

SAWBRIDGEGWORTH 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 19:30 on **Monday 25 September 2017**.

Those present

Cllr Adamopoulos	Cllr Annelise Furnace (<i>from item 16/67</i>)
Cllr Angela Alder	Cllr Don Hall
Cllr Roger Beeching	Cllr Heather Riches
Cllr Eric Buckmaster	Cllr David Royle
Cllr Ruth Buckmaster	Cllr Mike Shaw

In attendance:

5 members of the public	PS Mark Collins – Herts police
PC Shelly Marshall – Herts police	R Bowran - Town Clerk
L Dale – Finance Officer	J Sargant – Town Projects Manager

Welcome by the Mayor, prayers were read by Cllr E Buckmaster.

17/65 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllr Pat Coysten – holiday and Cllr John Burmicz – work commitment.

17/66 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

Under the provision of Standing Order 23 the Mayor's discretion was used to change the order of items of business.

17/68 PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs Diana Jones presented a petition with 1,205 signatures opposing the proposed co-location of Sawbridgeworth Library with the Fire Service at the Station Road site. She noted that there were a further 257 signatures on the HCC e-petition site, a total of 1,462 signatures. The petition was presented to the mayor.

The mayor accepted the petition and passed it to County Councillor E Buckmaster.

Mrs Diana Jones further suggested that the council should seek a Grade 2 listing for the 1930's former Urban District Council offices, now used as the library building.

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

Mr Norman Manion noted the lack of response by West Kensington councillors to the tower block fire and compared it to the lack of response by local councillors to his calls for action. His two main causes for concern were parking outside his house and he called for double yellow lines to be painted, and speeding in Millfields and he called for a 5mph speed limit.

County Councillor E Buckmaster said that the lack of action had not been for want of trying; he would enquire again.

17/67 CO-OPTION TO FILL THE VACANCY ON THE TOWN COUNCIL

To invite interested persons to make a short presentation to Members relating to their interest in being co-opted to serve as a councillor. Mrs Annelise Furnace gave a short presentation and responded to a Member's question.

Cllr Alder called, under the provisions of Standing Order 9, for a secret, unsigned, ballot.

Resolved: That an absolute majority having being obtained in the ballot, Annelise Furnace be co-opted as a Member of the Town Council.

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed and Cllr Furnace was invited to join Members at the council table.

17/69 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 24 July 2017 (M03)
[prop Cllr Alder; secd Cllr Riches]

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

Under the provision of Standing Order 23 the Mayor's discretion was used to change the order of items of business

17/74 POLICE PRIORITIES

To liaise with Herts Police, to receive Members suggestions and agree areas for priority action.

PS Mark Collins said that the police wished to establish three pruiority areas for policing in the town.

PC Shelly Marshall reported:

- 4 burglaries and 13 thefts from motor vehicles since June, mostly tools from vans.
- Operation STOMP – home and person safety
- Local pub-watch and a new licencing officer
- Use of the town's cctv system
- Agreed to publish material on STC website
- Production of a monthly neighbourhood newsletter
- PCSO's going into schools about ASB and fireworks safety
- Participating in the schools travel challenge
 - Cllr Alder said there was an alcohol ban in Gt St Marys churchyard, asked for police help to support it.
 - *PC Marshall said the church was on their agenda.*
 - Cllr E Buckmaster asked about the Herts Police app.
 - *PS Collins said there were IT issues with their Safetynet interface*

- Cllr E Buckmaster asked about OWL system output, was it shared on Facebook, some links don't work
 - *PC Marshall said the primary medium used was Twitter.*
- Cllr Furnace asked what we do to engage with "just left" pupils.
- Mr Norman Manion said that neither he nor the 37 other people he had asked had ever seen a PC.
 - *PS Collins said they had a very large area to cover and it was doubtful whether the police would ever be able to return to their old ways.*

PS Collins summarised current priorities as:

- Off road motor cycles
- Drugs
- Anti-Social Behaviour

PS Collins summarised future priorities as:

- Anti-Social Behaviour at Bullfields
- Anti-Social cycling
- Theft from motor vehicles

Cllr Adamopoulos asked if the police had any hate crime statistics.

