

# SAWBRIDGECWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

## FINANCE, POLICY and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

### Minutes

of the meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee held at the Chamber, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth at 8:00pm on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023**.

#### **Those present**

Cllr Eric Buckmaster	Cllr Greg Rattey
Cllr Ruth Buckmaster	Cllr Reece Smith
Cllr Nathan Parsad-Wyatt	Cllr Steve Smith

#### **In attendance:**

Christopher Hunt - Town Clerk  
Joanne Sargant Projects Manager

#### **F 23/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Non received.

#### **F 23/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest by members

#### **F 23/15 MINUTES**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee held on 12th June 2023 (F01).

*[prop Cllr N Parsad-Wyatt sec'd Cllr R Smith]*

#### **F 23/16 STAFF MATTERS**

To consider any matters relating to members of staff.

The Clerk referred to his report and no other questions were raised.

#### **F 23/17 FINANCE MATTERS**

To consider any matters relating to the finances and year end arrangements of the Council.

- **Motioned postponed** for further investigation in to the water use and increased water charges from October 2023.

*[prop Cllr R Buckmaster sec'd Cllr R Smith]*

- The Clerk updated members on the return from the external audit which had been returned as approved with no comments or recommendations.
- Clerk reported no significant variances against expenditure versus the budget so far apart from the back dated water bill for Southbrook allotments which related to the postponed motion.

#### **F 23/18 JUBILEE GARDENS WORKING PARTY**

Update on the current project status, the clerk informed the members of the issues with two appointed designers had resigned from the company who were appointed to complete the design. A third designer had now been appointed and were waiting to have a Teams meeting with her to progress the project.

**ACTION** Clerk to chase Groundworks designer for a Teams meeting to be arranged.

**F23/19 COUNCILLOR ENGAGEMENT**

It was agreed this agenda item was to include the results of the action plan engagement

**F23/20 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

To discuss proposals for promoting economic development in the town: Joanne Sargant and Cllr Rattey discussed the development of a food festival month. Several premises owners were interested and this will be progressed to run next year. Agenda item to remain for updates moving forwards.

**F23/21 POLICY MATTERS**

To consider any matters relating to policies for the future development of Town Council services to the community.

- To approve the draft document 2.1 Standing Orders.  
One amendment to Page 9 point x;  
*A meeting shall not exceed a period of 2.5 hours unless fifteen minutes prior to the 2.5 hours it is agreed via majority vote to proceed beyond this time limitation.*

**F23/22 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

Cllr Buckmaster stated that he had been made aware of funding for rural bus services and he would forward the link to the Clerk for dissemination to the neighbouring parish councils who have indicated they would be keen in starting a service to link to the Sawbobus.

**ACTION** Cllr Eric Buckmaster to forward the link to the rural bus funding stream.

**F23/23 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Nothing raised

Meeting Closed at 8:25pm