

# SAWBRIDGECWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

## MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL Minutes

of the Meeting of Sawbridgeworth Town Council, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth, CM21 9AN held by **Zoom** conference at 18:00 on **Monday 28 September 2020**.

### Those present

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

Cllr Annelise Furnace  
Cllr Peter Gray  
Cllr Greg Rattey  
Cllr David Royle

Chris Carter – BS Independent

In attendance:  
R Bowran - Town Clerk

Welcome by the Town Mayor followed by Thought for the Day by Cllr Chester<sup>i</sup>

### 20/65 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received and accepted  
from Cllr Coysten – unwell and Cllr Patel – business commitment.

### 20/66 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Pecuniary Interest by Members

### 20/67 PUBLIC FORUM

There were no questions from members of the public on matters within  
the remit of the Town Council

### 20/68 MINUTES

**Resolved:** To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of  
the Town Council held on 28 August 2020 (M03A)  
[prop Cllr Rattey; secd Cllr R Buckmaster]  
There were no matters arising from these Minutes and not dealt with  
elsewhere on this Agenda.

### 20/69 PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Received and noted:** The draft minutes of the Planning Committee  
held on 14 September 2020 (P06)

### 20/70 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND STAP COMMITTEE

**Received and noted:** The draft minutes of the Economic Development  
and STAP Committee on 14 September 2020 (E02)

### 20/71 FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE

**Received and noted:** The minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee  
held on 28 August 2020 (F01A)

**Received and noted:** The draft minutes of the Finance & Policy  
Committee held on 14 September 2020 (F02)

### 20/72 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

**Received:** The Mayor's report.  
She reported receiving thank you letters from Herts Boat Rescue and  
Sawbridgeworth Bowling Club, the recipients of grants in July.

20/73

## REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

**Received and noted:** To receive representatives reports from:

- County Councillor E Buckmaster, in addition:
  - Grasscrete by Reedings school not completed, progress will be investigated by highways officer.
  - Consultees not in favour of parking restrictions in Bullfields, so they will only be by the funeral director
  - Consultation soon on parking in School Lane
  - Bell Street “No Entry” markings have been refreshed
  - Southeast quadrant engagement for 20mph zone had a 30% response with 98% in favour – next stage will be the statutory consultation.
  - Some safety concerns over Sheering Mill Lane proposals – officers are visiting this week.
  - Statutory consultation for Burnside will happen in the next few weeks.
    - Cllr R Buckmaster advised Members of the “Daily Miles” campaign for schools.
    - Cllr Gray asked about road salt for the winter – Clerk confirmed we had adequate stocks.
- District Councillor Alder
  - Would report to October meeting
- District Councillor R Buckmaster in addition:
  - Was waiting to hear outcome of affordable housing research
  - Made a statement about her role as a member of the Development Management Committee.
- District Councillor Burmicz
  - Is no longer on the EHDC Governance committee
  - Made a statement about DMC and his intention was to make sure Sawbridgeworth’s voice was heard.
- Hertfordshire Police were not present. Clerk was asked to ensure that in future there would be police reports.
- Other Representatives
  - Cllr Royle - Footpaths; Schools; Town Twinning; in addition:
    - Said that Pishiobury Park had now waited 8 years for Local Nature Reserve status to be granted.
    - Tidy Up Sawbridgeworth litter pick had collected 30 bags of rubbish last weekend
    - Fix-it café has been postponed because of Covid.
    - FP27 work has been ordered and is scheduled for Q3.
  - Cllr R Buckmaster – RHSO; SYPRC
    - No Apple Day, volunteers will be picking.
  - Cllr Alder advised that the annual report from the Hailey Centre had been made available to Members.

20/74

## OFFICERS REPORTS

**Received and noted:** The Town Clerk’s report for the month of September 2020

- Clerk noted that some Members had made representations that meetings starting at 18:00 were inhibiting the attendance of councillors. Clerk was asked to determine whether 19:00 or 19:30 would be a preferred start time.

20/75

**SAWB4 – LAND NORTH OF SAWBRIDGEWORTH**

A report on the outcome of the EHDC Development Management Committee on the outcome of the determination of the planning application by Countryside Properties for the development of 184 new homes. Permission was granted.

