

SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN ACTION PLAN AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes

of the meeting of the Town Action Plan and Amenities Committee held at the Council Offices, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth at 8pm on **Monday 18th October 2022**.

Those present

Cllr Craig Chester

Cllr John Rider

Cllr Annelise Furnace

Cllr Angus Wyatt

Cllr Greg Rattey (Ex Officio)

In attendance:

Christopher Hunt - Town Clerk

Cllr Angela Alder

Joanne Sargent - Events manager

T22/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Burmicz, received 18/10/22

T22/16 PUBLIC FORUM

Cllr Alder, wanted to raise questions on two agenda items being the Sawbobus and councillor engagement.

Thanked the Council for re-arranging bus routes to assist in the attendance to the Hailey Centre for afternoon events.

Thanked staff for the Community Connections event and wanted further details regarding the West Road community event and will be liaising with PCSO Higham.

T22/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Rider – as an allotment holder and would not vote on agenda item T22/19

T22/18 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 13th June 2022 (T01)

[prop Cllr Chester; sec'd Cllr Rattey]

The Clerk updated several actions from these minutes.

- Wrote to Nicolas Maddox re Path 22 and safety improvements will be carried out.
- Bird flu advice had been explored and this had been increased to restrictions nationwide and Cllr Rider was supplied the guidance for the chickens held at the allotments.
- Cllr R Buckmaster wanted the chatter bench re-located and this had been resolved as another bench was in a position that negated the need to move this bench.
- EV chargers were now going to be fitted and a surveyor employed by East Herts District Council was planning to assess the site.

T22/19 ALLOTMENTS

Received and noted – Allotments Officer Report

The report was talked through by the Clerk.

Resolved: Not to raise the price of the allotment rent prices for 2023/24 and the water prices will need to rise but will be assessed throughout the year.

- 20 people remain on the waiting list and 16 plots have tenants with outstanding payments which may offer those on the waiting list an opportunity to take some of these.
- Flooding prevention works will be starting soon with removal of fly tipping at the front of the site, plots and further flooding work will be assessed after the initial fly tipping removal.
- Ranger work schedule discussed and will not be implemented at this time.

T22/20 CEMETERY

Received and noted – Cemetery Officer Report

- Burial numbers are down on previous months.
- The current space available will offer 30 years of burials for the future and consideration will be made to purchasing more land to secure the future site for the Town.
- Wildflower meadow will be assessed and re sown
- Community payback work is going well and weekly Sunday visits are being made.

ACTION – Town Clerk to thank the probation officer involved in the maintenance completed in the Cemetery.

T22/21 FOOTPATHS & OPEN SPACES

David Royle stated he would be happy to continue to report on this subject as a member of public and it was agreed for the Clerk to invite him to do this.

T22/22 OPERATIONS

To receive, note and discuss matters relating to Operations

- SawboBus is running well under the donation scheme and the Co-op have made contact in sponsorship following the closure of Budgens.
- A new driver for the bus has been appointed and starts on the 24th October 2022
- Cllr Wyatt enquired in respect to sponsors and 5 sponsors currently advertise and support the scheme and further support is being explored.

T22/23 ECO-AUDIT WORKING PARTY

Received and noted – Eco Audit Report

Cllr Furnace advised that:

- DEFRA – EHDC have been supported in making a grant application on air quality and using Sawbridgeworth as an exemplar town. This application has been submitted
- The Jubilee hedge -English Heritage may not allow for the planting as it may damage the Causeway heritage site.
- Bob Reed is setting up a series of 10 nature walks
- The town travel challenge had four schools taking part

- Cllr Furnace thanked Cllr Chester for arranging for students to assist with the Sawbo saurus at the Town Walk event

ACTION – Town Clerk to thank the police officers involved and for the funding from Cllr Buckmaster for supporting Sawbo saurus

T22/24 TOWN ACTION PLAN

Cllr Wyatt will be reviewing the current plan and how to develop this for the next two years it will run.

T22/25 COUNCILLOR ENGAGEMENT

- Community Connections was discussed and raised as a success and agreed that this should be repeated every year.
- Councillors had been emailed regarding an engagement opportunity to work with PCSO Higham in meeting and greeting new residents moving in to Sawb 2 and 3 development areas.

T22/26 RAIL STATION ADOPTION

- Cllr Wyatt updated meetings had occurred with volunteers and a list of actions and questions had been created with short and longer term issues.
- Funding was being explored and if planters are fitted the Town rangers may be required to assist in watering next year.
- Additional signage and information boards were being investigated to draw people in to the town from the station.

T22/27 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

No further items were raised.

Meeting ended at 20:55