

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 26 January 2015**.

Those present

Cllr Angela Alder	
Cllr Eric Buckmaster – Town Mayor	Cllr Peter Mitchell
Cllr Ruth Buckmaster	Cllr Tom Reeks
Cllr Pat Coysten	Cllr Spencer Richards
Cllr Barry Hodges	Cllr Joyce Vincent
	Cllr Andrew Wincott

In attendance:

County Cllr Roger Beeching
Michael Jarvis – H&E Observer
R Bowran - Town Clerk

Mrs J Kenny – Town Projects Manager

Welcome by the Mayor, prayers were read by County Cllr Roger Beeching MBE JP

14/130 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllr Derek Filler – hospital appointment.
Cllr Will Mortimer was absent.

14/131 PUBLIC FORUM

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

14/132 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

14/133 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 05 January 2015 (M08) [*prop Cllr Coysten; secd Cllr Alder*]

To attend to any matters arising from these Minutes and not dealt with elsewhere on this Agenda.

Minute 14/121. Cllr Wincott asked about the process for establishing a town twinning arrangement with Moosburg. The mayor explained the preliminary meetings that had taken place so far.

Minute 14/122. Cllr Mitchell reported that the Duckling Centre manager is to make a presentation to Much Hadham parish council. The Centre is to have an OFSTED inspection on 27 January and Cllr Mitchell has been asked to attend.

14/134 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Received and Noted: the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on:

- 05 January 2015 (P14)

14/135 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

The mayor reported:

- Attending the well-attended Hailey Centre Christmas lunch at Hunters Meet.
- An information stall at the next Farmers Market to raise awareness of Town Council elections in May
- An information evening on 25 February at the council office to raise awareness of District Council elections in May.

The mayor reported correspondence:

- Thank you from a client of the Cemetery who complimented the council on the standard of upkeep.
- Invitation from Manchester Airports Group to respond to a questionnaire.

14/136 REPRESENTATIVES & CHAMPIONS REPORTS

To receive representatives reports from:

- **County Councillor Roger Beeching:**
 - Asked about the current status of the Highways Together project. Clerk advised that the cost of the bureaucracy involved was not good value for money for parishioners. Clerk to provide a list of STC priorities.
 - Asked about current status of the footpath blocked behind School Lane. Projects manager reported an on-going dialogue with Hertfordshire CC Footpaths Officer to resolve the issue.
 - Reported the resurfacing of FP21 from Pishiobury Park along the Oak Walk to Brook Road.
 - Reported Gritting Crews out 30 times this year spreading 50,000tonnes of salt.
 - Advised of Herts CC Buses and Transportation consultation, which he encouraged people to complete
 - Commented that there were no Council tax increases of more than 2%.
- **District Councillor Eric Buckmaster** reported:
 - Attended a Public Health Masterclass on Obesity.
 - Herts Healthy Homes Scheme
 - EHDC Grants – two deadlines coming up for applications go grants of up to £500. Applications particularly welcome from Sawbridgeworth.
- **District Councillor Will Mortimer** was not present,
- **Herts Police** were not present.
- **Rivers Heritage Site and Orchard Cllr E Buckmaster** reported:
 - The Wassail took place at the Orchard on Saturday 10th of January. STC officers in attendance for Risk Assessment and Health & Safety.

14/137 CLERK'S REPORT

Received and noted the Clerks Report:

- Staff Arrangements. Gill Abbott continues to be absent from work and has been given a "FitNote" which says she will not be able to return to work before July 2015. Karen Cook joins us on a 6 month fixed term contract to act as our Receptionist.
- Local Government Finance Settlement 2015/16. The Town Council has responded to the Government Consultation and expressed concerns about the proposed introduction of referenda on precept increases, the failure of some principal authorities to pass on Council Tax Support funding and the power to trade.
- Meeting Dates. Our Standing Orders state that the council meets on the last Monday in the month and therefore the Council and Planning Committee will meet on Monday 29 June and not as previously published.

14/138 GRANT APPLICATIONS

Resolved: To make the following grants:

1. High Wych pre-school at Bullfields : £500
[prop Cllr Alder; secd Cllr Vincent]
2. Sawbridgeworth Evangelical Congregational Church : £500
[prop Cllr Alder; secd Cllr Reeks]
3. Friends of Sawbridgeworth Centres : £500
[prop Cllr Vincent; secd Cllr Wincott]
4. Sawbridgeworth Gt St Mary's Church : £500
[prop Cllr Coysten; secd Cllr Wincott]

14/139 RISK ASSESSMENT

Resolved: To adopt the Risk Assessment for the Town Council and its activities for the year ending 31 March 2015.

[prop Cllr Wincott; secd Cllr Mitchell]

14/140 HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

Resolved: To adopt a Health and Safety Policy as constructed by ELAS and to appoint Cllr Barry Hodges JP to have overall responsibility for the Policy.

[prop Cllr Coysten; secd Cllr Alder]

14/141 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

Resolved: To appoint Mrs Beverley Porter as Internal Auditor to the council.

[prop Cllr Richards; secd Cllr Hodges]

14/142 DEPOSIT AND CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

- Bus Strategy Consultation. Members were encouraged to respond to the consultation by the middle of March.

14/143 FINANCIAL REPORT

Noted: The current Financial Report

14/144 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Noted and Approved: Accounts for payment

Meeting was closed at 20:20