PS Collins said he didn't.

Cllr Shaw asked whether there were specific squads for motor vehicles, burglaries, drugs and whether there was a gypsy intelligence officer. Commented that the police were deskilled.

PS Collins said that there weren't specific squads and questioned the value of a squad system.

17/70 PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

- 24 July 2017 (P04)
- 11 September (P05) including delegated decisions made in the month of August

17/71 FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE

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

- 11 September (F02)

Considered and approved: Guidance, discussed at this committee meeting and subsequently amended, for those Members who are in the role of Champion. Clerk was required to place a list of Champions and Representatives on the town council web-site.

[prop Cllr E Buckmaster; secd Cllr Beeching]

17/72 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

To receive the Mayor's appointments and communications

The Mayor displayed a framed picture of Bry-sur-Marne, a gift to the Council from the visit of the Twinning Association.

It has been two months since the last council meeting so my report covers from then.

The weekend in Ypres at the end of July was incredibly moving experience. It was an honour to be there to place a card at the Menin Gate and lay a wreath on the Memorial to the Herts Regiment in St Julian. I would like to thank Richard and Jo for organising a brilliant weekend.

I went to a concert at Herts University played by Herts Youth Symphony orchestra. They played various pieces including Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue. For this they had a guest pianist from Romania who at only 18 was superb.

There were two civic services, bishop Stortford's and Harlow's, at the beginning of the month, both different in their approach and ideas, but same in the main message of helping each other.

I was also involved in organising the High Wych Scarecrow and Flower Festival. It was a hectic and hardworking weekend but a fantastic event. It raised over £5,000.

I went, along with some of the other councillors, on a guided walk in Pishobury Park. We were accompanied by officers from Parks and open spaces and CMS; they told us their ideas for the park particularly around the water course. It was really useful to have Cllrs. Hall and Riches with us as it highlighted difficulties in access. Cllr. Royale and I went to all the primary schools in the area, accompanied by Buster and Katie Goldthorpe. We were promoting Walk to School Week.

The visit from our twinned town Bry Sur Marne was a great success with a very interesting day out at Chartwell, formally the home of Churchill, followed later by a meal in the Memorial Hall. We were presented with this picture as a gift from Bry.

On Saturday I was supporting High Wych Pre School in their Teddy Treasure Hunt. 15 Teddies had been hidden around Sawbridgeworth and the children had to find them all to enter a prize draw. It was very successful with lots of young families taking part.

Five Councillors including myself attended the Civic Harvest Festival at the Congregational Church. Minister Gary Hanson was as usual on fine form with his very entertaining sermon. The harvest gifts will go to the Harlow Food Bank.

The Walk to School Week started today and culminates with the Town Selfie walk on Saturday , it would be good if the councillors would all come to this to show support for this initiative and all of Jo's hard work in organising the day.

17/73 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

To receive representatives reports from:

- County Councillor Eric Buckmaster reported:
 - The proposal is to create a new Family Service has been through consultation and the responders are broadly in favour. The children's centres will go up to 11 years. If

approved by cabinet the tender process would allow for a single provider, as now, for Community and School services and for the Children's services to be split into four segments across the district. However the county wide provider would not be precluded from bidding also for the quadrants. Either way there will be opportunities to share resources and premises and closer working to support families.

