

SAWBRIDGECWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL Minutes

of the Meeting of Sawbridgeworth Town Council held at the Council Offices, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth at 7.30 pm on **Monday 29 July 2013**.

Those present

Cllr Angela Alder
Cllr Jane Adams
Cllr Derek Filler
Cllr Barry Hodges

Cllr Peter Mitchell
Cllr Will Mortimer
Cllr Joyce Vincent
Cllr Andrew Wincott

In attendance:

PCSO Paul Lillie - Herts Police
R Bowran - Town Clerk

2 members of the public
Mrs J Kenny – Town Projects Manager

Welcome by the Mayor, prayers were read by Cllr Filler

13/39 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Eric Buckmaster; Cllr Pat Coysten and Cllr Tom Reeks – holiday.

13/40 RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR

Members were advised that the mayor had received the resignation of Brian Rochester on 15 July 2013 on the grounds of ill health.

The Clerk advised that the required notices had been posted and if a call for an election to fill the vacancy was not received by 06 August, the council may then co-opt a parishioner to serve on the council

Resolved: That the Clerk send a letter of appreciation to Brian Rochester [*prop Cllr Alder; secd Cllr Vincent*]

13/41 PUBLIC FORUM

To receive representations from members of the public on matters within the remit of the Town Council.

Mr Norman Manion commented that nothing had been done to prevent speeding in Station Road despite his requests made since 2006.

Clerk confirmed that the matter was being dealt with by Herts Highways and that he had received the Road Traffic Orders that would enable the new parking regime to tackle place.

Mr Norman Manion commented again that he felt that Barratt Homes should be prosecuted for the removal of a number of ash trees from the Saffron Gardens Site.

Clerk will pass this comment on to the LPA Enforcement Officer.

Mr Norman Manion commented that there were street lights on all night in Saffron Gardens.

Clerk said that this was because a request had been made by the police for these lamps to be left on.

Mr Norman Manion commented that he could not find copies of town council minutes in the library dated any later than May 2010.

Clerk said he would ensure that copies were handed to library staff rather than sending them by post.

Mr Norman Manion commented that disabled bays at Highfields were never repainted.

Clerk said that they had been remarked at regular intervals.

Mr Norman Manion commented that there were no Councillors representing Bullfields and why couldn't the parish be warded.

Clerk said that any Councillor if contacted would represent the interests of Bullfields residents. Their details are on the back page of the quarterly Town Council Newsletter which is distributed to every house in the parish. The process of warding had been debated by a previous council and rejected. There are advantages of cost in the event of local elections. The issue would be raised with members again but it is an involved process which could take several years to complete.

13/42 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

13/43 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 24 June 2013 (M02) [*prop Cllr Filler; secd Cllr Mortimer*]

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

Minute 12/184: It had been reported in the press that a member of the public was complaining that nothing had been done to combat speeding and parking in Station Road. Members were reminded of Cllr Beeching's involvement and the Clerk advised that the relevant traffic orders were now in place.

13/44 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Received and Noted: The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on:

- 24 June 2013 (P03)
- 08 July 2013 (P04)

13/45 AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Received and Noted: The Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on:

- 08 July 2013 (A01)

13/46 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor's communications;

events attended:

- Buntingford Civic Reception
- Hailey Centre Summer Fete
- High Wych Teddy Toddle

- Leventhorpe Proms Concert
- Sawbridgeworth Civic Service
- MarkDavid re-launch
- Montessori School awards
- Spellbrook School leavers service
- Sawbo Gallery opening
- 70th anniversary of the opening of Stansted airport
- Herts County Brass concert at Watford

It was announced:

- That the charity 10k run had been cancelled due to the bureaucratic overload it would cause
- There would be a Family FunDay at Bullfields
- Fun Evening Quiz at Bullfields on 23 November.

13/47 REPRESENTATIVES & CHAMPIONS REPORTS

To receive representatives reports from:

- **District Councillor Will Mortimer** reported:
 - That he was vice chairman of the Audit Committee
 - That Kevin Stepney is the new head of internal audit, shared with Uttlesford District Council and one other.
 - External Auditor, Grant Thornton, had reduced their fee by £30k and the council “was doing well” except in areas of IT.
 - Draft annual accounts show income down by 10% although services have not been cut.
- **Hertfordshire Police**, PCSO Paul Lillie reported:
 - Vandalism at Bullfields, resources were being dedicated to counter this.
 - Working with Paradigm housing association to resolve issue with new tenants in Cutforth Road.
 - Increase in daytime burglaries, mainly after jewellery.

13/48 CLERK’S REPORT

- **Newsletter** We have offered the AAS consortium the facility to incorporate a two page addition to the next town council newsletter which is due for publication in the autumn.
- **Farmers Market** The next Farmers Market will take place on Saturday 03 August, there will be a stand from EHDC promoting new waste collection arrangements.
- **Sawbobus 2** The new service to the three local hospitals is still attracting few passengers so far. Its future will be discussed with the CVS Community Transport consortium.
- **Bell Street Conveniences** A disappointing declaration from EHDC who have stated that they will not transfer the asset to the town council in case it inhibits a possible future development on the car park. Discussions continue to get the facility upgraded and cared for in a satisfactory manner.
- **Police Accommodation** The lease with police was completed on 19 July. We will now invoice them for the sums due and wait for them to commence the infrastructure modifications they require and which have been agreed.
- **Allotments** There has been an incident of an attempted break in of a shed on Bullfields. A surveillance camera has been installed.

Water has been stolen from the allotment supply to fill a bathing pool in the back garden of a house in Reedings way.

There has been considerable upheaval and disturbances at the Southbrook site. This is being dealt with.

- **Vandalism** We have, regrettably seen the beginnings of a spate of petty vandalism in the town. Signs have been defaced or removed, play equipment has been damaged and items have been disturbed at the cemetery. We will spend time in monitoring and repairing them.

13/49 APPLICATION OF THE COUNCIL'S SEAL

Resolved: To approve the application of the Council's Seal to the lease of part of The Cottage at Sayesbury Manor to The Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire. [*prop Cllr Filler; secd Cllr Mortimer*]

13/50 GRANT APPLICATIONS

To consider Grant Applications from:

- Sawbridgeworth Bowling Club
[prop Cllr Filler; secd Cllr Hodges] £500
- Rivers Nursery Site and Orchard Group
[prop Cllr Hodges; secd Cllr Mitchell] £1,550
- Sawbridgeworth Girl Guides
[prop Cllr Filler; secd Cllr Wincott] £1,500

13/51 DEPOSIT AND CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

There were none

13/52 FINANCIAL REPORT

Noted: The current Financial Report

13/53 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Noted and Approved: Accounts for payment

Meeting was closed at 22:26

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held at 7.30 pm on Monday 02 September 2012 in the Council Offices at Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth