

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 30 January 2017**.

Those present

Cllr Sotirios Adamopoulos	Cllr Ruth Buckmaster
Cllr Angela Alder	Cllr Don Hall
Cllr Roger Beeching	Cllr Heather Riches
Cllr Eric Buckmaster	Cllr David Royle

In attendance:

PC Shelly Marshall – Herts Police	PCSO Paul Weston – Herts Police
	R Bowran - Town Clerk

Welcome by the Mayor

Prayers were said by Cllr E Buckmaster

16/135 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Cllr Riches – unwell and Cllr Burmicz – business commitment.
Cllr Mortimer and Cllr Shaw were absent

16/136 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

16/137 PUBLIC FORUM

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

16/138 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 09 January 2017 (M08)
[prop Cllr Alder; secd Cllr R Buckmaster]

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

16/139 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Received and Noted: The minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on:
09 January 2017 (P12)

16/140 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

To receive Mayor's appointments and communications.

16/141 DETERMINATION OF A MAYOR-ELECT

Resolved: To designate Cllr Ruth Buckmaster as mayor-elect for the civic year 2017-18. Such designation to be determined by resolution at the Annual Town Meeting in May 2016.
[prop Cllr Alder; secd Cllr Hall]

16/142 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

To receive representatives reports from:

- County Councillor Roger Beeching reported:
 - Finances at HCC are finely balanced.
 - New Homes Bonus being reduced
 - HCC will put up tax demand to 4.9% to contribute to social care, however HVCCG have refused to pay £8.5m to HCC as their share of the costs
 - County wide survey said that 61% would rather have a council tax rise than see a reduction services, 80% would support a reduction in spend for council support services, 50% a reduction in library services and 49% a reduction in spend on environment and planning.
- District Councillor Angela Alder reported:
 - Visiting PAH as part of HCC health scrutiny, visited A&E, learned about proposed extensions and met the patients panel
- District Councillor Eric Buckmaster reported:
 - New parking charges from April and a reduction in free parking time to 30 minutes.
 - Team Herts launch in chamber on 16 February
 - Information circulated about the Stevenage District Plan – examination in public.
- Hertfordshire Police PCSO Paul Weston reported:
 - Crime levels remain low.
 - 2 burglaries in Spellbrook and 1 in Sawbridgeworth.
 - There are parking issues on a daily basis especially in Cutforth Road and the kidney shaped roundabout in Bullfields.
- Hertfordshire Police PC Shelly Marshall reported:
 - Staffing arranged for May fayre
 - Pub Watch and BoBB active
 - New clamp down on mobile phone usage in cars
 - Police available to participate in School Travel Challenge on 17 September.
 - Sgt Ricky Bartlett has passed his Inspector's exams. Clerk instructed to send town council's congratulations.
- Other Representatives & Champions
 - Cllr R Buckmaster reported on the Memorial Hall.
 - Bank balance is £70,000
 - Plans submitted of store room extension
 - Plan to refurbish the entrance lobby
 - Planned events to the end of 2017 were detailed.
 - Cllr Alder reported that the chair of the Stansted Airport committee was standing down.

16/143 BUDGET 2017-18 & DETERMINATION OF PRECEPT

To consider the Recommendation of the Finance & Policy Committee and adopt a Budget for 2017-18 and to determine the Precept for 2017-18 and instruct the principal authority accordingly.

Clerk advised that information had been received from EHDC, after the draft budget had been circulated, which had put an element of income for 2017-18 into doubt. A meeting had been arranged with EHDC to clarify the situation. It was agreed that an additional meeting of the F&P committee would be held on 20 February to consider any changes needed before bring the budget to council on 27 February for resolution.

16/144 GRANT APPLICATIONS

To consider grant requests made by the following:

1. Sawbridgeworth Local History Society: £500.
Resolved: that clarification of the purpose of the amount requested should be sought.
2. East Herts Citizens Advice Service: £500
Resolved: that the sum of £250 be awarded.
3. St Clare Hospice: £500
Resolved: that the sum of £500 be awarded.
[items 1, 2 & 3. prop Cllr Alder; secd Cllr Coysten]

16/145 DISTRICT PLAN

To respond to a question from a Member as to the outcome of the public consultation on the Pre-submission version of the District Plan in respect of Chapter 11 of the Plan.

Information supplied by EHDC is as follows:

Chapter 11 : The Gilston Area.

Number of Comments: 1,895

Number of Objections: 1,887

Number Supporting: 8

Also supplied was the following information:

Chapter 8 : Sawbridgeworth

Number of Comments : 109

Number of Objections : 100

Number Supporting : 9

16/146 STANDING ORDERS

The annual review of Standing Orders is now due.

To consider the insertion in Standing Order 26 the addition that "Following a question, one supplementary question may be put by the questioner". An opinion was expressed that council are currently in danger of making rushed decisions.

Agreed: To refer the matter to the F&P committee to make a recommendation to council.

16/147 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Report for January 2017

Car Park Subsidy

- New parking regime from EHDC imminent.

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 History Group, U3A

Community Transport - Sawbobus and Minibus Hire

- Sawbobus returned from warrantee repair.

District Plan

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

Hertfordshire Highways

- 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)

- 57 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.
- Report and quotes received
- Correspondence with Diocese

16/148 TOWN PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT Report for January 2017

Wassail Event – This annual event was held on Saturday 14th January from 6.30pm to 9pm in a new location at the Rivers Hospital site, the event attracted approximately 120 visitors. STC are the event organisers with a steering group of volunteers who kindly gave their assistance. The group raised £352.50 from bottled juice sales, refreshments and mulled cider sales. The new location (adjacent to the access road into the hospital) made the event much more accessible for guests and Rivers Hospital kindly gave us permission to use the large staff car park for visitors to the event which worked extremely well. RHSO group members all agreed that the new location was a better idea, logistically it was much easier and accessible with setting up and breaking down. There had been concerns previously about the bonfire location in the orchard as the fire service had detailed that they would be able to reach an emergency at the previous location because of fire hose lengths and hydrant locations.

Future Dates for the diary

Monday 20th March – Spring in your Step, School Travel Challenge refresher event

Friday 19th May 2017 - Annual Civic Awards

Saturday 27th May – MOVE week launch event in Bell Street Car Park

Sunday 2nd July 2017 – Fun on the Field

Sunday 9th July – Civic Service (as below)

Saturday 7th October (TBC) – RHSO Apple Day

Sunday 12th November – Remembrance Day

Saturday 18th November – Isabel Hospice Lights of Love

Saturday 25th November – Christmas Lights Switch On Event

Mayors Events 2016-17 – Charity of the Year, St Elizabeth's

Thursday 2nd February – Wine Tasting Evening

Saturday 4th March – Variety & Tribute Show at the Memorial Hall

Saturday 29th April – Civic Dinner at the Memorial Hall

Mayor Elect Dates set for 2017 – 18

Civic Service at Great St Mary's Church ~ Sunday 9th July 2017 at 3pm
Lights of Love for Isabel Hospice Service in Bakers Walk ~ Saturday
18th November at 4pm

16/149 DEPOSIT & CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

Noted: The Consultation on Payphone Removal at Spellbrook. Justification by BT that there had been only 1 call made from the box in the last 12 months. No objection raised by EHDC.

16/150 FINANCIAL REPORT

Noted: The current Financial Report

16/151 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Noted and Approved: Accounts for payment

Meeting ended at 20:40