

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 13th February 2023**.

Those present

Cllr Annelise Furnace

Cllr Ruth Buckmaster (Ex Officio)

Cllr John Rider

Cllr Reece Smith

Cllr Angus Wyatt

In attendance:

Christopher Hunt - Town Clerk

Joanne Sargant - Events manager

Cllr Eric Buckmaster

Cllr Nathan Parsad

Mr David Royle

T22/28 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Burmicz

Cllr Craig Chester

Apologies accepted [*prop Cllr Wyatt; sec'd Cllr Parsad*]

T22/29 PUBLIC FORUM

Nothing received

T22/30 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

T22/31 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 18th October 2022 (T02)

[*prop Cllr Smith; sec'd Cllr Wyatt*]

T22/32 ALLOTMENTS

Received and noted – Allotments Officer Report

The report was talked through by the Clerk and Cllr Furnace asked for the officer to be thanked for the detailed information.

Cllr Rider updated the meeting on the drain clearance completed over the last two weekends and asked for the Clerk to thank Thames Water and obtain drainage maps from them for any future issues.

T22/33 CEMETERY

Received and noted – Cemetery Officer Report

- Updated on the probation evening she attended to see the work community payback had successfully completed.

T22/34 FOOTPATHS & OPEN SPACES

- The Clerk read from Bob Reeds report regarding the negative impact the damage path is having to the environment and the community.

Resolved: The Clerk to write to formally to request the HCC Countryside and Rights of Way department, to consider the

repairs to footpath 22 to be graded as urgent due to the negative impact on the environment and likelihood the path will become unusable.

- Discussion was had over the behaviour of dog owners using Pishiobury Park not keeping their dogs under control and being abusive when challenged.
- Mr Royle updated the meeting on his report, he explained there was no update on the bin location survey that was carried out some time ago.

Action; Clerk to write to East Herts to request an update on the bin location survey.

T22/35 OPERATIONS

To receive, note and discuss matters relating to Operations.

The Clerk stated Sawbobus hire charges had remained static since 2015 and price increases were impacting on the maintenance of the vehicles. He proposed a price increase in hire charges to match the current cost implications.

Resolved; the proposal to raise the 'self-drive hire' charges from April 2023.

Regular Hires

From £12 per day + 90p per mile - To £15 per day +95p per mile travelled

Occasional Hirers

From £15 per day + 90p per mile - To £18 per day + 95p per mile travelled

T22/36 ECO-AUDIT WORKING PARTY

Received and noted – Eco Audit Report

Cllr Furnace advised that:

- EV chargers have been put on hold once again, communication had improved with East Herts Council in efforts to get Sawbridgeworth chargers fitted.
- Three Acorns can be requested to complete a further energy use audit at the council offices now we have a years data to assess following the pandemic.
- Water testing and quality surveys are becoming a national focus as well as local.
- The thermal imaging camera has been used locally to assess insulation effectiveness to buildings, Cllr Rider updated on the use and the accidental discovery which has gone viral in respect to assessing bee hive activity using the camera.

T22/37 TOWN ACTION PLAN

The current Town Action Plan – 2020/24, had been reviewed by Cllr Wyatt and the format changed to allow for actions and results to be monitored. The plan runs in four year cycles and it was debated as to the opportunity this year to start a fresh plan to coincide with the elections and the councillors elected period.

It was agreed to place this recommendation on the the next meeting for debate and resolution.

T22/38 COUNCILLOR ENGAGEMENT

Cllr Rider updated the meeting on the good work of the Trustees at the Memorial Hall and plans were being drawn up to extend the building adding a first floor. He asked if the Town Council can support this development.

The support would need to be agreed at full council and it was agreed to assess this proposal moving forward and with further information.

T22/39 RAIL STATION ADOPTION

Cllr Wyatt updated that he was waiting on further information to questions posed to the member of staff running the project. This person covers the eastern region and will update the meeting when the information has been received.

T22/40 DEVELOPMENT TO MAXIMISE PARTNERSHIP WORKING BETWEEN TOWN, DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILS

Cllr Rider raised the concerns of the local response to the recent snow fall and lack of salt available to residents. Communication and actions to climate change extreme weather events needed to be improved.

Cllr Buckmaster explained, the primary and secondary salting routes in the town. The secondary routes were not always gritted during the last snow fall due to the primary routes being treated three times per day as the temperature remained sub zero for a sustained period of time.

A list of secondary routes will be sent to the member of staff by the Clerk who determines gritting routes in the County.

Further salt bins will be purchased and the Town Rangers will replenish the salt when empty in poor weather for members of the community to use on roads near to their homes.

It was agreed 'community resilience' should be added to the next Town Action Plan

T22/41 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

No further items were raised.

Meeting ended at 21:30