

SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes

of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held at the Council Offices, 49-51 Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth at 20.00 hrs. on **Monday 13 May 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

A12/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Jane Adams and Cllr Brian Rochester were absent.

A12/25 PUBLIC FORUM

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

A12/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

A12/27 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 11 February 2013 (A03) [*prop Cllr Hodges; secd Cllr Filler*]

A12/28 ALLOTMENTS

To report on matters relating to Allotments

- Allotment Association. The Association AGM took place in April in the Council Chamber.
- Water supplies. There are still water charging issues to be resolved at Southbrook. Clerk to resolve.
- Bullfields. Nothing to report
- Southbrook. We have been advised of the creation of a Southbrook Gardening Club. It has become exceedingly difficult to negotiate terms of tenancy with one tenant, who is proving disruptive. Clerk outlined three courses of action open to him. Members were supportive of any steps needed to resolve the situation.
- Vantorts. A neighbour in Greenstead has been trespassing in the allotments and we are taking steps to remove the access that has been created.
- Bellmead. Quotation of £450 has been received for hedge work that has been carried out by tradition. Alternative quotes are being sought.
- 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.

A12/29 CEMETERY

To report on matters relating to the Town Cemetery

- Inspections. Continue to be carried out on a regular basis.
- All data entry is now complete after a two year project. Edge Designs have still failed to load all images onto the system.

A12/30 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.
- Pishiobury Park
 - Is currently at the start of a three year renovation and upgrading programme
- Bullfields
 - No current issues, Town Ranger is now contracted to cut the small children's play area.
- West Road
 - Inspection and maintenance.
 - Memorial bench to be removed and refinished
 - Reports of a squeaky swing now rectified.
 - Need to relocate dog litter bins
- Other areas
 - Bell Street flower beds have been cleared.
 - London Road flower beds have been cleared
- Footpaths
 - General state is said to be good.

A12/31 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 April market – 1200 attendees and May market – 800 attendees.
 - Radio campaign with Heart radio is committed to and effect is being measured.
 - Several new stall holders recruited and it may be necessary to purchase additional stalls.
- Facilities at The Manor
 - The Chamber is now being hired out and we have hosted the first four bookings.
- 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
 - The event went off without incident.
 - Mayor, Clerk and organiser Judy Godfrey will attend a police debriefing on 22 May.

- Fly Posting
 - EHDC have at last responded to the fly posting issue in Station Roads opposite to The Maltings, in answer to many complaints. They have now promised action. No response yet received.
- Bell Street Public Toilets
 - EHDC has suggested that the Town Council should contribute the facilities at The Manor to the Community Toilet Scheme.
 - This has been declined and the question of an asset transfer of the Bell Street conveniences to the the town council resurrected. It is understood that the matter will be refreshed.

Meeting ended at 21:14