

SAWBRIDGECWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes

of the Meeting of Sawbridgeworth Town Council held at the The Council Offices, 49-51 Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth at 7.30 pm on **Monday 03 September 2012**.

Those present

Cllr Barry Hodges
Cllr Angela Alder
Cllr Eric Buckmaster
Cllr Derek Filler
Cllr Peter Mitchell
Cllr Will Mortimer

Cllr Brian Rochester
Cllr Tom Reeks
Cllr Joyce Vincent
Cllr Andrew Wincott

In attendance:

County Cllr Roger Beeching
PS David Cook & PCSO Paul Weston
R Bowran - Town Clerk
Eleanor Patmore – H&E Observer
1 member of the public
Mrs Jo Kenny – Admin Officer

Welcome by the Mayor, prayers were read by Cllr Mortimer

12/64 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Pat Coysten – on holiday.

12/65 PUBLIC FORUM

There were no representations from members of the public.

12/66 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Pecuniary Interest by Members.

12/67 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on 30 July 2012 (M03) [prop Cllr Buckmaster; secd Cllr Alder]

Minute 12/51. Clerk reported that a meeting of the Communications Working Party had taken place. It was agreed that following the resignation of Adam Lowe, Cllr Buckmaster would fill the vacancy thus created. Members agreed to ask relevant members of the public to join the working party.

12/68 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Received and noted: The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on:

- 30 July 2012 (P05)
- A report on responses made in August under delegated powers.

12/69 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

To receive Mayor's appointments and communications

- 20 August Cricket Club Centenary Match & Lunch

Mayor announced the resignation of Adam Lowe and reminded members of the letter sent to the council, included in the members' pack.

Clerk advised that the Returning Officer had received a request for an election. There would consequently be a cost to the Town Council to fill the vacancy.

12/70 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

To receive representatives reports from:

- **County Councillor Roger Beeching** reported:
 - 13 Olympic medals (7 Gold) won by Hertfordshire athletes
 - £22m is being invested to improve rural broadband
 - Social media courses are to be held in the library
 - Distributions are being made from the Locality budget
 - The recent alleged HCC telephone questionnaire is a scam.
 - An area off Spellbrook Lane East is being returned to being a water meadow
- **District Councillor Eric Buckmaster** reported:
 - EHDC are now prepared to grant the scouts a 40 year lease on the Kecksys site
 - Reminder about the Rural Parishes Conference.
- **District Councillor Will Mortimer** reported:
 - Being oin the Business Scrutiny committee
 - Finance Director Alan Madin at EHDC is being replaced later in the year
- **Hertfordshire Police PS David Cook** reported:
 - Officers deployed to assist with the Olympics, 40,000 people were in Bishops Stortford for the torch procession.
 - Crime 18% down on the same period last year
 - Operation SafetyNet to combat long term anti-social behaviour.
 - Working with town council on Christmas lights planning
 - Several major seasonal events coming up
 - Operation Advent to combat drugs/crime/traffic.
 - Staffing levels constant
 - Thanks to Cllr Filler for the donation of an all-terrain bicycle
- **Footpaths Officer Brian Rochester** reported:
 - Some damage at the Boardwalk and lots of footpath clearance
- **Memorial Hall, Cllr Andrew Wincott** reported:
 - Hall restoration nearly completed
 - Roof finished , scaffolding down soon
 - Ready for Allotment show on 01 September
 - Toilets finished by professional contractors
 - Next job is the kitchen area.
- **Summer Play Scheme, Cllr Angela Alder** reported:
 - Very successful, all sessions sold out
 - Some funds available for another series in October half term.

12/71 CIVIC CENTRE

Work continues. Steel work erected, floor beams installed. Works are pretty much on schedule. We have a continuing dialogue with the police over renting first floor suite.

12/72 BELL STREET CAR PARK

The new scheme has been widely praised by retailers and members of the public. Some minor hitches with advertising the details of the scheme. Preliminary indications are that revenues collected at the meters are substantially down on this time last year, but this is to be expected. Discussions commenced with the District Council about the long term future of the scheme. Detailed financial outcome for the first month will be reported when they have been collated by EHDC. Use by school parents will be encouraged

- 12/73 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2012**
Preliminary arrangements are being made for the 30 November. A street fair along the length of Bell Street is being proposed. A meeting of the working party is arranged for Thursday 20 September.
- 12/74 FLY POSTING**
The council continues to keep on top of this situation, and a great improvement has been observed.
- 12/75 CLERK'S REPORT**
- Fly Posting. Continuing clearance is proving effective. Some disagreement with EHDC over the legitimacy of some banner messages, for example the free parking trial.
 - Civic Centre. Work continues. Steel work erected, floor beams installed. Works are pretty much on schedule. We have a continuing dialogue with the police over renting first floor suite.
 - Vandalism. We have suffered a spate of vandalism over the last few weeks:
 - West Road - tree branches torn down – repaired by tree man
 - Cemetery – rose bush cuttings taken and put on another grave.
 - Bell Street – plants stolen from planters – tidied
 - Spellbrook – bus shelter panels kicked in – repaired
 - SYPRC – bus damaged by “donuts” – security cameras installed – and cameras subsequently attacked
 - Bullfields Allotments – water taps left on – padlocks installed
 - SYPRC – surfeit of litter – continued routine clearance
 - Southbrook Allotments – New lock cut off – being investigated
 - Security Cameras. Cameras have been installed at SYPRC car park to counter continuing unsocial behaviour and damage. Cameras for Bell Street are under re-evaluation after consultation with police to seek the most cost effective solution.
 - Allotment Security. Gates and fences have been installed at Bullfields and Southbrook allotments. Combination locks have been used.
 - Car Park Scheme. This appears to be a success. There are noticeably more cars in the car park and retailers are saying that takings are up. We have received many favourable comments by parishioners and visitors alike. Some minor hitches as EHDC instructions are not visible enough.
 - Christmas Lights. We have had an initial dialogue with police over road closures. We are considering a proposal to have a street market along the length of Bell Street. Rhodes pantomime will attend as Cinderella.
 - War Memorial. Initial approaches have been made to the War Memorials Trust for advice and grant funding.
- 12/76 DEPOSIT & CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**
There were none tabled.
- 12/77 FINANCIAL REPORT**
Noted: The current Financial Report
- 12/78 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**
Noted and approved: Accounts for payment

Meeting was closed at 20:38

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held at 7.30 pm on Monday 24 September 2012 in the Council Offices at 49/51 Bell Street Sawbridgeworth