

SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL Minutes

of the Annual Meeting of Sawbridgeworth Town Council held at the Council Offices, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth at 7.30 pm on **Monday 20^h May 2024**.

Those present

Cllr Eric Buckmaster	Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt
Cllr Ruth Buckmaster	Cllr Greg Rattey
Cllr Dawn Newell	Cllr John Rider
Cllr Salvatore Pagdades	Cllr Reece Smith
Cllr Simon Penney	Cllr Steve Smith

9 x members of the public
Chris Carter, Press
Joanne Sargent, Town Events Manager

Welcome by the Mayor,
Thought of the day read by Cllr Greg Rattey

24/01 ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR

Resolved: To elect Cllr Reece Smith as Town Mayor for the civic year 2024/25

[Prop Cllr Ruth Buckmaster; Secd Cllr Eric Buckmaster]

24/02 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Cllr Reece Smith signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took the chair.

In accepting the Office of Mayor for the coming year Cllr Reece Smith thanked everyone. He explained how he followed on from two great Mayors, Cllr Greg Rattey and Cllr Ruth Buckmaster and would follow their great work in supporting businesses and community groups. He wanted the council to operate as one united team and focus on the community. He encouraged all councillors to support community events and recognised the hard work that they all commit to the town.

Charities for the year will be SYPRC and the Scouts.

24/03 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive and approve apologies for absence.

There were apologies from Cllr Annelise Furnace and Cllr Nathan Parsad-Wyatt

[Prop Cllr R Buckmaster; Secd Cllr D Newell]

24/04 THE MAYORAL YEAR 2023/24

Cllr Ruth Buckmaster updated on her last month's work.

- Awarded the prize from the walk to school week.
- Manderville school council visited the council chamber.
- Celebrated the Ukrainian Easter at the Congregational Church
- Attended the May Fayre

- Attended the High Wych school Council meeting.
- Visited the Mandeville school extension opening.
- Attended the awards evening and handed over cheques to her two charities the Guides and Youth Create.
- Attended the Hertford Civic Service as her last event as Mayor.

During the year I have visited many community groups and I realise what a great honour it is being Mayor and recognised the support Councillors and Officers have given throughout the year. She wished the new Mayor all the best for the forthcoming year.

24/05 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

24/06 ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

Nominations were received for:

- Cllr Salvatore Pagdades
[Prop Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt; Secd Cllr Simon Penney]

Resolved: Cllr Salvatore Pagdades elected as Deputy Town Mayor for the civic year 2024/25

24/07 PUBLIC FORUM

To receive representations from members of the public on matters within the remit of the Town Council.

The Clerk read a written question in regard to the poor condition and cleanliness of the path by the Hand and Crown Public House Bonks Hill. Would the council add accessibility and maintenance of the infrastructure be added to the next council meeting?

Cllr Eric Buckmaster had visited the site and taken photographs and reported the issues to Highways at County Council. He will report any issues that he comes across and encourages members of the public to do the same.

When the Wrenbridge development is occupied will the council recommend the use of electric vehicles for the businesses using the site?

Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt stated the building work was still underway but unfortunately the Council cannot force this point but companies are all looking at greener sustainable options in operations.

Can the Council ensure all workers going to Wrenbridge walk, cycle or use public transport?

The Mayor stated the Council will work with the new businesses when they start at the site.

Where are the council in resolving the condition of the road outside Harlow Mill, the A1184?

Cllr Eric Buckmaster stated the road where the damage is falls into

the Essex area but is planned for repair in July.

Is there any support the Council can give in relation to neighbours using cannabis as the District Council can't help without names being given?

The Mayor stated that this was outside the remit of the Town Council but Cllr Salvatore Pagdades may assist as he has a working relationship with local officers.

How will residents be informed on progress of the town action plan and what frequency will these updates be given?

Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt stated the Town Action plan will be updated at the quarterly Town Action Plan and Amenities Committee meeting. Minutes will be produced and presented at the full council meeting and members of the public are encouraged to attend both meetings to ask questions.

24/08 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 29th April 2024 (M10)
[Prop Cllr Eric Buckmaster; Secd Cllr Greg Rattey]

To attend to any matters arising from these Minutes and not dealt with elsewhere on this Agenda. There were none.

