

SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL Minutes

of the Meeting of Sawbridgeworth Town Council held at 19.30hrs in the Council Chamber, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street on **Monday 28th February 2022.**

Those present

Cllr Eric Buckmaster
Cllr Ruth Buckmaster
Cllr John Burmicz

Cllr Annelise Furnace
Cllr Greg Rattey
Cllr David Royle
Cllr Nathan Parsad

In attendance:

Town Clerk
Town Projects Manager
Press – Chris Carter

The Chair, Cllr Rattey called for a one-minute silence to be observed to show respect for the people of Ukraine

Thought of the day read by Cllr E Buckmaster, the topic covered the support for Ukraine during the Russian invasion.

21/138 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies received

21/139 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

No declarations received

21/140 PUBLIC FORUM

No questions were received

21/141 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 31st January 2022 (M07) two amendments were highlighted

[prop Cllr R Buckmaster sec'd Cllr A Furnace]

At the discretion of the Chair a resolution was requested by the Clerk, and was granted by the Chair, authorised under Standing Orders Sect 23(q)

This was resolved to approve the Town Councils consent to allow the Town Clerk to apply the Town Council seal to a legal document prepared by Tees Law.

This relates to a Deed of Grant of easements for underground electric lines as West Road, Sawbridgeworth, CM21 0BL

[prop Cllr E Buckmaster sec'd Cllr A Alder]

21/142 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Received and noted: the minutes of the planning committee held on 31st January 2022 (P12)

Received and noted: the draft minutes of the planning committee held on 14th February 2022 (P13)

21/143 ECON DEVT & STAP COMMITTEE

Received and noted: the minutes of the Econ Devt & STAP Committee held on 17th January 2022 (E04)

21/144 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

- Further work was completed on the pandemic shop grants, Cllr Rattey wanted his thanks recorded for the support from East Herts District Council. Cllr Royle wanted his thanks noted for Cllr Ratteys work in the town on this matter.
- Further work had been completed on men's mental health, the neuro centre, racism.
- Cassandra's Celebration Boutique officially opened being the seventh shop opened this year.
- The Mayor then read a personal message regarding a verbal homophobic attack he suffered in Bishops Stortford the previous week. He will continue in his campaigning for the LGBT+ community and will not be bullied or intimidated and its business as usual. He thanked all the well wishes he has received and pointed out how woeful in support of LGBT+ issues East Herts Police have been. He feels it is now time the police did not just tick boxes but fully engaged with the LGBT+ community with meaningful discussion and debate.

21/145 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

Received and noted: Representatives reports from:
County Councillor E Buckmaster added:

- He thanked the Mayor and was sorry to hear about the incident he had suffered.
- He had been on a budget meeting and then into a planning meeting from 10 am until 12:15 am the following day whereby planning is still to be submitted for the 10,000 houses at Gilston.
- Highways updates on double yellow lines applications around the town at various locations and consultations were being sent out for more yellow lines and speed and volume devices were ordered.
- Sheering Mill Lane the responses are to be assessed.
- Secondary Scholl applications are to come out soon for the Town.

Questions

Cllr D Royle asked what the impact would be locally for the tree strategy.

Cllr E Buckmaster responded that the tree strategy is for the whole of the County Council. The Queens canopy funding is still open, but the strategy is to plant 1.2 million trees and 600,000 hedgerow plants by 2030.

Cllr A Furnace asked would materials and a report be available from National Consumer Week regarding 'green scams' for the Sustainable Sawbridgeworth group. For any future stalls in Bell Street.

A second question was asked in relation to the 20mph zone after the 'Twenty's Plenty' presentation and the growth of the 20mph zones. Would it be more cost effective to apply a 20mph speed limit to the whole town and then select the faster roads limits and she hoped Hertfordshire would apply this strategy from these ideas.

Cllr E Buckmaster responded that he is in favour and the County Highways view is people drive to the condition of the road. Speed

should be discouraged but also the concerns around enforcement and the application of zones should have an effect. He is still looking at other areas that may benefit from a 20mph zone.