The participation at DMC of Mayor Cllr Furnace and District Councillor R Buckmaster were commended. The contributions of EHDC Planning Officer Jill Shingler and Countryside representative Isaac Kibirige were less than impressive.

Many comments were made on the unsatisfactory nature of the outcome and in particular the fact that the town council's representations had been ignored and that the approval relied upon policy compliance rather than to encompass concerns about sustainability. The view was expressed that the decision had made a mockery of the Masterplanning process during which the need for sustainability, housing standards and communication links, among other things, was expressed.

Confirmation was sought as to the detail of the s106 contributions that would be made available as a result of this housing development. This has been delegated to planning officers.

20/76

**COMING OUT OF COVID**

To receive an update on the ARUP proposals for the reconfiguration of Bell Street to include the installation of temporary planters.

Cllr E Buckmaster advised that he had allocated funding from his locality budget which would enable ARUP to develop a proposal for Bell Street.

20/77

**DEVOLUTION AND RECOVERY**

Initial perceptions on the Government proposals, which will be published in a White Paper in September, to force through a reorganisation of local government.

Clerk reported that the White Paper had not yet been published. Also, that the town and parish clerks of Hertfordshire had received a presentation by Herts CC on their approach to the potential reorganisation.

20/78

**SUSTAINABILITY SPD**

To receive a report of the Zoom meeting held on 21 September concerning the Supplementary Planning Document relating to Sustainability.

Cllr Royle reported that the meeting was a follow up to the Climate Change Forum and that it didn't add any more targets as they are overridden by the District Plan. We now await the District Plan Review.

20/79

**TOILET TOWN TWINNING (A PROPOSAL)**

To consider whether a toilet twinned town idea might be a useful community exercise the town council could take the lead on and encourage up to 20 toilets to be twinned, bringing together schools, businesses and community groups

**Resolved:** To twin the Bell Street public conveniences at a cost of £60.  
*[prop Cllr Royle; sec'd Cllr R Buckmaster]*

- 20/80 PAPERS AND REPORTS (A PROTOCOL)**  
 To determine a protocol for the production and distribution of papers and reports for meetings of the Council, its Committees, sub-committees and Working Parties.  
**Resolved:** That the Protocol presented by the Clerk should be adopted and added to the council's constitution.  
*[prop Cllr Chester; secd Cllr Gray]*
- 20/81 TOWN BRANDING**  
 To note and approve the recommendations of the ED&STAP Committee for establishing a brand image for the town.  
 It was **agreed** that an extra ED&STAP Committee meeting should be held to discuss the way forward and for all members to see the proposed logo designs  
 Also **agreed** that the Graphics Department at Leventhorpe be asked to suggest some designs.  
**Resolved:** To defer any discussion to the October meeting  
*[prop Cllr Alder; secd Cllr R Buckmaster]*
- 20/82 MEMBERS ATTENDANCE RECORDS**  
**Received and noted:** Members' attendance records for the civic year up to and including the meetings held on 14 September 2020.  
 Amendments were asked for to show percentage attendance to date and not for the year.  
 Amendment was asked for to reflect that absences may have been due to It issues caused by the Covid pandemic.  
 It was agreed that since these records are published on the town council web-site there was no need to add them to be put on the agenda for each council meeting, but only at the Annual Town Meeting.
- 20/83 DEPOSIT & CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**  
 There were no Documents for Noting and Consultation
- 20/84 FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**Received and noted:** The current Financial Report
- 20/85 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**  
 Having been questioned as to why we were paying accounts by BACS, Clerk explained current legislation which helps in the present Covid situation and emphasised authorised signatories would still be signing the payment schedule.  
**Received and approved:** Accounts for payment
- 20/86 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**  
 Asking for an item on support for the Hailey Centre, Cllr Gray agreed that a better approach would be to have a meeting with the chair of the trustees.  
 There were no items for future agendas

Meeting ended at 19:25

---

*i Here I am, ten stories high  
Not a single cloud in my eye  
Not a thing I'd change if I could  
I'm happy here in my neighbourhood*

*And all the things I've never been, I've  
Never seen, I don't care much  
And all the things I've never done, I've  
Never won, I don't care much*

*Never knew what a world this was  
'Til I looked in my heart  
Saw myself for what I am  
Found a whole world in my hands*