

SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL Minutes

of the Annual Meeting of Sawbridgeworth Town Council held at 19.30 in the Council Chamber, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street on **Monday 27th September 2021**.

Those present

Cllr Angela Alder
Cllr Eric Buckmaster
Cllr Ruth Buckmaster
Cllr John Burmicz
Cllr Craig Chester

Cllr Annelise Furnace
Cllr Greg Rattey
Cllr David Royle
Cllr Nathan Parsad
Cllr D Patel

In attendance:

Christopher Hunt – Town Clerk

Chris Carter Bishop's Stortford Independent
2 members of the public

Welcome by the Town Mayor followed by a Prayer written and read by Cllr Alder

21/75 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr P Gray – Absent
Cllr P Coysten – Illness

21/76 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of Pecuniary Interests.

21/77 PUBLIC FORUM

There was a question raised in relation to the four-way traffic lights set up on London Road junction with West Road and Station Road and the impact on congestion. It was asked for the Town Council to make representations as to the previous Highways suggestion to place four way traffic lights at this junction.

Cllr E Buckmaster responded, the suggestion had been off the plans for the past three years and all discussions with the developer and Highways are that traffic light signals will not be an option. A consideration is to widen the footpath and reduce the carriageway to keep traffic flowing. If it was suggested signals were to be considered representations would be made.

21/78 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26th July 2021 (M03) [*prop Cllr A Alder; secd Cllr R Buckmaster*]

Matters arising from these Minutes and not dealt with elsewhere on this Agenda.

None raised

21/79 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Received and noted: the minutes of the planning committee held on 26th July 2021 (P04)

Received and noted: the draft minutes of the planning committee held on 13th September 2021 (P05)

- 21/80 FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE**
Received and noted: the minutes of the Finance and Policy committee held on 13th September 2021 (F02)
- 21/81 ED & STAP COMMITTEE**
Received and noted: the minutes of the ED and STAP committee held on 13th September 2021 (E02)
- 21/82 ECO AUDIT WORKING PARTY**
Received and noted: the minutes of the Eco Audit working Party committee held on 7th September 2021
- 21/83 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS**
To receive new Mayor's appointments and communications:
- Cllr G Rattey read from a letter received from Balmoral Castle thanking Joanne Sargant for arranging the book of condolence on the death of The Duke of Edinburgh.
- Cllr G Rattey updated on his recent work this consisted of racism and the BAME community, landlord meetings which has led to meeting almost all of them, traders with fantastic feedback and further meetings planned on the 1st November. He has opened a shop and a further two to follow and has an article published in the Flyer. Attendance was made at Bishops Stortford first Pride event with the Bishops Stortford Town Mayor. Presentations have been made to Fawbert and Barnard and Reedings School which he really enjoyed due to the questions from the children, and highlighted the Mayors Civic Service, thanking Father Simon which had an equality and Human Rights theme running throughout.
- 21/84 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS**
Received and noted: Representatives reports from:
- County Councillor E Buckmaster added:
Having attended the Borough of Broxbourne whereby two new bridges were named after two people in the community who had completed lots of work during the Covid Pandemic. Salt had been ordered for the winter which the Clerk confirmed he had placed an order. Sheering Mill no entry public engagement has shown a majority are in favour of the restriction. Fairway double yellow lines have received objections which are moving towards a resolution. Work continues with WSP for the 20mph signage and the School Lane public engagement has returned allowing this to be progressed.
Cllr Buckmaster will be putting into his budget speed and volume surveys in the North and West side of the town to assess if speed reduction can be applied for.

- Questions to the County Councillor:
 - Cllr Alder – with regards to double yellow lines at Bullfields junction with Walnut Tree Crescent
 - Cllr E Buckmaster responded that this was being looked into but may have a detrimental effect for the wider community living nearby.
 - Cllr Royle asked if as a Council have considerations been made for the planting of trees for the Queens Jubilee
 - Cllr R Buckmaster responded that this was being planned as part of the Town Green Project
 - Cllr E Buckmaster added that County funds were available for the tree planting for the Queens Green Canopy

- County Councillor E Buckmaster additionally added
 - West Road traffic management was highlighted with poor signage, several visits including with the Police and incidents were clearly occurring regularly. This was reported County Network Management who did not renew the licence and a future meeting with agency's and the developer with safety in the forefront of all actions. Taylor Wimpy confirmed that a meeting with Cadence Traffic Management will happen this week.

- Questions to the County Councillor:
 - Cllr Royle asked if issues were continuing at School time
 - Cllr E Buckmaster responded that he wasn't aware of any but felt marshals were key to the situation.
 - Cllr Patel raised concerns at the number of extra vehicles the development would bring and the traffic flow.
 - Cllr E Buckmaster responded that exploring a 20 mph scheme and parked cars to reduce speed will help and encouraging walking to school are all areas that will need to be looked in to.

- County Councillor E Buckmaster additionally added
 - Gilston development river crossings applications will be in November and the villages in the new year due to Section 106 money discussions and the housing infrastructure grant for the river crossings. District members were in attendance at the meetings for the river crossings, Cllr E Buckmaster has also attended planning meetings for villages 1 to 6 and landscaping master planning for the whole site.

