

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 25 April 2016**.

Those present

Cllr Sotirios Adamopoulos	Cllr Don Hall
Cllr Angela Alder	Cllr Heather Riches
Cllr Eric Buckmaster	Cllr Tom Reeks
Cllr Ruth Buckmaster	Cllr Mike Shaw
Cllr John Burmicz	

In attendance:

Cty Cllr Roger Beeching MBE BDS JP	1 member of the public
Michael Jarvis – H&E Observer	R Bowran - Town Clerk

Welcome by the Mayor, prayers were said by Cllr Adamopoulos

15/187 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from:
Cllr Pat Coysten – unwell and Cllr David Royle – on holiday
Cllr Will Mortimer was absent

15/188 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

15/189 PUBLIC FORUM

To receive representations from members of the public on matters within the remit of the Town Council.

Mr Norman Manion referred to the latest edition of the Sawbridgeworth Flyer in which the town council were criticised for not imposing 20mph speed limits in the town in response to a 1400 signature petition.

Cty Cllr Beeching responded that the petition which had been handed to him via the town council had been given attention by the County. He commented that the petition, which had no lead petitioner to respond to, had contained about 800 signatures many of which were fictitious names. He said he was aware of the identity of the instigator of the petition and had responded to him personally. The county had installed speed monitoring equipment in Bell Street which recorded average speeds of 28 mph, this not high enough to warrant a priority scheme for a 20mph limit. However it remained on the county wish list, but with a low priority.

Mr Norman Manion referred again to parking in Millfields outside his kitchen window.

Cty Cllr Beeching responded that county had investigated the issue and had concluded that it was not appropriate to install bollards at that location.

Mr Norman Manion referred again to antisocial parking in Bullfields near Reedings school.

Cty Cllr Beeching responded that county had investigated the issue and had concluded that they would initiate the placing of bollards along the stretch of Bullfields in question.

15/190 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council Meeting held on 29 March 2016 (M11).
[prop Cllr Alder; secd Cllr R Buckmaster]

Cllr Shaw commented that the fly tipping on the A1184 opposite the Italstyle complex had been cleared. This was carried out by Thames water and it was noted that Harass fencing was now installed to inhibit a repeat of the problem.

15/191 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Received and Noted: The minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on:

- 29 March 2016 (P16)
- 11 April 2016 (P17)

15/192 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

To note any resolutions made at the Annual Town Meeting held on 11 April 2016. There were none made.

15/193 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

To receive advice of the Mayor's correspondence and communications

- The Civic Dinner was a great success, the hall looked fabulous and we had good many comments regarding the catering. Thanks to Joanne, Lisa, the Town Clerk and others involved in the organisation and set up. Thank you to all of the local businesses and individuals who donated raffle prizes. Thanks to Councillor Alder as always for the flowers.
- Likewise the Queen's Birthday celebration and beacon lighting went off well. Around 40 guests attended. There will be a wider public participation for the fun on the field event at the time of the patron's lunch.
- The St Georges day parade was well attended by the uniformed organisations yesterday. The Duck also made an appearance.
- The Town Civic Awards evening will be on 20th May at 7pm. Public nominations are sought for Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the year. Forms are on the website.
- This Thursday we are going to have an initial meeting regarding forming a Sawbridgeworth Local History committee which could be a collaboration between the WW1 group, U3A, and the Town Council.

