

SAWBRIDGECWORTH 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 11 February 2013**.

Those present

Cllr Angela Alder - Chair
Cllr Pat Coysten

Cllr Derek Filler
Cllr Barry Hodges

In attendance:

Cllr Eric Buckmaster
R Bowran - Town Clerk

Joanne Kenny – Admin Officer

A12/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Jane Adams – unwell. Cllr Brian Rochester was absent.

A12/17 PUBLIC FORUM

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

A12/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

A12/19 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 08 October 2012 (A02) [*prop Cllr Hodges; secd Cllr Filler*]

A12/20 ALLOTMENTS

To report on matters relating to Allotments

- Allotment Association. The Southbrook Association will shortly be distributing a newsletter.
- Water supplies. The supply from Bellmead to the old scout hut has now been disconnected. There are still water charging issues to be resolved at Southbrook.
- Bullfields. Nothing to report
- Southbrook. Some evidence of rat infestation due to the keeping of chickens in one area. Tenant is being required to relocate them.
- Vantorts and Bellmead. Some vandalism to the new signs..
- Waiting list. Several more plots offered to new tenants. Ranger is clearing some ready for use. New tenants are not always taking up their obligations though.

A12/21 CEMETERY

To report on matters relating to the Town Cemetery

- Inspections. Continue to be carried out on a regular basis.
- Revision of Fees for 2013/14. Clerk presented a comparison of fees with those of the four neighbouring cemetery authorities and proposed revisions to bring fees up into line with them yet remaining competitive.

Resolved: To adopt the proposed scale of revised fees.
[prop Cllr Hodges; secd Cllr Coysten]

- Cemetery Expansion. One thousand hedging plants now in place around the boundaries.

A12/22 OPEN SPACES & FOOTPATHS

To report on matters relating to Footpaths and Open Spaces

- Vantorts Park
 - No issues with either the park or the skateboard area of which we are aware.
- Bullfields
 - No current issues, graffiti being removed by the management committee.
- West Road
 - Inspection and maintenance.
 - The new bench donated by Rotary will be publicised on Monday 18 February.
- Other areas
 - Bell Street flower beds have been cleared.
 - London Road flower beds have been cleared
- Footpaths
 - General state is said to be good although the Footpaths Officer and the Ranger are carrying out a lot of clearance that is the responsibility of other agencies.
 - Herts Highways have cleared a number of hot spots where overhanging canopies are contributing to debris on footpaths.
 - It was noted that the footpath near the Spellbrook Lane cross roads was obstructed by brambles.

A12/23 CIVIC AMENITIES

To report on matters relating to Civic Amenities

- Ranger activities
 - Report on current arrangements. Steve Parrish is now taking on the role of caretaker for The Manor.
- Farmers' Market
 - Report on November and December markets. General feedback was good although consensus was that the market looks smaller than before because of the new layout.
 - Plans for the future of the market. EHDC have declined to grant a new Farmers' Market licence for every month in the new year on the grounds that there are too many non-farmers stalls. New application made for a Commercial Market.
 - All About Sawbridgeworth (AAS) to be involved in broadening the scope of the market. New approach will require liaison with EHDC.
- Facilities at The Manor
 - Official Opening by the Mayor on 20 March with invited guests.
 - Open Day 10:00 to 13:00 on Saturday 23 March.
 - Chamber Hire Fees for 2013/14. Clerk presented a comparison of fees with those of the other main venues in the town and proposed a scale of charges for the use of the Chamber.

Resolved: To adopt the proposed scale of fees.
[prop Cllr Hodges; secd Cllr Coysten]

- Planting on the west boundary of the site to be Berberis or similar.
- Floral Displays
 - Display for 2013. Sponsorship of planters and baskets will be by Oakridge Nursery this year. Clerk to discuss contents with Cllr Coysten.
- May Fayre
 - Road Closures applied for.
 - Mayor, Clerk and organiser Judy Godfrey will attend a police briefing on “Operation Apron 3” on 15 February.
- Fly Posting
 - County Cllr Beeching and the Clerk have again asked EHDC to attend to the fly posting issue in Station Roads opposite to The Maltings, in answer to many complaints. No response yet received.
- War Memorial
 - Church Wardens have voiced concerns that they had not been notified of the council’s intention to repair and refurbish the War Memorial. This appears to be a lack of communication between the former vicar and the PCC. Clerk to rectify the situation.

Meeting ended at 21:50