

SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE

Minutes

of the meeting of the Economic Development and STAP Committee held at, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth at 20.00 on Monday 13th September 2021.

Those present

Cllr A Alder

Cllr R Buckmaster

Cllr A Furnace

In attendance:

Christopher Hunt – Town Clerk

J Sargant – Town Projects Manager

Cllr N Parsad

Cllr David Royle

Cllr G Rattey – ex officio

E 21/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr D Patel

E 21/14 PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present at the Economic Development and STAP Committee.

E 21/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Pecuniary Interest by Members

E 21/16 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 12th July 2021 (E01)

[prop Cllr R Buckmaster, secd A Alder]

E 21/17 TOWN GREEN WORKING PARTY

Updates:

- Cllr R Buckmaster, explained that a site meeting had taken place to work through the tree survey with Town Projects Manager and Clerk. During which the wall adjoining Bell Street had caused concern due to the proximity of trees and general condition.
- The Town Projects Manager confirmed a structural engineer from a local company has been instructed to look at the wall prior to the working party meeting (21st September 2021)
- Cllr R Buckmaster stated the children's ideas on the project and a survey will take place once the result of the wall survey was known. The project will require a business plan moving forward and £20,000 has been put aside for the project in Town Council budget.
- Cllr Alder and Cllr Furnace were keen on tree retention or replacement, Cllr Furnace thought replant and replace as per the 2022 Queens Jubilee project would be fitting which can be considered moving forward.

E21/18 TOWN BRANDING / BIG WAVE INITIATIVE

Updates:

- The Town Projects Manager reported that the 'Big Wave' Initiative had only sent out vague updates and is continuing liaison for continued support. Funding was being applied for from the EU RHSS project for the Telephone box conversion to the planter which all members agreed was a good idea. The Town market was to be resurrected post the pandemic restrictions with branding and merchandise to promote this.

E21/19 TOWN ACTION PLAN

Updates:

- Cllr Parsad reported that he felt the Action Plan needed a refresh and the updates required to be recorded in a better format, clearer to monitor and see the outstanding actions. He will meet with the Clerk and the Town Projects Manager to discuss ideas and bring these to the November meeting.
- Cllr Furnace agreed with the re-launching of the scheme and that the council drive this which was agreed with the members.
- Cllr R Buckmaster highlighted the library building was in poor condition and 106 monies may be available but could be at risk of being diverted to other library projects.
- Cllr Parsad highlighted the need to survey the local community and Cllr Alder requested that paper surveys should be available to ensure the process was all inclusive.
- The Clerk highlighted the success of the police 'You Said, We Did' process and good work from Durham police that could be adapted for Town Council work which will be explored during a meeting with Cllr Parsad.

E21/20 BELL STREET LIGHTING

Updates:

- The Town Projects Manager reported that Ringway had acknowledged the removal of lights in Bell Street. They had written stating materials had been delayed but lighting will be available for replacement for the end of October 2021.

E21/21 COUNCILLOR ENGAGEMENT

Updates:

- Cllr Parsad highlighted the need for increased councillor visibility and engagement and to explore a schedule to share engagement opportunities for all councillors and the re-launching of the market may offer an opportunity for regular engagement.
- Cllr Furnace introduced the Clerk could write a report to be shared in local press or social media promoting the work of the council. The Clerk agreed he would explore this.

ARUP TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

E21/22

Updates:

- The Town Projects Manager reported no updates but £132,000 had been made available from the 'welcome back fund' to East Herts Towns and this will be further explored. Footfall counting will be required to evidence demand for high streets to make claims on the funding which were being arranged for completion. Cllr Parsad requested that this item remains on the agenda for monitoring.

E 21/23 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

To consider any items for inclusion on future agendas.

- Funding opportunities for all to explore

Meeting Closed at 20.46