

SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes

of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held at the Council Offices, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth at 20.00 hrs. on **Monday 10th February, 2014.**

Those present

Cllr Angela Alder - Chair
Cllr Pat Coysten

Cllr Tom Reeks
Cllr Andrew Wincott

In attendance:

Cllr Eric Buckmaster
R Bowran - Town Clerk

Cllr Peter Mitchell
Joanne Kenny – Town Projects Manager

A13/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:
Cllr Derek Filler and from Cllr Jane Adams – both were unwell.

A13/19 PUBLIC FORUM

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

A13/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

A13/21 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 14 October 2013 (A02) [*prop Cllr Coysten; secd Cllr Wincott*]

A13/22 ALLOTMENTS

To report on matters relating to Allotments

- Allotment Association. Meetings continue although committee members are falling by the wayside. The Autumn Show is in doubt due to the move of the organiser.
- Bellmead. A further tree has been cut back at a cost of £150. A representative of the unofficial residents association continues to complain about overgrowth of trees.
- Waiting list. Seven people on the waiting list have been allocated plots. There remain 26 on the waiting list of whom 12 are inflexible about their choice of site. Those who have rejected three offers of a plot, currently 3 in number will be removed from the list.

A13/23 CEMETERY

To report on matters relating to the Town Cemetery

- Inspections. Continue to be carried out on a regular basis.
- Vandalism and Dog Fouling. The gates are now being closed at dusk and opened at dawn with appropriate notices explaining why this is being done. So far the regime seems to have been effective.

- Papers were presented on proposals to increase income at the cemetery by changing the charging structure of Memorial Trees and benches, “Greenish” burial with trees, the scattering of ashes and bespoke grave maintenance. The issue of a Green Burial area will be researched and recommendation made. Members approved the proposals.

A13/24 OPEN SPACES & FOOTPATHS

To report on matters relating to Footpaths and Open Spaces.

- Bullfields
 - Inspection and maintenance continue.
- West Road
 - Inspection and maintenance continue. Recent vandalism includes damage to the new litter bin and glass being found on the soft pour area.
 - The broken slide is waiting for agreement from the installation contractor to effect a repair.
- Other areas
 - Bell Street flower beds have been maintained.
 - London Road flower beds are subject to a new scheme is being thought out in conjunction with the erection of a town sign.
- Footpaths
 - We have established regular meetings with Rowan Perrin, the EHDC officer responsible, which has produced a positive plan of working together to maintain our footways and footpaths.

A13/25 CIVIC AMENITIES

To report on matters relating to Civic Amenities

- Ranger Activities
 - Steve Parrish continues to be a valuable asset, we are beginning the search for a Junior Ranger.
- Farmers Market
 - November, December and February markets. Footfall was 700, 1100 and 750 respectively. Several new traders have taken stalls.
 - Members asked that the commitment made by council staff should be recorded.
 - Contrary to the claims made in the recent retailers’ campaign it was noted that there was adequate spare car parking available and that reserved spaces had been kept for retailers who had clients with appointments.
- Floral Displays
 - Display for 2014 will again be sponsored by Oakridge nurseries. Plans to be made with help from Cllr Coysten.
 - Council is quoting Gilston & Eastwick PC for the upkeep of their proposed planters.
- Town Signs
 - Herts Highways have committed to installing the new signs by the end of the financial year. Principally to highlight the shopping centre of the town.

- Bell Street Conveniences
 - Quotations have been passed to EHDC and it is understood that the capital project has been included in their 2014-15 budget.
- Christmas Lights
 - Review of 2013 will be held shortly.... and ...
 - Plans for Friday 28 November 2014 formulated
- EHDC Champions
 - In the last six months no contact has been made.

Meeting ended at 21:20

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Monday 12 May 2014.