

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 19:30 on **Monday 09 January 2017**.

Those present

Cllr Angela Alder	Cllr Don Hall
Cllr Roger Beeching	Cllr Heather Riches
Cllr Eric Buckmaster	Cllr David Royle
Cllr Ruth Buckmaster	Cllr Mike Shaw (<i>arr. 19:50</i>)
Cllr John Burmicz	

In attendance:

Joanne Sargent – Projects Manager R Bowran - Town Clerk

Welcome by the Mayor

Prayers were said by Cllr R Buckmaster

16/119 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Cllr Coysten – unwell.
Cllr Adamopoulos and Cllr Mortimer were absent.

16/120 **DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

To receive any declarations of Pecuniary Interest by Members.
There were none

16/121 **PUBLIC FORUM**

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

16/122 **MINUTES**

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 28 November 2016 (M07) [*prop Cllr E Buckmaster; secd Cllr Burmicz*]

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

16/123 **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Noted: The minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on:
28 November 2016 (P10)
05 December 2016 (P11)

16/124 **TOWN ACTION PLAN WORKING PARTY**

Noted: The minutes of the Town Action Plan Working Party held on:
05 December 2016

16/125 **FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE**

Noted: Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee Meeting held on:
05 December 2016 (F03)

16/126 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

To receive Mayor's appointments and communications.

- Meeting of Sawbridgeworth Schools Council which produced a list of actions they would like to consider for the future.
- Letter from Sawbridgeworth Rotary Club thanking the council for its help at carols on fair Green. Advised that they raised £2,600 on the evening.
- Attended:
 - Christmas awards ceremonies
 - Evangelical Church Christmas event
 - Spellbrook School Christmas event
 - Isobel Hospice carols at Haileybury
 - F&B school street detectives event
 - Reedings school assembly
 - Sustainable school journeys meeting
- Events for noting
 - 02 February; Wine tasting evening
 - 04 March; Variety show
 - 29 April; Civic dinner

Cllr Shaw arrived

16/127 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

To receive representatives reports from:

- County Councillor Roger Beeching reported:
 - HCC over the holiday period spread 1,800 tonnes of salt over 14,000kms of road. All 1,000 salt bins have been refilled.
 - Overview and Scrutiny committee completed topics on crime and disorder, Herts waste partnership and public health budgets
 - Chief Social Worker for England has complemented Hertfordshire on multi-disciplinary child protection
 - Great difficulty being experienced to balance the county budgets, more to follow.
 - Q. The mayor asked about the county councillor's locality budget. A. It is not affected.
 - Q. Will the locality budget still be £10k? A. It is not yet known.
- District Councillor Angela Alder reported:
 - Attending Health Scrutiny Cttee at County Hall. Discussion on Healthwatch complaints handling. Discussion on Sustainability Transformation Plan (STP) which looks to take a more holistic approach to health and social care.
 - Q. What news about the central surgery, will there be a health hub for Sawbridgeworth? A. Progress is being made and No.
- District Councillor Eric Buckmaster reported:
 - £500k has been approved by the government for capacity funding for works relating to Gilston Garden Town.
 - Funding has been approved by NHS for the central surgery, project to be completed by April 2018.
 - HR. Q. Has funding for project been reduced? A. It is not known.

- New Homes Bonus to councils is being reduced, this is relevant to councils who have not produced a District Plan.
 - AA. Q. Does the Gilson project contribute towards East Herts total, does this contribute to social need? A. There will be no “signposting” but there will need to be a mentoring solution to getting the mix right.
- EHDC are changing the parking charge regime from April 2017, the main effect of which is that the free period in Bell Street is being reduced from one hour to half an hour.
- Sustainability and Transformation Plans are being prepared. There is a move towards “Social Prescribing”. We are now producing a community database.
 - RB. Q. What information is there on isolation? A. There are 100+ contact points available.
- There will be a launch of the Team Herts volunteering system in the Council Chamber on 16 February.
 - MS. Q. The government have announced 10,000 homes at Gilston, but isn't this really 3,000 in the District Plan.
 - A. by 2033 the figure is 3,050 homes, and a further 7,000 homes by 2040.
 - MS. Q. Is it 10,500 homes by 2040?
 - A. Yes.
 - MS. Q. Is the public consultation closed?
 - A. Yes, it closed on 15 December 2016. 2,000 responses have been received from supporters of the Stop Harlow North campaign.
 - MS. Q. At the last council meeting the mayor voted against the resolution to oppose chapter 11 of the District Plan. Is the mayor a member of SHN?
 - A. The mayor is an appointed representative of the council on SHN.
 - DR said he had been contacted by the Daily Mail concerning Gilston and had responded in a personal capacity
 - MS. Q. Is the mayor on SHN ex-officio or as a campaigner?
 - A. The mayor is an appointed representative of the council on SHN.
 - MS. Is the mayor the right person to represent the town council?
 - A. Representatives to outside bodies are appointed at the Annual Meeting of the town council.
 - EB queried whether we should have a representative as it indicated support of SHN. RB agreed.
 - MS. Q. this appears to be a *volte face* since the last election. Before the election all were opposed to developments at Gilston, now the town council seems to support them.
 - A. DR said he'd agreed to sustainable

