

# SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

## MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL Minutes

of the Meeting of Sawbridgeworth Town Council held at 7:30pm in the Council Chamber, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street on **Monday 31st July 2023**.

### Those present

Cllr Eric Buckmaster	Cllr A Parsad-Wyatt
Cllr Ruth Buckmaster	Cllr N Parsad-Wyatt
Cllr Annelise Furnace	Cllr Greg Rattey
Cllr Dawn Newell	Cllr John Rider
Cllr Salvatore Pagdades	Cllr Reece Smith
Cllr Fred Parr	Cllr Steve Smith

### In attendance:

Joanne Sargant	2 x members of the public
Chris Carter – Press	PC Marshall
	PS Funes-Walker

Welcome by the Town Mayor followed by thought for the day from Cllr Reece Smith

### 23/43 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None were received.

### 23/44 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Cllr John Rider – member of the history group and will not take part in the funding application on the agenda.

Cllr Annelise Furnace – Member of the history society and sustainable Sawbridgeworth and will not take part in the funding application on the agenda.

Cllr's Eric and Ruth Buckmaster – members of Town Twinning and will not take part in the funding application on the agenda.

### 23/45 PUBLIC FORUM

#### Questions

**Ms Irwin** – raised concerns on recent Section 106 funding and money earmarked for Health and Fitness was spent on Grange Paddocks in Bishops Stortford and nothing was invested into facilities in Sawbridgeworth. Why hasn't an investment been made in to the town swimming pool to encourage walking to and from the venue.

Why was £122,000 invested into the Leventhorpe Leisure Centre which indicates it to be Nuffield Health, a private company.

Cllr E Buckmaster responded, the Leventhorpe school and gym is owned by Leventhorpe school but has a local agreement for public use. All the money from the 106 funding went to Grange Paddocks due to the impact of Covid and the increase in building materials.

Leventhorpe School are liable to pay 40% of any capital investment or repairs on the swimming pool as they receive government funding. It was felt that if the funding was to stop this would change the dynamics so the investment into Grange Paddocks was made to offer capacity to the local area.

Ms Irwin stated that the facility was primarily for Bishops Stortford residents and people travelling from Sawbridgeworth to Grange Paddocks will drive and reduce walking to swim and reducing increasing the carbon footprint.

Cllr Rattey stated that Ms Irwin has made a valid point and praised her for speaking up.

Cllr Newell stated she supported Ms Irwin's views and had noted upgrades were being made at the pool and this was echoed by Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt.

Cllr R Buckmaster stated that the Council has fought to keep the pool open for over 15 years and will continue to do so.

Cllr Furnace was concerned that the Government funding may stop and Cllr E Buckmaster stated that it has continued over many years and it should continue.

Cllr Rider stated he has previously raised concerns regarding funding being diverted to the larger East Herts Towns and thinks this situation is disgraceful.

Ms Irwin raised a second matter in respect to the condition of pathways along Roseacres and Sayesbury Avenue. She is aware of three local residents who use walking aids cannot use the paths and is restricting their independency severely.

Cllr E Buckmaster will be meeting with local residents regarding pavement parking, he will raise it with County staff who are responsible for the pavement surface. He also stated he will be working on parking issues throughout the town.

### **Mr Royle**

Will this Council once again explore any options to extend the pavement outside 25 Vantorts Road towards Fair Green? It is heavily used by parents and children on the way to school, as I observe daily, who are at some risk. It also poses risks for motorists. Is there, for example, any compulsory purchase mechanism where there is a clear health and safety risk?

Secondly, what powers does this or the District Council have to prevent development sites becoming abandoned eyesores?

Cllr R Buckmaster stated that the road is very old but there is no room to put in another path. She feels the danger is the actual junction and the blind bend.

Cllr Rider stated he felt the issue was speeding vehicles at this point and why hadn't the police been monitoring or placing a 20mph speed restriction at this junction.

Cllr R Buckmaster stated that the condition of the house under development would come under East Herts planning department jurisdiction if it became worse.

Cllr E Buckmaster stated he was waiting for speed and volume results from this area. He will be introducing this location to officers when inspecting areas for the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). There may be physical solutions that can be put in to slow vehicles.

Cllr S Smith stated that this situation has been raised on the last three Council meetings and wondered if something more urgent was needed.

Cllr N Parsad-Wyatt stated that the condition of 25 Vantorts Road can be monitored and further deterioration reported to East Herts Council to

consider enforcement. He feels that the work Cllr E Buckmaster is planning with physical traffic calming measures may be successful for the problem raised.

Cllr R Buckmaster will ask the Clerk to raise the condition of the development with planning but they have a high workload and it may be difficult for an enforcement officer to attend.

**ACTION**

Clerk to raise concerns for the condition of 25 Vantorts Road to the planning department at East Herts Council.

