

SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL Minutes

of the Meeting of Sawbridgeworth Town Council, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth, CM21 9AN held on **Zoom** at 19:00 on **Monday 22 February 2021**.

Those present

Cllr Angela Alder	Cllr Annelise Furnace
Cllr Eric Buckmaster	Cllr Peter Gray
Cllr Ruth Buckmaster	Cllr Dinesh Patel
Cllr John Burmicz	Cllr Greg Rattey
Cllr Craig Chester	Cllr David Royle

In attendance:	S Crocker - Town Clerk
Cat Barkley – BS Independent	2 Members of the Public

Welcome by the Town Mayor followed by Thought for the Day – Cllr A Alder

20/141 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received and accepted from Cllr Coysten – long term sick leave

20/142 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Pecuniary Interest by Members

20/143 PUBLIC FORUM

To respond to communications received by the Clerk from members of the public on matters within the remit of the Town Council.

There were none

20/144 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 25 January 2021 (M07) (Attached)
[prop Cllr E Buckmaster; secd Cllr R Buckmaster] All in favour

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

20/145 NOMINATION OF A MAYOR-ELECT

Resolved: To nominate Cllr Greg Rattey as mayor-elect for the civic year 2021-22 who will, if confirmed by a vote at that meeting, take office as Mayor at the Annual Meeting of the council to be held on 24 May 2021. *[prop Cllr Alder; secd Cllr D Patel]*

20/146 WEST ROAD DEVELOPMENTS (SAWB2 & SAWB 3)

Cllr E Buckmaster updated as follows:

- A construction management plan was a condition of the planning approval that Barratts should have had signed off before starting with any construction. The construction management plan will include all the operational elements to mitigate the effects on residents.
- Received response for East Herts enforcement planning officer to say that a site meeting with Barratts was imminent.
- Additional issues with the commencement of work on the Taylor Wimpey site.
- Reported issues for both sites in connection with:

- Damage to verges via Herts County Highways
 - Oversized trucks using 7.5 tonne weigh limit roads i.e. heading west towards High Wych rather than using the A1184 (East)
 - Diverting surface water drainage channels from the site onto West Road.
 - Blocking Rights of Way (this has now been resolved)
- West Road three week road closure - a meeting is arranged with a Highways officer and the head of planning at Barratts to discuss if the utilities companies had the correct licence to close and excavate the road, this is questionable between a section 50 licence or a traffic regulation order.
 - To set up and coordinate a community liaison group that will feed back to the town council on these two developments, this will monitor issues as they arise, so that they can be dealt with in a timely manner. The town council will act in a monitoring role with meeting notes and minutes shared by all interested parties.

Cllr A Furnace confirmed that a letter had been sent to EHDC on behalf of the town council detailing all the concerns to date. Confirmation that the letter has been received by officers at EHDC but no reply to date has been received.

Cllr P Gray sought clarification from Cllr E Buckmaster about who was responsible for signing off the Construction Management Plan. *Cllr E Buckmaster confirmed that in consultation with highways it would ultimately be signed off at EHDC as with any planning process.*

Cllr J Burmicz reported that he had been communicating directly with a resident that backs onto Sawb 3. The noise from construction traffic on site is an additional issue. Reported that he is still waiting for a response to a letter of November 2020 that he wrote to two senior planning officers in relation to the developments.

Cllr C Chester asked what are the consequences if they failed to provide a Construction Management Plan? *Cllr E Buckmaster confirmed that he was waiting for the response from the EHDC Enforcement Officer, consequently if enforcement action is taken and they do not comply then this would be an illegal action.*

Cllr D Patel asked for confirmation on the total number of houses that are due to be built on Sawb 2 and Sawb 3 in total and how long is the planning project going to take? *Cllr E Buckmaster responded that approximately 3 years with the two sites running concurrently with 200 units on Sawb 3 and 140 on Sawb 2 plus the extension of Mandeville School with an additional two forms of entry.*

Cllr D Royle commented that it was disappointing and to note with regret that the developers had not consulted on the name of the development which has been publicised as Sawbridge Park.

20/147 TOWN EVENTS 2021

Received and noted: A report from the Town Projects Manager detailing proposed dates of annual events that have been held in past years.