15/194 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

To receive representatives reports from:

- County Cllr Roger Beeching MBE JP
 - School Places. Of the 15,133 applications for reception places, 82% had been allocated their first ranked school. An extra 270 places have been made available this year. Unsuccessful applicants are placed on the continuing interest list. There is a significant challenge as there are 10,000 children under the age of four in Herts than there were a decade ago.
 - Cllr Alder encouraged parents without places to appeal to the panel who will consider extenuating

- circumstances.
 - Cllr R Buckmaster asked how many Sawbridgeworth children did not get a Sawbridgeworth place.
 - *Cllr Beeching replied that he did not know the exact number but that £180m had been spent on infrastructure but only in the west of the county.*
 - Cllr Shaw said that with net migration of 375k per annum the situation would get worse.
 - *Cllr Beeching said Yes.*
 - Cllr Shaw asked whether Cllr Beeching had asked the government for more funding for the area.
 - *Cllr Beeching said Yes*
 - Cllr Burmicz mentioned the social media campaign highlighting the situation of residents of Lower Sheering who believe they are living in Sawbridgeworth.
 - *Cllr Beeching gave the example of two working parents in Lower Sheering who had not been given a Sawbridgeworth place. He explained that they were Essex residents and their personal life style choices did not necessarily entitle them to a place out of area.*
 - Road gritters have been out on 39 occasions and spread 9,000 tonnes of salt on our roads. Of the 64 gritting trucks, 13 are multi-purpose and can be used for other tasks
 - Ringway in 2016 have filled 4,000 potholes, cleared 13,000 drains, cut 6.1million square metres of grass verges, fixed 3,800 street lights and dealt with 150 instances of fly tipping.
 - The HomeFirst scheme for treating people at home rather than in hospital has won an award from the Local Government Chronicle for the service.
 - Cllr Royle (*in absentia*) had asked for an update on any progress to combat flooding at Parsonage Lane and Pishiobury Drive.
 - *Cllr Beeching said that works has commenced that morning at Parsonage Lane.*
 - Cllr Royle (*in absentia*) had asked for an update on the progress against the petition for a 20mph speed limit in Bell Street.
 - *Cllr Beeching said that he had already responded to this in his reply to Mr Norman Manion.(supra M15/189)*
 - District Cllr Mrs Angela Alder reported:
 - Attending 2 meetings of a T&F group
 - Touring 4 Leisure Centre
 - Attending a training session on Standards and attending a Standards sub-committee that morning.
 - Board Meeting at HAPTC and agreeing changes to the staff appraisal process
 - STACC meeting featuring the Aerozone education centre which might be of interest to our local schools.
 - There will be an Emergency Services liaison meeting in the Hailey Centre on 12 May
 - District Cllr Eric Buckmaster
 - Grant applications are now open for small and large capital grants from East Herts. The closing date is May 23rd. We received and signed off 48 Community grant applications for the Queen's Birthday Summer celebrations.
 - There are also performance to excellence grants of up to £250 available to support young people in sport and the arts. The closing date for these is 27th May. The next District Plan Executive Panel meeting will be on 24th May.
 - Hertfordshire Police were not present but reported:
 - Operation STOMP on 20 April

- 14 smoke alarm referrals
- 98 Focussing reports on vulnerable people
- 3 visits to council office to pick up security items
- 53 people signed up for OWL alerts
- Retailer break ins – 2 arrests made
- Ongoing enquires to combat graffiti
- 2 visitors to the PCSO surgery
 - Cllr Alder asked about statistics on cars entering the car park the wrong way. *Clerk responded that there was cctv coverage and although he did not have the resource to monitor the coverage continually, if incidents were reported they could be tracked and reported to the police.*
- Other Representatives
 - Cllr E Buckmaster reported for the RHSO:
 - Since the May Fayre will be this Sunday the monthly maintenance will take place on the second Sunday, 8th May. We intend to sell Rivers Apple juice on the Moosburg German Town Twinning stall.

15/195 TOWN ACTION PLAN

Clerk reported on the presentation of the Town Action Plan 2016-20 at the Annual Town meeting and that it was available on the council's web site.

Asked about scrutiny of the Plan and Actions achieved against it, *Clerk responded that there would be a Working Party charged with that task and that progress would be reported to the town at each Annual Town meeting, as had occurred with the previous Plan.*

15/196 CLERK'S REPORT

To receive and note the Town Clerk's report
Attached as Appendix A

Clerk further advised:

- Notification that Cambridge Road was to be resurfaced from West Road to The Bull PH from 17 May to 20 May.
- Notification from Herts CC that the Library is to be relocated at the Fire Station site.
- Herts CC (Ringway) advised changes to licencing for festive lighting, clerk to attend a 3 hour briefing on 12 May.
- EHDC are now consulting with us on our experience of ways to provide Community Transport.

