

SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE, POLICY and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes

of the meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee held in the Chamber, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth at 7:15pm on **Monday 13th April 2026**.

Those present.

Cllrs E Buckmaster (Chairman), R Buckmaster, N Parsad-Wyatt, R Smith & S Smith.

Also present was P Evans (Locum Clerk) and two members of the public.

F 25/40 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr G Rattey.

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

F 25/41 Declarations of Interests – None.

F 25/42 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance, Policy & Economic Development Committee held on 12th January 2026 (M03) had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no amendments, so it was

Resolved that Cllr E Buckmaster signs the minutes as a true record of that meeting. *[prop Cllr N Parsad-Wyatt sec'd Cllr R Buckmaster]*

F 25/43 Clerks Report

The interim Clerk was thanked for stepping in whilst C Hunt was absent.

F 25/44 Jubilee Gardens

Cllr R Buckmaster reported that yet again the planning officer at EHDC had requested an extension of time to consider this application, so the decision was expected by the end of the month.

The working party will then need to meet to discuss the next steps, especially as the council have been offered three Japanese cherry trees, so the group need to decide whether they meet the criteria set down in the plan.

F 25/45 Economic Development

As Cllr G Rattey was not present this item was carried forward.

Cllr E Buckmaster reported that the parking restrictions in the town had been agreed by highways so should come into effect soon, and the charging for using the car park will now extend to Sundays this coming weekend.

F 25/46 Income and Expenditure Report

The report covering the period up to the end of February 2026 had been circulated prior to the meeting. There was a question regarding why the budget item for playground equipment had not been spent. It was explained that this was allocated in the budget each year to build up a fund for future purchase. This amount will be moved to earmarked reserves after the year end.

F 25/47 Funding Opportunities

Nothing further to report.

F 25/48 Items for future agendas – None.

The Chairman then moved the following resolution: That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s 1(2), the press and public is excluded from the meeting whilst pertaining to employees of the council or tenders are discussed.

F 25/49 Staffing Matters

The Clerk had circulated his report prior to the meeting. There was some discussion regarding the levels of absences, and the committee asked it to be recorded their thanks to those staff working extra hours to ensure the council still functions.

There being no further business to transact the meeting closed at 7.33pm

Signed.

Dated.