Across East Herts in general there has been an increase in theft of motor vehicles, especially 'keyless' vehicles.

- Theft from Sheds in residential properties is also on the rise.
- Other Representatives –
 - **Cllr D Royle**, requested an update on the status of the Pishiobury Park Local Nature Reserve. Cllr E Buckmaster advised that in his portfolio district Council role he is keen to complete the signing off of the Local Nature Reserve imminently following it going through the legal and finance departments.
 - **Cllr A Furnace** advised that a meeting had taken place between Canals and River Trust, Cllr Royle and Furnace and Interim Town Clerk via zoom. A very productive and positive meeting and will follow up with a site meeting to look at our high risk areas that are in need of urgent repair. They would also like to form better relationships with the town council and residents.
 - **Cllr R Buckmaster** Happy Project (SYPRC) have secured this placement for the summer for four weeks throughout the summer (August) With thanks to Cllr E Buckmaster who has funded this from his locality budget. Cllr C Chester updated that it was with regret that they have not been able to open the Youth Cinema at SYPRC because of COVID restrictions, however the project is still on course to start in the future. Cllr R Buckmaster reported that Cllr Furnace had been successful in acquiring 15 trees from the Woodland Trust that will be planted on site in November. One of the trees will be dedicated to Ron Alder who has been a member of SYPRC since 1964 is retiring from the committee.

21/36 OFFICERS REPORTS

Received and noted: Officers' reports for the month of May 2021

21/37 DEPOSIT & CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

There were no Documents for Noting and Consultation

21/38 FINANCIAL REPORT

Noted: The current Financial Report

21/39 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Noted and Approved: Accounts for payment

21/40 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items for future agendas

Meeting ended at 20.28

Thought for the day – Cllr N Parsad

Thank you, Mr Mayor, for inviting me to give our thought for the day.

As we all work together to get things done for our town, I'm reminded of the value of teamwork.

Nothing gets done without the Sawbridgeworth community, our excellent team of officers and us as Councillors working together as a team.

To that end I would like to read an abridged version of short poem by Edgar Albert Guest:

TEAM WORK

It's all very well to have courage and skill
And it's fine to be counted a star,
But the single deed with its touch of thrill
Doesn't tell the man you are;
For there's no lone hand in the game we
play,
We must work to a bigger scheme,
And the thing that counts in the world to-day
Is, How do you pull with the team?

They may sound your praise and call you
great,
They may single you out for fame,
But you must work with your running mate
Or you'll never win the game;
Oh, never the work of life is done
By the man with a selfish dream,
For the battle is lost or the battle is won
By the spirit of the team.

You may think it fine to be praised for skill,
But a greater thing to do
Is to set your mind and set your will
On the goal that's just in view;
It's helping your fellowman to score
When his chances hopeless seem;
Its forgetting self till the game is o're
And fighting for the team