15/197 TOWN PROJECTS REPORT

To receive and note the Town Project Manager's report
Attached as Appendix B

15/198 DEPOSIT & CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

To note any items for Deposit and Consultation
There were none

15/199 FINANCIAL REPORT

Noted: The current Financial Report

15/200 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Noted and Approved: The accounts for payment

Meeting closed at 20:30

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting of the Town Council and will be held at 7.30 pm on Monday 23 May 2016 in the Council Chamber at Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth.

Appendix A

Clerk's Report

Allotments

- Eco Toilets ordered for Southbrook and Bullfields.

Bus Shelters

- Spellbrook shelter repaired from the effects of further vandalism

Car Park Subsidy (First Hour Free)

- Decision as to continuity for 2016/17 has now been made

Cemetery

- 68 Interments managed in 2015 to date
- Application for an exhumation to be made to MoJ

Chamber Utilisation

- Used for several community meetings and Police drop-in

Community Transport - Sawbobus and Minibus Hire

- Dial-a-Ride service provided; 95 so far this year.
- Promised vehicle from DfT now specified, delivery promised for early July.

Consultee on all matters relevant to the town

- No new consultations this month.

Financial Accounting System

- Training scheduled for 28 April

Fly Posting

- Continued surveillance and unauthorised advertising removed.

Hertfordshire Highways

- Sign cleaning, footpaths clearance and gardening works carried out.

Neighbourhood Plan

- No current activity

Planning Matters (acting as a consultee)

- 131 Applications considered since the beginning of the new term.

Projects

- Bell Street Conveniences; dialogue with EHDC 19 April; SLA received; next meeting is with EHDC consultant engineer to clarify specification.
- Town Green; no further activity. Outline objective discussed with EHDC by the mayor.
- Library; advice received from HCC on the relocation of the library to co-exist with the fire service.

Publicity/Information:

- Newsletter consideration of a revised format to be discussed.
- Contributions being made to Sawbridgeworth Flyer and CM21 magazine
- Communications working party 29 April

Town Action Plan

- Presentation at Annual Town Meeting 11 April 2016

Appendix B

Town Project Manager's Report

Civic Events (promoted by the Mayor)

- Civic Dinner – **Saturday April 9th 2016** at Sawbridgeworth Memorial Hall. This was a dinner dance event with a 3 course dinner, followed by entertainment from a local band. Catering is by Magpie Catering. Closer to the Ceiling are local band that have been booked to provide the entertainment for the evening. A great raffle will be available
- Annual Civic Awards and Presentation of Mayor's Charity cheque to Sawbridgeworth & High Wych Girl Guiding. **Friday 20th May 2016** (7pm). Please make sure that this date is in your diary, it is an important event where also the Citizen and Young Citizen of the year have their presentations made.

Future Dates for the diary

Thursday 21st April 2016 - This is the official date of the Queen's 90th Birthday. We will be holding an evening event for Councillors and invited guests, with drinks and canapes. This is a free of charge event for invited guests only. We will light the beacon outside Sayesbury Manor as part of this event.

Sunday 12th June 2016 - Fun on the Field. This event will follow the same format as the last 2 years with community stalls, beer tent and dog show. Additionally this year we are encouraging people to bring gazebos and tables to make a giant 'street party' picnic.

Saturday 26th November 2016 – Christmas Lights Festival. So far the change from the traditional Friday evening to a Saturday event has been well received. I have already had notification from the PTA Chair at F&B that they will continue with their Friday night Christmas Fayre, and I have heard that the Memorial Hall will not be putting on a Food Festival at all this year, of course these notifications are subject to change.