**23/46 MINUTES**

**Resolved:** To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the town council held on 26th June 2023 (M02) There was a typing error highlighted by Cllr Pagdades and Funace which will be corrected by the Clerk.

*[prop Cllr Parr; sec'd Cllr Furnace]*

To attend to any matters arising from these Minutes and not dealt with elsewhere on this Agenda.

Actions noted from the previous minutes and one raised regarding the update on recycling bins and the removal from Bell Street car park Cllr E Buckmaster updated that other bins were available and the cost to run the programme was restrictive and the provision is mainly through charity shops.

Cllr Rattey has spoken with Doug at the Bell Street Pharmacy but has written to the Village pharmacy on three occasions without a response. Cllr R Buckmaster stated it was for the Clerk to arrange a meeting and write to the pharmacy managers.

**ACTION**

Carried forward, Clerk to invite Pharmacy managers to a meeting to understand the issues they face locally.

**23/47 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Received and noted:** the minutes of the planning committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023 (P03)

**Received and noted:** the draft minutes of the planning committee held on 17th July 2023 (P04)

**23/48 TOWN ACTION PLAN AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

**Received and noted:** the draft minutes of the Town Action Plan and Amenities Committee held on 17th July 2023 (T01)

**Resolved:** to use a company to promote and consult with the Sawbridgeworth community, free of charge.

Cllr A Parsad-Wyatt explained the detail and highlighted that the Clerk had sought advice from HAPTC and this was positive and supported the use of councillor skills in managing projects. Cllr Furnace ensured there was no contract, cost or data retention issues and leaflets will not be political or promoting anything other than the Town Action Plan.  
*[prop Cllr A Parsad-Wyatt; sec'd Cllr J Rider]*

23/49

## MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

To receive Mayor's appointments and communications  
Cllr R Buckmaster advised.

- A letter had been received from the Mayor of Bry-Sur-Marne Jubilee celebration where thanks were given to Sawbridgeworth representatives for celebrating with them.
- A card was handed to the Mayor from a child at the Civic Service welcoming her as the Mayor of Sawbridgeworth.
- The Mayor thanked everyone for attending the Civic Service and for the support of the staff.
- Attended Home Instead event celebrating their 15th anniversary and the food was supplied by the Hailey Centre and it was nice to see the collaboration to make the event special.
- I attended the High Wych preschool teddy bear races and I started many of the races.
- The Mayor thanked the deputy Mayor for attending an event in Harlow.

23/50

## REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

**Received and noted:** Representatives reports from:

- County Councillor E Buckmaster additionally added;
  - Referred to his report and the updates on the local projects he is working on.
  - Currently fitting a disability drop kerb in Sayesbury Avenue
  - Exploring the 20mph in Bullfields and the West of the town.
  - Working on the street lighting on footpath 32, four lamp posts were not working and these were not listed as County Council assets. The lighting team has been contacted and these lamps will be registered and trees maintained following the nesting season.
  - Local Nature Recovery Board with multiple group members and a steering group
  - Herts waste partnership has met which Cllr E Buckmaster will chair

Questions.

Cllr Rider requested Cllr E Buckmaster focussed his report more on Sawbridgeworth and that the move of the Council staff to Stevenage was a concern. He would also like to know more on the local nature strategy and what we will be doing in Sawbridgeworth and how many of the 60,000 trees being planted are in Sawbridgeworth.

Cllr E Buckmaster regarding the trees it was for residents to apply for the trees that were available, he couldn't supply the number planted in Sawbridgeworth. The moving of office staff to Stevenage will not impact on Sawbridgeworth and the reason for the move is due to building condition and space.

Cllr R Buckmaster informed the meeting that a local resident had applied for 5000 of the trees.

Cllr Furnace asked if the sustainable Hertfordshire youth COP event had representation from pupils at Leventhorpe school.

Cllr E Buckmaster stated that Leventhorpe pupils were attending but it clashed with their sports day so were unable to.

District Councillors reports

Cllr E Buckmaster referred to his report.

Cllr R Buckmaster referred to her report.

Cllr A Parsad-Wyatt referred to his report and highlighted the electric car charging stations tender by district had been completed.

Question

Cllr Furnace asked if Cllr A Parsad-Wyatt could express the need for Sawbridgeworth to be top of the list for fitting as the town had been promised EV chargers for over four years.

Police

PC Marshall explained some of the work she and PCSO Higham had completed

- Water safety at the lead up to the summer holidays with year 9 children at Leventhorpe. This was due to regular incidents of previous years where children jump in and out of the locks.
- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August will have a community event at the new development with a multi-agency approach.
- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August a bike marking and engagement event will take place.
- Ride along scheme is still available and councillors encouraged to take up the offer of patrolling with local officers
- The restrictions for speed enforcement was explained and why the request for enforcement at Vantorts Road could not be completed.

Question

Cllr Rider raised the concerns of the speed of vehicles at Vantorts Road.