- 20/148 FINANCIAL REPORT**
Received and noted
- 20/149 BANK RECONCILLATIONS AND MANDATES**
Received and noted: Clerk reported that the electronic banking facility is now in place following his appointment.
- 20/150 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**
Received and noted:
[prop Cllr D Patel; secd Cllr C Chester]
- 20/151 COMMITTEE MINUTES**
- Received and Noted:* The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 25 January 2021 (P13)
- Received and Noted:* The draft minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 15 February 2021 (P14)
- 20/152 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS**
- No response to date from East Herts Council in response to the letter sent on Air Quality.
 - Resident from Newton Drive – disabled parking bay (update in representatives reports)
 - A message was received detailing that the Brownies had sent Christmas Cards to Bry-sur-Marne and they have received back some New Year cards from the equivalent organisation in France.
 - Cyril Lumley's Retirement after 12 years of service. His last working day will be the 2 April 2021. The expressed this council's thanks for all his years of service and wish him a very happy retirement.
- From the Mayor's report:
- Holocaust Memorial Day 2021 - 28th January.
East Herts Environment and Climate Forum - attended this forum meeting on "Biodiversity and natural land" on 21st January.
 - Town Twinning attended the Town Twinning committee meeting as a guest on 19th January.
 - Mayor's charities - Online meeting with our local police and PCSOs on 8th February
 - Congratulations to PC Shelly Marshall on behalf of the Town Council for her recent commendation.
- 20/153 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS**
To receive representatives reports from:
- County Councillor E Buckmaster in addition:
 - Application for village 7 at Gilston has been made. And the Neighbourhood Plan Group have heard from the building inspector recommending approval, still requires

endorsement from East Herts Council and will then move forward for a referendum.

- Newton Drive Disabled Bay at entrance to Pishiobury Park – drop kerb installed, residents reported that cars were pulling up over the dropped kerb and parking on the grass area in front of the gates. Resident complaints also with regards to the turning head at the top of the cul-de-sac which was being used as a parking area and concerns over safety with cars crossing a footway. Cllr E Buckmaster reported that he had checked that the safety audits had been carried out and he confirmed that they had. A small fence will be installed around the perimeter of the bay to stop cars pulling up onto the grass. Further communication with residents to resolve the parking problem at the turning head is ongoing.
- District Councillor Alder Report – no further questions
- District Councillor R Buckmaster in addition reported:
 - Update on Make Lunch and Community Pop Up Shop at the Evangelical Congregational Church. 36 meals were made on 4 days of the week in the previous week. Pop Up Shop is now open twice weekly on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Gary Hanson has set up a database of needs rather than receiving donations so that they can monitor the 'needs' of people accessing the shop. *Cllr Alder asked if this was a Evangelical Congregational Church initiative or East Herts Council? Cllr R Buckmaster advised that grant funding had been awarded from East Herts Council to help fund some of the initiatives over the year, but was primarily a church led activity.*
- Other Representatives
 - Cllr Royle - Footpaths; Schools; Town Twinning and in addition:
 - Pishiobury Park – lack of communication with activity over the pruning of trees without any notification to the Friends of Pishiobury Park. Cllr D Royle has written to East Herts Council with his comments pointing out that there are concerns over the timing of the work carried out with regards to wildlife etc. Glendale have been carrying out the work, Cllr D Royle will pursue East Herts Council for clarification on future works.
 - Cllr A Furnace updated on Canals and Rivers Trust maintenance program of the tow path, a new contact at the organisation is being sought as the previous contact has left employment. Cllr A Furnace will continue to pursue updates for future meetings.
 - Cllr R Buckmaster – RHSO; SYPRC and in addition;
 - Youth Connections are hoping to resume their activities, an update suggests that they will return on the 22 April 2021.
 - RHSO – Monthly maintenance and AGM will take place.

20/154 OFFICERS REPORTS

Received and noted: Town Clerk and Project Managers report for the month of January 2021

Cllr R Buckmaster raised a question to the Clerk about his Town Green report – ‘with regards to town green, who is the meeting with at East Herts?’ The Clerk was not aware of the name of the person he was meeting with.

20/155 ONLINE MEETINGS

A draft policy was presented by the Clerk. Agreed to carry out additional work on the policy and research further to establish the full extent of the commitment in terms of officer hours to comply with the town council website accessibility statement.

20/156 LOCAL BUSINESSES

Cllr G Rattey updated members on the recent announcement on the ‘opening up’ of businesses that has been detailed in the ‘road map’ out of lockdown, it was encouraging that government continue to support businesses financially via grants. Discretionary Grants will be re-launched in the first week of March 2021, and regular updates were being sent by Town Projects Manager to local businesses encouraging them to look at the East Herts Council website. Grants have been paid up to the 15th February and future payments will roll over, there is not a need for businesses to re-apply. Encouraging that beauticians are now grouped with hairdressers so can look to the 12th April as a potential re-open date.

20/157 DEVOLUTION AND RECOVERY

No update

20/158 DEPOSIT & CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

Herts Waste Local Plan – Draft Consultation, Cllr A Furnace gave background information and detailed that this had been discussed at a recent Amenities Meeting. Cllr A Furnace will draft a response to the consultation and circulate to members and submit before the deadline of 19th March 2021

20/159 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items for future agendas

Meeting ended at 20:07

Thought for the Day given by Cllr Alder:

This is a prayer about doing and serving
God ad Father of all, who from the beginning came to bring light and truth and love to man, by the Word, grant to us who deal with words and images, such reverence for thee, that through careful and honesty work, we may keep the coinage of our language sound. Give us humility to realise that we are called, not to be perfect but to be clear, not to be infallible but to be fair. Direct those who in this our generation speak where many listen, who write what many read, and who show what many see, that they may do their part in making the heart of our people wise, its mind sound, and its will righteous. Amen