

# SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

## AMENITIES COMMITTEE Minutes

of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held by **Zoom** conference at 19:30 on **Monday 15 February 2021**.

**Those present:** Cllrs A Alder, **J Burmicz**, A Furnace, G Rattey, D Royle,

**In Attendance:** S Crocker – Town Clerk and two members of the public.

**Press:** None

### **A 20/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Received and accepted from Cllr Coysten and Cllr Gray both unwell.

### **A 20/26 PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no representations from members of the public on matters within the remit of the Amenities Committee at this time, but one member of public will speak at agenda item A 20/33 by invitation from the chair.

### **A 20/27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Pecuniary Interest by Members.

### **A 20/28 MINUTES**

**Resolved:** To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 12 October 2020 (A02)

[prop Cllr Alder; secd Cllr Furnace] - All in favour

There were no matters arising from these Minutes not dealt with elsewhere on this Agenda.

### **A 20/29 ALLOTMENTS**

**Noted:** Allotment Officers Report

Cllr Alder would like minuted the committee's thanks for the officer's reports that were included in the agenda pack. Useful to have comprehensive reports in advance of the meetings. Requested that it would be preferable to have officers in attendance at meetings when they have submitted reports.

Cllr Burmicz asked if the clerk could ensure that officers were present at meetings in the future.

Cllr Furnace commented that the allotment report was very encouraging with regards to the potential release of 9 new Bullfields allotment plots in 2021.

### **A 20/30 CEMETERY**

**Noted:** Cemetery Managers Report

Clarification of burial statistic – was from February 2020 to February 2021.

Cllr Burmicz had received communication from a cemetery client with regards to a container on site that was near to a family grave. Discussion on relocation of the container or screening off the area.

Cllr Alder noted that the Cemetery Report detailed that screening off / fencing and planting around the new toilet had been detailed and that

it would be an opportunity to get the container work completed at the same time to reduce costs.

**A 20/31 FOOTPATHS AND OPEN SPACES**

**Noted:** Matters relating to Footpaths & Open Spaces. There were no additional comments to add to the Champion's report.

**A 20/32 ECO-AUDIT WORKING PARTY**

**Noted:** Meeting notes from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Cllr Furnace advised that Bob Reed was to start work on an Environmental Audit of the town to look at what the town has to offer in terms of bio-diversity and natural land. This was an excellent initiative and she hoped that this committee would follow and support the work carried out.

**A 20/33 WEST ROAD TELEPHONE BOX**

A member of the public was invited to speak on this topic. They gave thanks to this council and all that they do for the community. The topic of the telephone box was one of concern now that the telephone box had fallen into disrepair. They were happy to be involved in gathering ideas and opinion about what could be done to make better use of the asset.

Cllr Burmicz and Cllr Alder gave some historical background information to the committee and confirmed that the telephone box was owned by the town council and had originally been a tourist information point and clarified that it was still connected to an electricity supply. There had been some investigation work completed by the previous clerk for the potential to relocate the telephone to a more central location in the town and install a defibrillator.

Relocation costs could be high, Cllr Furnace suggested that in the interim it could be tidied up and have the broken windows replaced.

A resolution was formulated but not voted on:

**Proposed Resolution:** The Clerk investigate the various options for the future use or relocation of the telephone box currently situated at the corner of West Road and London Road. The Clerk and the Mayor to report via press releases the idea in principle and invite parishioners' comments on future use.

**A 20/34 OPERATIONS**

**Noted:** Data on revenue sent by Clerk to members of the committee on Public Conveniences.

**A 20/35 DEFIBRILATOR PROVISION**

Cllr Burmicz and Cllr Furnace both commented that Bell Pharmacy were going to be installing a defibrillator imminently, so this would be in an ideal central location for the town centre.

Clerk commented that there were grants available for the purchase of defibrillators outside licenced premises, the grants were specific with regards to the location, Clerk to further explore this grant opportunity with the view to obtaining funding.

**A 20/36 HERTS WASTE LOCAL PLAN – DRAFT CONSULTATION**

Cllr Royle reported that he had prepared a draft response for a climate change group, of which he is member in Bishop's Stortford, and he was happy to share the content of his findings.

Cllr Furnace had concerns that the deadline of 19 March 2021 was near and that all councillors should have the opportunity to contribute to the response. Cllr Alder confirmed that if a written response was sent on behalf of the town council then this should be an agenda item at full council so that all had the opportunity to comment. Clerk was requested to add this as an agenda item at the full council meeting of 22 February 2021 for debate and formulate a response.

***A resolution was prepared but not voted on as follows:***

This committee resolves to respond to the Herts Waste Local Plan which should be presented to full council on 22 February 2021 to obtain the view of all council members.

**A 20/37 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Cllr Burmicz requested that Telephone Box and Defibrillator be standard agenda items.

Cllr Furnace requested that the Herts County Council Anti Engine Idling Campaign be a future agenda item and also the Tiny Forest Initiative that is linked with the local Sustainable Sawbridgeworth Group.

Meeting ended: 20.19