

SAWBRIDGECWORTH 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 26 April 2021**.

Those present

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|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Cllr Angela Alder | Cllr Annelise Furnace |
| Cllr Eric Buckmaster | Cllr Peter Gray |
| Cllr Ruth Buckmaster | Cllr Greg Rattey |
| Cllr John Burmicz | Cllr David Royle |
| In attendance: | J Sargant - Interim Town Clerk |
| Chris Carter – BS Independent | 2 Members of the Public |

Welcome by the Town Mayor followed by Thought for the Day

20/183 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received and accepted from:
Cllr Pat Coysten – long term sick leave.
Cllr Craig Chester - unwell
Cllr Dinesh Patel – work commitment

20/184 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Pecuniary Interest by Members

20/185 PUBLIC FORUM

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

A member of the public shared his frustration with the developments on West Road, he believes that his vehicle had been damaged from construction traffic, despite his efforts to reclaim money from the developers they would not take responsibility as they claimed that there was no proof that this damage was caused from their construction vehicles. Cllr Eric Buckmaster said that he was familiar with this incident and that he would write to both developers (SAWB2 and SAWB3 as it was uncertain which site was responsible) and request their cooperation on the matter to bring the situation to a satisfactory close. Cllr Greg Rattey and Cllr Annelise Furnace supported this and requested that the Interim Town Clerk writes a letter to the developers of both sites on behalf of the Town Council supporting this case.

20/186 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 29 March 2021 (M09).
[prop; Cllr A Alder sec'd 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

20/187 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Received and noted the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 29 March 2021 (P17)

Received and noted the draft minutes of the Planning Committee held on 12 April 2021 (P18)

- 20/188 FINANCE AND POLICY MEETING**
Received and noted the draft minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on 12 April 2021 (F04)
- 20/189 ECO-AUDIT WORKING PARTY**
Received and noted the notes of the Eco-Audit Working Party held on 22 March 2021.
- 20/190 TOWN GREEN WORKING PARTY**
Received and noted the notes of the Town Green Working Group held on 06 April 2021
Interim Town Clerk reported that artwork had been received from Fawbert and Barnard School and Cllr D Royle confirmed that he had received ideas and suggestions from the Brownies. It was agreed that all of the work would be displayed in the council chamber over a few days and councillors were welcome to book a slot of time with officers to visit the chamber and view the work. COVID restrictions will be in place.
- 20/191 STANDING ORDERS**
Resolved: to amend Standing Orders by the addition of the following clause:
 1 (d). Subject to the provisions of the Coronavirus Act 2020, meetings of the Council and its Committees and sub-Committees may be held remotely by a media platform such as Zoom or Teams.
[prop; Cllr G Rattey, sec'd Cllr J Burmicz] All in favour
- 20/192 APPOINTMENT OF TOWN CLERK AND RFO**
Resolved: to suspend Standing Orders for this agenda item only
[prop; Cllr A Alder, sec'd Cllr E Buckmaster] All in favour
Resolved: to accept the recommendation of the Appointments and Appraisals Committee to appoint Mr Christopher Hunt as Town Clerk and RFO with effect from 06 September 2021.
[prop; Cllr A Alder, sec'd Cllr G Rattey] All in favour
- 20/193 WEST ROAD DEVELOPMENTS (SAWB 2 & SAWB 3)**
 Cllr E Buckmaster updated as follows:
- A meeting with the local police team on site at West Road and collective discussions with both developers had taken place and the police will be writing to developers with their 'action points' to further assist with the enforcement of health and safety concerns with regards to both sites in West Road.
 - Developers are more cooperative with adhering to the time restrictions that have been put in place. Both developers have marshals at the top of West Road who are able to give advice on locations to wait if a supplier should arrive early to site.
 - Cllr E Buckmaster still requires residents and parishioners to report to him any breaches that they witness, especially with weight limit restriction infringement.
 - Barratts had written to all residents requesting that they move their vehicles from the roads so that they can sweep the roads clear of stones and debris from constructions vehicles, some residents were reluctant to do so. A member of the public confirmed that letters had not been delivered to households but placed on vehicles that had blown away. Cllr E Buckmaster will

inform them that they need to write to households.

- Taylor Wimpey confirmed that they had updated their Transport Management Plan drawing and this has been issued to all of their suppliers and sub-contractors, this document clearly outlines the use of the Spellbrook layby.
- Mandeville School expansion has been incorrectly reported on Social Media claiming that the plans to expand will not be started until all the houses have been built. This is incorrect, Herts County Council will be going out to consultation soon.

Cllr A Alder suggested that signs that have been erected in neighbouring towns around construction sites clearly displaying 'No Construction Vehicles' were effective and could be used on the High Wych Road and at other locations around the town to reinforce the message on access. *Cllr E Buckmaster* agreed that this was an effective solution and would investigate this further.

20/194 TOWN EVENTS 2021

Town Managers across East Herts had met and all were cautious about large scale events, further government guidelines awaited to ascertain what type of events could proceed.

20/195 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS

Additionally, to the submitted report:

- Air Quality letter response from East Herts Council and a meeting is arranged for 12 May 2021 at 12 noon via Zoom. Please email *Cllr A Furnace* if you wish to be invited to this meeting.
- Grateful thanks to Interim Clerk for executing the protocol on the death of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, a book of condolence was opened in line with the protocol in a COVID secure environment, a 2 minute silence was held on Saturday 17th April outside the council offices. Additional thanks to Father Simon of Great St Marys for the Service of Remembrance that was held on Sunday 18th at 3pm. Thanks given to all Councillors that were able to attend these events.
- Sawbo Daily Mile charity event – thank you to all those that participated in this event and have made donations to the charities.
- Attendance at Scouts AGM via Zoom on Saturday 24th April 2021.

