

# SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

## AMENITIES COMMITTEE

### Minutes

of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held at the Council Offices, 49-51 Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth at 20.15 hrs. on **Monday 09 July 2012.**

#### **Those present**

Cllr Angela Alder  
Cllr Pat Coysten

Cllr Barry Hodges  
Cllr Brian Rochester

#### **In attendance:**

Cllr Eric Buckmaster  
R Bowran - Town Clerk

Joanne Kenny – Admin Officer

#### **A12/01 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN**

**Resolved:** That Cllr Alder be Chairman of the Amenities Committee for the civic year 2012/13. [*prop Cllr Hodges; secd Cllr Coysten*]

**Resolved:** That Cllr Coysten be Vice-Chairman of the Amenities Committee for the civic year 2012/13. [*prop Cllr Hodges; secd Cllr Rochester*]

#### **A12/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Derek Filler and Cllr Adam Lowe, both attending to other business.

#### **A12/03 PUBLIC FORUM**

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

#### **A12/04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

#### **A12/05 MINUTES**

**Resolved:** To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 14 May 2012 (A04) [*prop Cllr Hodges; secd Cllr Rochester*]

#### **A12/06 ALLOTMENTS**

To report on matters relating to Allotments

- Allotment Association. Next meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 24 July at Bullfields.
- Water supplies. Hose pipe ban has been lifted but there are still water charging issues to be resolved at Southbrook.
- Bullfields. Security fencing installation should be started in about two weeks' time.
- Southbrook. Security fencing installation should be started in about two weeks' time.
- Vantorts. Nothing to report.
- Bellmead. Plot 1A, allocated to the Scouts is not being used. General state of site has declined again.
- Waiting list. Decreased by two as plots are reallocated.

**A12/07 CEMETERY**

To report on matters relating to the Town Cemetery

- Inspections. Continue to be carried out on a regular basis.
- Breaches of Regulations. Glass and plastic containers have been removed from next to the Memorial Wall.
- Maintenance. Some complaints about upkeep but from people who have not appreciated how fast the grass is growing this year.
- Ranger's programme. Is settling into a routine and is working with the assistance of the Footpaths Officer.
- Roadways. Now need a replacement of the pea shingle laid two years ago.
- Cemetery Expansion, preparation of land east of the cemetery. Next stage is to plan hedge planting round the boundaries for the autumn.

**A12/08 OPEN SPACES & FOOTPATHS**

To report on matters relating to Footpaths and Open Spaces

- Vantorts Park
  - Official opening. Was attended by the mayor and officers.
- Bullfields
  - Inspection and maintenance carried out, one defect reported and is being dealt with the SYPRC management committee
  - Installation of security cameras will be undertaken in the next few weeks.
- West Road
  - Inspection and maintenance carried out. Quote for tree canopy lifting and removal of unsafe trees obtained. Question about restricting access to area by dogs to be considered.
  - Contractual matters with Kompan have now been resolved and the invoice settled. One new picnic bench has been received in compensation.
- Other areas
  - Bell Street flower beds have been maintained.
  - London Road flower beds have been replanted for the Jubilee and have received compliments.
- Footpaths
  - General state is said to be good although there is rapid growth at edges.
  - Vandalism and Arson has not been so prevalent.

**A12/09 CIVIC AMENITIES**

To report on matters relating to Civic Amenities

- Ranger activities
  - Report on current arrangements. Steve Parrish is proving to be a valuable asset.
- Farmers Market
  - Report on June Market. Was quieter than expected due to several stall holders not attending and possibly the effect of the Jubilee week-end.
  - Plans for the future of the market. New stalls are being sourced together with enhanced publicity materials.

- May Fayre
  - Report on post mortem meeting with Herts Police. This was postponed by the police, we await a new date.
- Floral Displays
  - Display for 2012. All planters and baskets are on display. The additional half baskets on the finger posts have been a success and have attracted favourable public comment.
  - Suggested that the planters be re-used later in the year for Christmas displays.
- Town Signs
  - In car park for town directions. Investigations and quotations are being obtained.
  - For a sign at London Road is still to be investigated.

Meeting ended at 21:00