Cllr Alder asked regarding the dementia strategy, how would this be publicised when information requests are made.

Cllr E Buckmaster responded an officer at East Herts is dealing with the different stakeholder involved in dementia.

- District Councillor Alder stated due to being unwell she didn't have a report but thanked Cllr R Buckmaster for standing in for her at the HR committee meeting.
- District Cllr R Buckmaster apologised for not submitting a report due to family circumstances.
- No report received from Hertfordshire Police
- Other Representatives –
 - *Councillor Royle*, nothing to add to his report

Questions

Cllr A Furnace asked if there was an update on the Elmwood path.

Cllr Royle responded that he had had a response from his enquiry and the response was now in the top ten questions to be responded to and he would be keeping an eye on the issue.

- *Cllr R Buckmaster* apologised for not submitting a report due to family circumstances.
- Cllr Furnace added Sustainable Sawbridgeworth has held a meeting on a proposed cycle route from Sawbridgeworth to Harlow and Bishops Stortford with Cllr E Buckmaster and a further meeting is to be held with Highways officers.
The project with the Canals and Rivers trust, 'River Day' on the 21st May 2022.
She attended the waste seminar which included some great tips on making waste recycling much easier.
Also she had been to see the film made by local resident Thomas Cubit regarding litter around Sawbridgeworth.

21/146

CERKS REPORT

- The Clerk confirmed the applications for the three vacancies would open on the 4th March.
- Recent storms didn't impact on the Council estate
- Hertfordshire university are using the chamber for domestic violence advice, free for local residents.
- A meeting has been held with the local police to develop a welcome pack to new residents as well as a partner agency meeting on the chamber.

Questions

Cllr Alder asked if there will be a draft document in relation to the welcome pack so councillors can add to it and how would it be afforded.

The Clerk responded that the new west road residents will receive this in the pack supplied by the sales team and the PCSO will post through the doors of houses that have been sold when patrolling.

- 21/147 TOWN PROJECT MANAGERS REPORT**
- *The Project Manager* produced a report for the councillors with the various projects and events
 - Arrangements are being made to unveil the blue plaque for Sir Author Cutforth
 - The river event is in the planning stage with safety in mind.
 - The market is being explored but may need planning permission if more than 14 markets events are held in a year.
 - Jubilee planning is still underway with the beacon and mural being planned as well as other events.
 - Mentioned a bench that had been vandalised and was placed in memory of Frank Clay in Church Park. The bench will be recovered and his family if traced will be asked in regards to its repair or replacement.
- 21/148 JUBILEE FOUR DAY WEEKEND**
Town project manager updated the meeting in her previous report
- 21/149 ANNUAL RISK ASSESSMENT**
The Clerk explained that the risk assessment was available on the table for inspection but was required to be accepted by resolution for this year 2021/22.
[prop Cllr R Buckmaster sec'd Cllr Parsad]
- 21/150 FREEMAN OF THE TOWN**
Report and proposal presented by Cllr Royle for Wally Wright to be considered for the award due to the extensive community work he has completed over many years to the benefit of the town.
The requirement for criteria for the awarding of freeman of the town was also needed for any future nominations
- Questions**
Cllr Furnace asked why the criteria was set as it was
Cllr Royle stated these were not set in stone and locally the Council could decide on criteria.
Cllr Alder thanked Cllr Royle for looking into this matter and felt it was a good initiative which she supported.
[prop Cllr R Buckmaster sec'd Cllr Parsad]
- Action**, the Clerk to present a paper on the criteria for the award for future nominations
- 21/151 DEPOSIT AND CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**
Noted: The Deposit and Consultation Documents
- 21/152 FINANCIAL REPORT**
Noted: The current Financial Report
- 21/153 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**
Noted and Approved: Accounts for payment
- 21/154 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**
Nothing submitted

Cllr Alder proposed Standing orders were to be suspended and this was seconded by Cllr Buckmaster for discussion to take place regarding the current situation in Ukraine. It was requested the Clerk writes to the Prime Minister, the local MP and the Ukraine embassy with the support for the Ukraine people.

Action, The Clerk to send letters as requested.