

# Sawbridgeworth and Spellbrook

## Annual Town Meeting

**MINUTES** of the Annual Town Meeting of Sawbridgeworth and Spellbrook held at The Council Chamber, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth, Herts at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

**Present:** Cllr Greg Rattey (Town Mayor) Chairman; 8 Local Government Electors for the Parish of Sawbridgeworth and Spellbrook, (including 8 other Town Councillors). PS Funes-Walker, PC Marshall, PCSO Higham, Herts Police, Town Clerk Christopher Hunt, Finance Manager Lisa Dale.

The Town Mayor welcomed those present to the Sawbridgeworth Annual Town meeting and held a minutes silence for the people of Ukraine, following this explained that this was not a meeting of the Town Council but of the people of Sawbridgeworth and Spellbrook.

### **22/01 Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting**

**Resolved** – that the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 8th April 2019 be confirmed as a correct record.  
*[prop Cllr Alder; secd Cllr R Buckmaster]*

### **22/02 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from those minutes

### **22/03 Report by the Mayor on Town Council Activities in 2018/19**

The Mayor, Cllr Greg Rattey referred to the two-year absence of the Annual Town meeting due to Covid restrictions. He continued to highlight the need for the community to live at ease regardless of creed, colour or sexual orientation.

The unity of the business community was highlighted with the highest application for grants for assistance regarding the pandemic. He touched on the great work from East Herts District Council and passed on his thanks.

There were no questions for the Mayor.

### **22/04 Report by the Town Clerk Appendix A**

The Town Clerk, Christopher Hunt, reported on the Council's Accounts to 31 March 2022.

### **22/05 The Mayor invited Trustee Reports from Town Charities:**

**Cllr Angela Alder, Chair** of the **Hailey Centre** report is at:  
**Appendix B**

Highlighted the support that will be offered to Ukraine refugees and thanked East Herts District Council for their support through the pandemic. Funding was needed and fundraising activities will be taking place.

**Cllr Ruth Buckmaster, Chair of the *Sawbridgeworth Young Peoples Recreational Centre*** report is at:

**Appendix C**

The Centre closing during the pandemic was difficult, the preschool kept running and most activities are returning. Other grants will be assisting in starting new activities and the refurbishment of the kitchen.

Cllr Furnace thanked the volunteers and committee for all the hard work on grant applications and wanted it noted her thanks to Clarion housing association.

**22/06 The Mayor invited Reports from other parties:**

**Eco Audit Working Group, Cllr Furnace**

**Appendix D**

Wanted thanks noted for Bob Reed for all his work and commented on citizens science group and the work with the Canals and Rivers Trust that is planned for the year ahead.

**Guiding - Gilly Squire**

**Appendix E**

Report received

**RHSO – Cllr R Buckmaster**

**Appendix F**

**County Cllr Eric Buckmaster** reported on matters at County Council

**Appendix G**

He highlighted:

- The budget now sits at over a billion pounds this year. For the County and 100 million pounds was additionally received for Covid support and grants.
- The report mentions a large number of initiatives for the environment and funding for these has also be set aside.
- A successful bid was made with Arriva for 27 electric buses in Stevenage
- West Road developments will be a focus and the continued support he will invest with the community.
- He thanked all councillors throughout the pandemic as well as the community work councillors continued to work on.

**Herts Police - Police Sergeant Funes-Walker**

**Appendix H**

She highlighted:

- Priorities were around awareness on the use of e-scooters
- Drug use and ASB in and around Great St Mary's Church, partnership work has reduced issues.
- Vantorts Park, benches had been removed due to ASB and larger bins fitted
- Work had been completed in local schools
- A larger scale drugs operation with the Metropolitan Police which lead to a positive arrest in the Town.

**History Society - Cllr Royle  
Appendix I**

**Town Twinning – Cllr Royle  
Appendix J**

**Sustainable Sawbridgeworth – Cllr Royle  
Appendix K**

He highlighted:

- Support offered from across the community for Ukraine refugees
- Thanked the support from the Hailey Centre regarding the same subject.

**22/07 Report on the Town Action Plan – Cllr Parsad  
Appendix L**

He Highlighted:

- Community Engagement and Communication – a good relationship continues with the local news paper reporter.
- The Flyer is running regular reports from the Mayor, Cllr Royle and Clerks Corner.
- Work has started with the new surgeries in the chamber with Councillors, Police, CAB and other invited partners are being considered.

**22/08 Open Forum**

- Cllr E Buckmaster – raised the funding opportunities to place a speed indicator device along the A1184 near to the Bull Public House and Leventhorpe School from either the Council or the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Cllr Furnace – raised the issue around the consultation on the 20mph in the different areas of the town and would it be quicker to do at the same time. Cllr E Buckmaster didn't think this would be possible but would explore this option.

Reports made at the Annual Town Meeting are attached to these minutes.  
They are also posted on the town council website.

There being no other questions the Annual Town Meeting closed at 8:20pm