24/09 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Received and Noted: The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on:

- 29th April 2024 (P19)

24/10 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

Nothing Received

24/11 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

To receive representatives reports from:

- County Councillor E Buckmaster reported:
 - Visited Mandeville School extension opening which will be net zero in its operation and the head teacher was given an award.
 - Resurfacing of pavements have taken place and more are to be completed this year.
 - Footpath 32 is having new lighting fitted from London Road to Fair Green.
 - The A1184 will be resurfaced from the Essex border.
 - West Road resurfacing will take place in September.
 - New 20mph areas are being progressed and parking restriction changes are still under consultation and he would like to invite business representatives to review these when the consultation has completed.
 - He is in discussion with the environment agency and landowners regarding flooding and areas having received upgrade work will be reviewed.

- District Councillor Angus Parsad-Wyatt
 - At the Full District Council meeting we were looking into the consultation on night flights at Stansted airport and encouraged members of the public to do the same.
 - The EV chargers are still being investigated and other options locally are being explored.
 - The old Barclays Bank has been visited by planning enforcement and works have been completed without permission but nothing has been completed damaging the heritage materials. The developer is being encouraged to withdraw the current application to review some of the plans and resubmit these after addressing residents and Councils concerns.

- District Councillor Ruth Buckmaster
 - Latest DMC meeting was cancelled so nothing further to report.

- Hertfordshire Police

Cllr Savatore Pagdades read the police report.
 The new priority has been set:
 To increased the feeling of safety in Pishiobury Park with increase presence in open spaces.
 Tuesday 4th June will be a walk and talk event in the park.
 During the summer holidays a bike marking event will take place. Further engagement events will take place at the library and COOP.
 Concerns around recent burglaries in school lane have been addressed by crime prevention awareness at the location.

- Other representatives
 - Cllr Ruth Buckmaster updated on SYPRC had nothing further to report.
 - Rivers Heritage site held the Teddy Bears picnic which was very successful around 100 people attended.
 - The Christian Aid big breakfast event took place last Thursday and over £2000 was raised and thanks was passed to the organiser Hazel Mead.

24/12 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk informed the new members of the current projects and he had produced an agreed lease for the Hailey Centre. CCTV was being productive in capturing evidence for police and the Sawbobus was still busy with regular passenger trips.

Cllr Eric Buckmaster leaves the meeting to attend Hunsdon Parish meeting at 8:12pm

24/13 COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP

Resolved: To agree the Committee structure for the year 2024/25
 [Prop Cllr Ruth Buckmaster; Secd Cllr Greg Rattey]

24/14 COMMITTEES

Resolved: To Appoint Members to Committees, sub Committees and Working Groups for the year 2024/25
 [Prop Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt; Secd Cllr Steve Smith]

- 24/15 DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY**
Resolved: To agree the delegation of authority to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Planning Committee for the months of August and December.
[Prop Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt; Secd Cllr Ruth Buckmaster]
- 24/16 CHAMPIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES**
Resolved: To appoint Members as Champions and representatives for areas of Council responsibility
[Prop Cllr Salvatore Pagdades; Secd Cllr Greg Rattey]
- 24/17 SUBSCRIPTIONS**
Resolved:, to make payment of Subscriptions for the year 2023/24
[Prop Cllr Ruth Buckmaster; Secd Cllr Greg Rattey]
- 24/18 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**
Resolved: To approve the Calendar of Council and Committee meetings for the year to May 2024.
[Prop Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt; Secd Cllr Ruth Buckmaster]
- 24/19 STANDING ORDERS**
Resolved: To approve the continuation of current Standing Orders.
[Prop Cllr Greg Rattey; Secd Cllr Steve Smith]
- 24/20 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**
Resolved: To approve the continuation of current Financial Regulations
[Prop Cllr Ruth Buckmaster; Secd Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt]
- 24/21 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETANCE**
Resolved: To approve the continuance of the use of the General Power of Competence by the town council.
[Prop Cllr Nathan Parsad-Wyatt; Secd Cllr Dawn Newell]
- 24/22 DEPOSIT & CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**
Noted receipt of any Documents for Noting and Consultation. There were none
- 24/23 FINANCIAL REPORT**
Noted: The current Financial Report
- 24/24 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**
Noted and Agreed: Accounts for payment.

Chair Signature

Date.....

Meeting closed at 8:14pm