development and not given specific support to SHN.

Resolved: That Sawbridgeworth Town Council should not be represented on the SHN campaign.
[prop Cllr E Buckmaster; secd Cllr Alder]

16/128 POLICIES & PROTOCOLS

Resolved: That, with some minor wording amendments, the following Policies and Protocols be adopted by council.
[prop Cllr Alder; Secd Cllr Riches]

- Policy 1.7: Corporate Structure
- Policy 4.8: Death of a Senior Member of the Royal Family
- Protocol 5.1: Councillor and Officer Relations
- Protocol 6.2: Communications

Noted: That the following Policies and Protocols had been reviewed:

- Policy 0,0 STC Constitution
- Policy 3.2: Complaints Procedure
- Policy 3.4: Petitions
- Policy 6.12: Fly Posting

16/129 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

In the light of the public consultations made on the East Herts Council's District Plan; to determine whether the Town Council should produce a Neighbourhood Plan.

Some discussion which expressed a view that in the light of experience by other authorities a Neighbourhood Plan was "not worth the paper it was written on". The exception being that villages might have a need to express their views through such a plan.

Resolved: That the council should **not** prepare a Neighbourhood Plan. *[prop Cllr Shaw; secd Cllr E Buckmaster]*

16/130 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT for December 2016

Car Park Subsidy

- New parking regime from EHDC imminent.
- No definitive advice yet on budgetary implications for 2017/18.

Cemetery

- A number of further interments managed in 2016/17 to date
- Application for an exhumation to be made to MoJ

Chamber Utilisation

- Used for Christmas functions

Community Transport - Sawbobus and Minibus Hire

- ET53LJT needs further repair which is considered uneconomical.

District Plan

- Town Council's response made to EHDC before deadline.

Hertfordshire Highways

- Railings opposite White Lion damaged again
- Water pump on Fair Green damaged by vehicle collision

LGiU Briefings

- Daily briefings on a 3-month free trial basis continue.

Planning Matters (acting as a consultee)

- 47 Applications considered in 2016/17.

Projects

- Bell Street Conveniences; waiting proposal from head of service.
- Town Green; no further activity. Task & Finish group proposed.
- Library; No further action at the moment.

Staff

- A&A sub-committee briefed on changes in staff deployment

War Memorial

- Task & Finish group established. Faculty applied for.
- Report and quotes received

16/131 TOWN PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT for December 2016

Christmas Lights Switch On Event – Saturday 26th November 2016

- Change to Saturday was a major success for all involved.
- Proposal will be to plan the 2017 event for Saturday 25th November, this will be discussed at the Christmas Lights De Brief Meeting on Monday 16th January 2017 at 6.30pm
- The Golden Ticket competition that was run in conjunction with the retailers was a major success and will be replicated on a bigger scale in 2017. Other initiatives with businesses in the town will be explored throughout the year to enhance the event.
- Once the date has been set for 2017 – all groups and local organisations will be advised of the date and asked to submit their ideas for their involvement in the 2017 event, e.g Memorial Hall, Women's Institute (Church House) etc.
- The Grotto was well received again. The success on the night is down to our helpers Berrin Lee and Venetia Flowers and also Father Christmas.
- Points to Consider: Location of stalls and layout needs revising to avoid a bottleneck between car park / event areas.

Future Dates for the diary

Friday 19 May 2017 - Annual Civic Awards

16/132 DEPOSIT & CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

To note receipt of any Documents for Noting and Consultation
There were none.

16/133 FINANCIAL REPORT

Noted: The current Financial Report

16/134 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Noted and Agreed: Accounts for payment

Meeting ended at 21:48