- I chaired a special Health Scrutiny topic group which considered the Herts Valleys CCG recent decision, without sufficient notice or consultation, to cease funding at Nascot Lawn a family respite centre for families with severely disabled children. Both CCGs were there as were Health Watch, Herts NHS Community Foundation, and Parent representatives. The CCG aimed to save £600k out of a budget shortfall of £45m. The recommendations have been published and are on Hertfordshire CC website. Among them was to ensure more collaboration and warning of decisions such as these. Members felt that insufficient thought was given to assessing the health and financial impacts on other parts of the system.
- County is also review its financial modelling for Care Homes and Nursing Homes. Technology may pave the way for a greater proportion of people to be cared for in their own homes however evidence is also showing a greater need for Nursing Care provision. There is generally a handover period from the NHS to County following discharge from hospital. It would be hoped that in increasing capacity for nursing care that delays in hospital discharge might be reduced.
- I'll have my monthly meeting with Highways officers later this week. Now Sheering Mill Lane is open again I want to have the traffic flow study done and also to see how we can further protect our junctions from inconsiderate parking and thereby obscuring visibility. As you know there were two Speed Indicator Devices earmarked for Sawbridgeworth. One looks like it could go just north of Springhall road for southbound traffic. I have also asked to see if another can go down by Spellbrook.
- District Councillor Angela Alder reported:
 - That she would attend the Performance, Audit and Governance meeting on 26 September when the main business would be Emergency Plan, Risk management Monitoring, Quarterly Corporate health check, annual accounts and annual audit letter.
 - Other meetings attended we were Fire Service briefing 2 x Executive meetings, Leisure Services task & finish group, overview and scrutiny, safeguarding seminar, community wellbeing forum, PAG accounts meeting and wellbeing event at Rhodes centre.
- District Councillor Eric Buckmaster reported:
 - The Community Wellbeing of Member Champions Forum

goes from Strength to Strength. Recently community events have been arranged in Hertford, and in addition the mental health extravaganza at the Rhodes Centre, as well as a fundraiser for the Breathe Easy Group. Coming up there will be a review and update of the District Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and also plans for next year which will be the county Year of Physical Activity.

- I am pleased to say that East Herts has now appointed a Social Prescribing coordinator who will start in the next few weeks. The coordinator will work with referrers such as GPs and CAB and CVS and other to give access to community services to people whose health could be improved through physical or social activity. It is an 18 month post and will include the GP locality of Sawbridgeworth and Bishop's Stortford.
- Last Thursday I sat on the District Plan Panel. The matters we discussed included the Open Space and Sports facilities assessment, Affordable Homes and East Herts approach to Masterplanning. I stressed the importance of developers fully engaging in this to ensure all elements of the process are followed to ensure ward members and communities are involved.
 - Establishing the vision and aspirations.
 - This should be a wide ranging activity, including all stakeholders, Deriving and testing scenarios
 - Consultation
 - This is the stage where the development scheme identified is tested back with all stakeholders
 - Refinement based on the consultation
 - Steering Group arrangements, which may comprise the
 - Executive, a sub group of the Executive, or other appropriate arrangements;
 - a Member working group, drawn from local ward members,
 - members of the DM committee, as well as other interested members; and, appropriate consultative arrangements to ensure that all wider and relevant stakeholders are enabled to engage in the process.
- On 2nd October East Herts will be holding a grants stakeholder event for invited guests to identify potential projects or activities and groups or individuals who can take them forward.
- Finally on Thursday 12th October will be the annual Parish and Urban Conference at Wodson Park. 9:30 till 2pm. Refreshments from 9:30. Agenda includes social prescribing and grants and community safety. I have sent the full agenda to all members and officers.
- Cllr Royle asked who would be involved on Masterplanning.
 - *Cllr E Buckmaster responded that it would be determined for each individual site.*

- Cllr Royle noted that the hearings commence on 02 October with both major developers pushing to increase the numbers of units on their preferred sites.
- Other Representatives
 - **SMHT:** Cllr R Buckmaster reported in the AGM which highlighted a profit for the year of £25,000 and a bank balance of £95,000. They have conducted many and varied activities and the Friends have been fundraising. SMHT is “For the people by the people”
 - **RHSO:** Cllr E Buckmaster reminded Members about Apple Picking Day on Saturday 07 October.
 - **STACC:** Cllr Alder attended an “away-day” at the airport aimed at improving user experiences.
 - **Schools:** Cllr Royle reported presenting certificates and cheques for the Art Competition. He offered schools visits to the council and the use of the chamber for meetings.
 - **HAPTC:** Cllr Alder reported attending a finance committee meeting
 - **Appointments:** Cllr Alder reported that Mrs Viv Derrick had been appointed to the role of part time Receptionist.