- Questions to the County Councillor:
 - Cllr Burmicz highlighted the need for infrastructure on new developments to be put into place first as he was concerned over the developments in the town.
 - Cllr Chester raised the need for being part of the consultation for the river crossing.
 - Cllr E Buckmaster stated he will be sitting on these meetings and can update members.
 - Cllr Furnace asked about 106 monies for the Sawb4
 - Cllr E Buckmaster stated that this had been signed but not sealed and is nearly there.
 - Cllr Furnace asked re fly tipping money from the PCC
 - Cllr E Buckmaster stated this was ideally for farmers with

- larger types of fly tipping.
 - Cllr Furnace raised the point of the Bridges in Broxbourne being named after living people and the process for street naming being different.
- District Councillor Cllr A Alder – no further information to report.
- District Councillor Cllr R Buckmaster – no further information to report.
 - Cllr R Buckmaster updated on the designs of the Gilston River Crossings.
 - May have disruption to the rubbish collections due to fuel shortages
 - Cllr E Buckmaster reassured members that there was a large supply of fuel available at an alternative location.
- District Councillor Cllr J Burmicz – no further information to report.
- Hertfordshire Police Report
 - The local policing priority had changed to reducing drug use and ASB at Vantorts Park. Partnership work with EHDC for residents about effective ways to report matters to the police at the right time allowing the promptest response. There are plans to relocate a couple of benches and to increase the number of bins around the table tennis facility to reduce littering.
 - Mini Police is due to start again after October half term, being run by PCSO's Amanda and Paul, at Spellbrook School initially.
 - Two PC's and four PCSOs will be attending the Christmas event on 27th November.
 - The AIM team (Support for Younger community) are doing some proactive work with Leventhorpe School and a few individuals in the town which we are hopeful will reduce some of the low level ASB we are seeing.
 - There is no increase in volume crime, in comparison to previous years no spike in ASB over the summer months.
 - Re the incident at Budgens, a full investigation is underway by Hertford LCU, the local team have had a busy day covering possible entrance and exit routes to the town, doing leaflet drops and extensive CCTV enquiries.
 - Several partnership meetings are planned, including ASB at Pishiobury Park and how to make the area less attractive for groups to congregate.
 - E-Scooter education signage which will be displayed at hotspots around the town in the coming weeks.
- Other Representatives –
 - Cllr D Royle:
 - Updates on footpaths work has begun footpath 26 from Springhall Lane to Pishiobury but delayed due to discussion with Natural England over proposed surfacing. Path 17 is completed, and work has started on paths 21, 22, 23.
 - Cllr R Buckmaster:
 - Remind members its apple day at the orchard this Saturday.

- Cllr Furnace:
 - Thank you for those attending
 - Canals and River trust have been met with and local tow paths that need repair highlighted

21/85 TOWN CLERKS REPORT

- Annual Governance and Accounting Review (AGAR), Year-end accounts return has been received and signed off and displayed on the website
- Electric Vehicle Points / ECO Issues, Cabling has been put in place and contractors ready to fit and waiting for instruction to complete by EHDC
- Town Green Working Party, work continues with Cllr R Buckmaster and the Towns Project Manager, a site meeting has been held and the project is gaining momentum.
- Training, FOI training and the CiLCA course started. All councillors reminded on the use of Council emails as personal emails and WhatsApp groups etc form part of any FOI request.
- Media, the first report for the Sawbridgeworth Flyer has been completed, 'Clerks Corner', to be published in the November issue and a regular spot has been agreed for project promotion that Councillors are working on. Local reporter Chris Carter has run an article on the appointment as Clerk.

21/86 TOWN PROJECT MANAGERS REPORT

- Application fees for trees at the cemetery are increasing
- The remembrance Sunday event will return to its normal structure as pre Covid restrictions
- Preparation for the Christmas Lights/Fayre 27th November date are now progressing, no exact light switch on, stage or grotto to avoid queues.
- Other projects; Eco audit, EV charging points and Town Green Working Party
- Questions, Cllr Royle asked if the market was taking place this year. The Town Clerk responded with the fact that planning for the markets return was underway.

21/87 DEPOSIT & CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

There were no Documents for Noting and Consultation

21/88 FINANCIAL REPORT

Noted: The current Financial Report

21/89 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Noted and Approved: Accounts for payment

21/90 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items for future agendas

Meeting ended at 20.16 hrs

Prayer by Cllr Alder

PRAYER FOR COUNCIL MEETING

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for this opportunity to serve our residents to the best of our ability and thank you for the many talents and skills each one of us has and which we bring to this Council meeting tonight.

Help us to be thoughtful and considered in any decisions we may make this evening and keep us ever mindful of the impact such decisions may have on the lives of residents in this our community of Sawbridgeworth.

May we be respectful of the views of all participating members in any issue under discussion either as listener or contributor and act accordingly.

We thank you Father for this time we will share together may it be productive of ideas and forward looking in our thinking. Amen.