Cllr A Alder advised that a sum of around £150 had been raised in the retiring collection at the Service of Remembrance on Sunday 18th April on behalf of the Mayor's charities.

20/196 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

To receive representatives reports from:

- County Councillor E Buckmaster in addition to the report detailed:
 - 20MPH speed limit is due to be in place imminently.
 - Sheering Mill Lane One-Way System – Public engagement will take place in May 2021.
 - Burnside and London Road yellow lines are imminent. Due date was after 19 April 2021.
 - Interim Town Clerk had reported that a fire had occurred in the Vantorts play area, also a fire in Pishiobury Park over the weekend. It is not believed that the incidents

were connected, the head of service for East Herts Council has issued a press statement detailing that the Vantorts play area fire was arson and that the Pishiobury Park fire was accidental as a result of a BBQ not being extinguished completely after use. BBQ's are not permitted in this area and therefore warnings will be issued around the park.

- District Councillor Alder Report in addition to the report detailed:
 - East Herts Council full council meeting has been brought forward to 29 April 2021.

- District Councillor R Buckmaster had no further updates to the submitted report.

- District Councillor J Burmicz in addition to the report detailed:
 - He was in consultation with East Herts Planning department and a meeting was due on 29th April to gain further information for the hospitality industry on outside temporary structures. Cllr Gray reported that in his experience it had been difficult to find the relevant information, although officers from East Herts had visited some public houses and confirmed that the structures they had erected were suitable and in line with current COVID guidelines. Cllr R Buckmaster confirmed that regulations on these temporary structures had been relaxed and extended from 28 days to 56 days.

- Other Representatives
 - Cllr Royle - Footpaths; Schools; Town Twinning and in addition:
 - Confirmed that a report from East Herts Council officer David Thorogood on the Nature Reserve would be progressed via Cllr E Buckmaster in the near future. Cllr E Buckmaster confirmed that the decision on this would be made in a process known as a 'non key decision' that does not have to go through the committee system and the decision is made by an executive member, he predicts an outcome during May 2021.
 - Cllr R Buckmaster – RHSO; SYPRC and in addition;
 - SYPRC – Benches installed at Bullfields and the groundwork for a cycle rack has been completed.
 - RHSO – Juice will be sold in June in Bell Street. Apple Day in October is under consideration in line with current COVID restrictions.
 - Library Update – a risk assessment has been carried out and they are waiting for screens to be installed, volunteers are being trained for the re-opening. There is no official date at present, but it will be with reduced opening times and a maximum of 7 people at any time will be permitted in the library and this includes working volunteers. Updates will be posted on the town council website. There will be a 15 minute browsing time per person once open.

Cllr E Buckmaster – Shaping Sawbridgeworth Update, there is an ad hoc Shaping Sawbridgeworth Development Monitoring

Committee, this will be revived in the new civic year, it will be open for all members to attend. S106 documents had detailed that there was £13k allocated from one developer for the Bullfields playing field. A meeting to review the allocation of S106 monies would be useful for future planning.

20/197 LOCAL BUSINESSES

Cllr G Rattey reported that the opening of new travel agents in Knight Street on Saturday 1st May was the mark of exciting times ahead for the town in terms of vibrancy.

East Herts Council has paid out 95% of the re-start grants which is a fantastic achievement and praised the officer team at East Herts Council.

Cllr A Alder congratulated Cllr G Rattey and Jo Sargant for the huge amount of work and dedication given to the businesses in the town during this very difficult last year. Cllr P Gray supported Cllr A Alder's comment and said that the information that had been given out and the method of communication was excellent.

20/198 DEVOLUTION AND RECOVERY

With no update on this white paper, Cllr E Buckmaster suggested that this agenda item had been long standing with no progress and recommended that it be included in future under Deposit & Consultation Documents agenda item. Cllr A Furnace agreed to suspend the agenda item until more progress is made.

20/199 DEPOSIT & CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

Received and noted: NALC Consultation on Remote Meetings. Cllr A Furnace requested members to send their comments to her and she would consolidate a response.

20/200 FINANCIAL REPORT

Received and noted.

20/201 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Received and noted.

20/202 BANK RECONCILIATIONS AND MANDATES

Received and noted.

20/203 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items for future agendas

Meeting ended at 20:08

Thought for the Day given by Cllr J Burmicz:

The Patriarchs, An Elegy - Written to mark Prince Philip's death, by Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage

The weather in the window this morning
is snow, unseasonal singular flakes,
a slow winter's final shiver. On such an occasion
to presume to eulogise one man is to pipe up
for a whole generation – that crew whose survival
was always the stuff of minor miracle,
who came ashore in orange-crate coracles,

fought ingenious wars, finagled triumphs at sea
with flaming decoy boats, and side-stepped torpedoes.

Husbands to duty, they unrolled their plans
across billiard tables and vehicle bonnets,
regrouped at breakfast. What their secrets were
was everyone's guess and nobody's business.
Great-grandfathers from birth, in time they became
both inner core and outer case
in a family heirloom of nesting dolls.
Like evidence of early man their boot-prints stand
in the hardened earth of rose-beds and borders.

They were sons of a zodiac out of sync
with the solar year, but turned their minds
to the day's big science and heavy questions.
To study their hands at rest was to picture maps
showing hachured valleys and indigo streams, schemes
of old campaigns and reconnaissance missions.
Last of the great avuncular magicians
they kept their best tricks for the grand finale:
Disproving Immortality and Disappearing Entirely.

The major oaks in the wood start tuning up
and skies to come will deliver their tributes.
But for now, a cold April's closing moments
parachute slowly home, so by mid-afternoon
snow is recast as seed heads and thistledown.