17/75 **PROPOSED LIBRARY RELOCATION**

To receive a report by the Town Clerk following a meeting with representatives of Hertfordshire library services about the response made to the proposal to relocate the Library to the fire station site.

Clerk reported meeting with Taryn Pearson-Rose Assistant Director for Customer Services and Libraries, Andrew Bignell, Head of Libraries and Heritage Services and Matthew Wilson Principal Planning Officer.

Objective was to discuss HCC’s update to the town council’s response dated 03 July to the consultation on the proposed relocation of the library to the fire station site.

Key points:

- HCC Libraries need to make savings of £2.5m
- Safety issues raised would be mitigated by various actions.
- HCC Libraries would revisit road safety issue with Herts Highways
- People safety could be addressed by railings, planters and high level access controls.
- Safe use of site could be managed by audible and light warnings of appliance movements.

Summary

- HCC were unclear on the financial implications
- HCC majored on mitigation rather than solutions.
- Indicated that Sawbridgeworth was not unique.
- Indicated that without all three moves (Sawbridgeworth, Redbourn and Wheathampsted) the whole project might not

- be viable
- HCC promised a written response in time for it to be presented to council meeting on 25 September. *This had not happened.*

17/76 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Received and noted: Town Clerk's report for the months of August and September 2017

- Cllr Royle asked about progress on providing additional dog waste bins
- Cllr Shaw asked for a map of current cctv coverage in the town
- Cllr Riches commented on the selling of drugs in Pishiobury Park

17/77 TOWN PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT

Received and noted: Town Project Manager's report for the months of August and September 2017

17/78 TOWN TWINNING WITH MOOSBURG

To receive a proposal from the town of Moosburg an der Saar for a town twinning agreement.

Cllr Beeching asked what the involvement of the town council was and the costs associated.

Clerk responded that this year the town council granted the two twinning associations £2,000 each and funded the civic reception upon the arrival of twinning parties.

The mayor said that the Bry Twinning Association had been approached by Moosburg representatives to re-create the triangular relationship between Sawbridgeworth- Bry – Moosburg.

Cllr Beeching asked if the same twinning group would manage the two relationships. When merged he asked for the relationship to be considered in the preparation of the 2018/19 budget.

Cllr Shaw said this was a wonderful opportunity to relate to the French and Germans.

Resolved: That the Clerk should prepare a letter for signature by the mayor stating the town council's approval to present an application for twinning at her visit to Moosburg in October 2017.

[prop Cllr Shaw; secd Cllr Hall]

17/79 EAST HERTS DISTRICT PLAN

To report on any information received relating to the public examination of the East Herts District Plan.

To discuss the town council's response to any current topic open for public examination

17/80 DEPOSIT & CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

To note receipt of any Documents for Noting and Consultation.
None received.

17/81 FINANCIAL REPORT

Received and noted: The current Financial Report

17/82 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Noted and approved: Accounts for payment

17/83 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

To consider any items for inclusion on future agendas.

- To discuss whether to apply for Grade 2 listing for the 1930's building, the former Urban District Council Offices (now the Library)
- To invite David Lloyd, the Police Crime Commissioner to attend a meeting of councillors, especially in view of the fact that he is seeking to amalgamate the administration of the policed and fire services. [*prop Cllr Shaw; secd Cllr Beeching*]

Meeting closed at 21:23