

SAWBRIDGEWORTH 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 September 2014**.

Those present

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| Cllr Angela Alder | Cllr Barry Hodges |
| Cllr Eric Buckmaster – Town Mayor | Cllr Peter Mitchell |
| Cllr Ruth Buckmaster | Cllr Tom Reeks |
| Cllr Pat Coysten | Cllr Joyce Vincent |
| Cllr Derek Filler | Cllr Andrew Wincott |
| | Cllr Spencer Richards (<i>after item 14/74</i>) |

In attendance:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| County Cllr Roger Beeching | 8 members of the public |
| Michael Jarvis – H&E Observer | |
| R Bowran - Town Clerk | Mrs J Kenny – Town Projects Manager |

Welcome by the Mayor, prayers were read by Cllr Derek Filler

14/72 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Will Mortimer was absent.

14/73 PUBLIC FORUM

To receive representations from members of the public on matters within the remit of the Town Council. There were none

14/74 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

14/75 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 01 September 2014 (M04)
[prop Cllr Alder; secd Cllr Filler]

To attend to any matters arising from these Minutes and not dealt with elsewhere on this Agenda. There were none.

14/76 PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

- 01 September 2014 (P06)
- 13 September 2014 (P07)

14/77 FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE

Received and Noted: The Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee Meeting held on:

- 13 September 2014 (F02)

POINT OF ORDER

On a Point of Order relating to the next agenda item.

Resolved: that under Standing Order 9 a ballot should determine the outcome of the co-option process. [*prop Cllr Alder; secd Cllr Filler*]

14/78

CO-OPTION OF A PARISHIONER TO BE A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL

Four parishioners addressed the council on why they would like to serve as a member of the town council for the remainder of the term.

A ballot was made and on the first round there was no absolute majority. Candidates with one or no votes were eliminated. On the second round an absolute majority was gained by Spencer Richards and he was declared to have been co-opted to serve as a Member.

He signed the Declaration of Acceptance and was invited to join Members at the table.

Clerk asked for permission to destroy the ballot papers.

Resolved: That the ballot papers be should be kept for some time. [*prop Cllr Mitchell; secd Cllr Vincent*]

14/79

COUNCIL ELECTION 2015

A strategy to raise awareness of the local council elections that will take place in May 2015 was discussed. It was agreed to include an item in the Council Newsletter, place news on the Council web-site and to promote the election at the Farmers' markets in February and March 2015.

14/80

MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

The mayor reported:

- Town Twinning visit to Bry-sur-Marne was very enjoyable
- Hosting a visit from Moosberg for their first visit to Sawbridgeworth
- Executed his "Ice Bucket Challenge" at the Farmers market and raised £100 for WaterAid
- Attended Ware Civic Service and the harvest Service at the Congregational Church
- Mayors Quiz Night will be on 25 October.

14/81

REPRESENTATIVES & CHAMPIONS REPORTS

To receive representatives reports from:

- **County Councillor Roger Beeching** congratulated Cllr Richards, encouraged the other candidates to go to the briefings for the May 2015 elections and reported:
 - Hair and beauty event at Leventhorpe on 24 October
 - Effects of the Boundary Commission report
 - Winter arrangements for salt issue to councils and others
 - The "100 Parishes" guide which had now been published.
 - Cllr Alder said there had been a near miss near Spellbrook School and a public meeting was to be called to discuss the issues
- **District Councillor Eric Buckmaster** reported:
 - District Plan Executive will be on 22 Oct in Hertford
 - Attending "Dementia Friends" workshop

- Attended a Healthwatch Hertfordshire meeting on the launch of the GP access report.
- **District Councillor Will Mortimer** had nothing to report.
- **Hertfordshire Police PC Russell Jones** were not present.
- **Rivers Heritage Site and Orchard Cllr E Buckmaster** reported:
 - Apple day on 11 October
 - Village Network meeting at SMH on 09 October

14/82 CLERK'S REPORT

Received and noted the Clerks Report:

Annual Audit of Accounts. We have received an unqualified audit of the council's accounts for the year 2013/14.

Staff Arrangements We currently have two members of staff on sick leave. Lisa Dale, recovering from an operation and Gill Abbott who will be away until November. Other members of staff are being redeployed to cover the absences.

Farmer's Market The September market was attended by 650. We are going to test whether the Heart Radio campaign was effective by reinstating a smaller campaign for the remainder of the market year at a cost of £1,200. This will be paid for by the small anticipated surplus on market trading over the same period.

Bell Street CCTV The installation is now complete and the images being recorded are well up to expectations. Chief Inspector Gerry McDonald and Inspector Chis Hunt visited the installation on 18 September and were very complimentary. We are considering further co-operation with the police and the police and crime commissioner on publicising our relationship as a model for other areas in Hertfordshire to follow. Quotes for installation at Bullfields and the memorial Hall were being obtained by the respective managers.

Bell Street Conveniences We still await the promised SLA from EHDC which is the precursor to further progress by them to release funds for the project. It is now five months since this was promised. We continue to receive complaints from the public about the poor state of the present facility. Cllr Buckmaster will progress the project at EHDC.

Town Green There has been no further interaction with EHDC on this project since last month.

14/83 TOWN SIGN

The Clerk presented a full report on Members' preference for the town sign. Members asked for further clarification on the design of the lettering on the two sides of the sign.

Resolved: to proceed with the preferred design at a cost of £6,000, of which £5,000 is to come from the Town Centre Enhancement Grant by East Herts District Council. [*prop Cllr Alder; secd Cllr Coysten*]

The debate on the location for the sign continued and resulted in a preference for in the London Road planter if the Plane Tree is removed.

Resolved: to defer a decision on the location of the town sign until there is a decision on the removal of the London Road Plane tree.
[prop Cllr R Buckmaster; secd Cllr Alder]

Clerk was asked to ensure that the reasons for the removal of the Plane Tree were well publicised.

14/84 DEPOSIT AND CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

- None received

14/85 FINANCIAL REPORT

Noted: The current Financial Report

14/86 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Noted and Approved: Accounts for payment

Meeting was closed at 20:45