Cllr E Buckmaster stated the average speed at the junction was not excessive and he will share recent survey results to members.

Cllr Furnace raised that other towns are moving to blanket 20mph speed restrictions and this will be a positive to slow vehicles down.

- Cllr R Buckmaster, referred to her SYPRC report and at the AGM several members have stood down and there is a space for a committee member.
- Cllr A Furnace, referred to her report highlighted the Repair Café's first anniversary and thanked Cllr R Smith for his support. Also Sawbridgeworth will be receiving a real time air quality monitor and the data streamed to East Herts Council website and residents can sign up to real time air quality alerts. This compliments the work Sustainable Sawbridgeworth members have completed with mobile air quality monitors for Hertfordshire Council.

**23/51**

**TOWN CLERK REPORT**

***Received and noted:*** the clerk's report for the month of July 2023.

**23/52**

**TOWN PROJECTS MANAGER REPORT**

***Received and noted:*** the Town Project Managers report for July 2023

- The order for Councillor t-shirts has been made.
- Asked if a councillor could attend future meetings that have been arranged by Sheering PC regarding M11 junction 7A and traffic volume on the small roads serving Sheering and Sawbridgeworth.
- Love Parks event has returned and was a great event held in

Pishiobury Park.

23/53

### GRANT APPLICATIONS

To consider and **resolve** the following grant applications:

1. Hertfordshire Boat Rescue  
Drowning Prevention £300  
**Rejected** but encouragement to apply through the County Councillor
2. Sawbridgeworth Local History Society  
Website update £500  
**Deferred** until January for further information to be submitted
3. Sawbridgeworth Community Allotments  
Seeds and plants £250  
**Supported**  
*[prop Cllr A Parsad-Wyatt; secd Cllr N Parsad-Wyatt]*
4. Red Kite Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Services  
12 free therapy session for Sawbridgeworth residents £500  
**Half the amount awarded** £250  
*[prop Cllr N Parsad-Wyatt; secd Cllr S Pagdades]*
5. Sawbridgeworth Town Twinning Association  
Bry-Sur-Marne Twinning Visit Set 2023 £500  
**Supported**  
*[prop Cllr A Furnace; secd Cllr N Parsad-Wyatt]*
6. Citizens Advice East Herts  
Support volunteer advisers phone costs **£500**  
**Half the amount awarded** £250  
*[prop Cllr F Parr; secd Cllr S Pagdades]*

Total of £1,250 grants agreed.

23/54

### COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The matter was debated and the view from Councillors was that to move to different wards would be divisive rather than encouraging to incorporate new community members and areas in to the Town.

**Resolved** for the town to remain unwarded and for District Councillors to raise representation at East Herts Council.

*[prop Cllr A Parsad-Wyatt; secd Cllr J Rider]*

23/55

### LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLANS (LCWIPs)

Cllr Furnace explained that Sustainable Sawbridgeworth had submitted set of walking and cycling recommendations. Could the Town Council write a letter of support for these recommendations.

Cllr E Buckmaster stated he would prefer not to recommend compulsory purchasing of land and didn't support changing Bell Street into a two way road for cycling.

Cllr Pagdades echoed his concerns regarding the two way cycling changes to Bell Street.

Cllr R Smith asked that more detail be submitted prior to decisions to be made for a proposal.

Cllr Furnace stated that the proposals have been made by local people and not professionals and would not have time to submit a more detailed plan. Could the letter be supporting suggestions and not finding

solutions at this stage.

Further debate was had and held that in principle the overall proposal was supported but the detail not agreed due to some of the suggestions not being detailed enough.

**Resolved** STC not to write a formal letter in support of the recommendations from Sustainable Sawbridgeworth in a formal letter to the LCWIP team.

*[prop Cllr R Smith; secd Cllr S Pagdades] 8 in support, 3 abstained 1 against of the proposed resolution.*

**23/56**

**POLICE AND COUNCILLOR ENGAGEMENT**

Cllr Pagdades explained that the walk and talk engagement events had been scrapped and a move towards engagement during council events were to be made. He had been on a ride along with the police.

**23/57**

**UPDATE ON UKRAINE LOCAL SUPPORTING EVENTS**

Mr Royle updated on East Herts guest numbers and enquired if his report is still required.

The Mayor asked if just local events could be reported on.

**23/58**

**DEPOSIT & CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

To note receipt of any Documents for Consultation

*Noted*

**23/59**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

*Noted:* The current Financial Report

**23/60**

**ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

*Noted and Approved:* Accounts for payment.

**23/61**

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Cllr Rider wanted local electrical outages on the agenda due to the recent increase in issues in the town.

*Meeting ended at 9:42pm*

**ACTIONS**

Owner	Action	Completed
Clerk	To arrange a meeting with the Pharmacy managers to understand current issues they face locally	
Clerk	Clerk to raise concerns for the condition of 25 Vantorts Road to the planning department at East Herts Council.	