

SAWBRIDGECWORTH 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 26th September 2022**.

Those present

Cllr Angela Alder	Cllr Fred Parr
Cllr Eric Buckmaster	Cllr Nathan Parsad
Cllr Ruth Buckmaster	Cllr Greg Rattey
Cllr John Burmicz	Cllr John Rider
Cllr Craig Chester	Cllr Reece Smith
Cllr Annelise Furnace	Cllr Angus Wyatt

In attendance:

Christopher Hunt - Town Clerk	Chris Carter Bishop's Stortford Independent
Mrs Lisa Dale – Finance Officer	2 x members of the public

Welcome by the Town Mayor followed by thought for the day from Cllr Fred Parr.

22/63 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received

22/64 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Declarations of Pecuniary Interests.
None declared

22/65 CO-OPTION TO FILL THE CURRENT VACANCY

To consider the co-option of a suitably qualified person to fill the vacancy on the council. Cllr Alder and Cllr R Buckmaster requested a ballot as a process to vote on this subject.

[prop Cllr A Alder; secd Cllr R Buckmaster]

- Onur Gokdemir
- Adrien Sella
- Reece Smith
- Clive Vernon

Four candidates presented for three minutes and the ballot was counted independently by the Clerk and the acting teller Mrs Dale. An absolute majority vote was received in favour of Mr Reece Smith.

On conclusion of this process Mr Smith signed the declaration of acceptance of office and invited to the chamber table to sit in his role as councillor.

22/66 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25th July 2022 (M03)

[prop Cllr A Furnace; secd Cllr A Wyatt]

Matters arising, Cllr Rider asked when the allotment emergency protocol was going to be in place, the Clerk responded that it was in hand.

22/67

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Received and noted: the minutes of the planning committee held on 25th July 2022 (P04)

Received and noted: the draft minutes of the planning committee held on 12th September 2022 (P05)

22/68

PUBLIC FORUM

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

Mr Royle asked did the Council send a formal objection to the car parking charges increase and the timetable for this decision.

Cllr Rattey stated a collective objective and personal one was sent in and a petition had been raised with hundreds of signatures.

Cllr E Buckmaster referred to his report which raised several points in respect to this issue.

- Covid and the war in Ukraine has had a negative impact on inflation.
- This has raised an in-year deficit of 23.5 million pounds for the County Council.
- All councils around the country will be in the same position and the district must have a balanced budget and are restricted on how much to raise a precept.
- Cost saving and income streams are being looked at to balance the budget.
- It had been reported wrongly on the term 'full cost recovery. This point wasn't related to the car park but to resident parking zones and Sawbridgeworth don't have any of these.
- Sawbridgeworth charges were relatively low
- The district council were taking this seriously and looking at options.

Cllr Rattey raised a point that East Herts were hitting the town hard which Cllr E Buckmaster refuted but stated the communication could have been better and the car parking charges were not the same as the other towns and were value for money.

Mr Royle asked if the council are going to raise interest in the public forum and several people have raised that they don't know when meetings are occurring or if they can come and the website stated they needed an appointment.

The Clerk explained that the website had been updated as the appointment system was due to Covid restrictions and to limit the number of people attending the chamber.

Cllr Parsad said we can post on the Facebook page to promote meetings.

Cllr Furnace stated that it was explored previously regarding webcasting and recording the meetings. Cllr Parsad said he would look at cost and the possibility of this webcasting of meetings.

22/69

FINANCE, POLICY and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Noted the draft minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee on 12th September (F02)

22/70

ECO AUDIT WORKING PARTY

Noted the Eco audit working party group notes held on 6th September 2022

22/71

MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

To receive new Mayor's appointments and communications:

- Promoted shops and business
- Attended Stortford Pride
- Attended the Redricks rifle range
- Opened Jenson's the hairdressers
- Presenting the Oscars to the Reedings School
- Fun on the Field
- Proclamation of King Charles III
- Met with head of Leventhorpe school to discuss CRC
- Met with the new Police Chief Inspector
- Spoke at the unveiling of the plaque for Arthur Cutforth

Cllr Rattey also raised that Thomas Banks who is 16 years old has won the British Youth Darts Championship and has written a letter of congratulations and MP Julie Marson has also done so.

22/72

REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

Received and noted: Representatives reports from:

- County Councillor E Buckmaster
 - Launched the 100,000 free trees project
 - Attended the Youth Conference of Parties (COP) with 8 schools in attendance
 - Mentioned the household black bins and after a study food waste and recycling was still being placed in to the black bin and if recycling and food waste was collected weekly food collections will be weekly reducing the need for the black bins to be emptied as regularly.
 - Traffic consultations and 20 mph restrictions were being continued and yellow lines will only be considered where real safety issues are encountered.

Cllr Rider asked what was happening to the brown bins no longer used by residents. Cllr E Buckmaster stated these will be recycled.

Cllr Parr asked if the signage on Station Road could be assessed as the right of way was not being adhered to.

Cllr E Buckmaster stated this was more driver behaviour regularly seen and 106 money had been delayed for better walking and cycling projects.

Cllr Alder asked regarding the double yellow lines at Bullfields and Cllr E Buckmaster was waiting for the consultation results.

- District Councillor Cllr A Alder - no further information to report but will update on the next meeting due to dates not lining up with District and Town council meetings.
- District Councillor Cllr R Buckmaster – mentioned the Wrenbridge development and as a reserved matter application and restricted considerations for objecting to building sizes and landscaping.
Cllr Furnace asked if local residents could record evidence of vehicles leaving Wrenbridge breaching any conditions,
Cllr R Buckmaster stated that the legal adviser in the planning department stated enforcement would take place using this type of evidence. Cllr E Buckmaster stated enforcement is discretionary

- District Councillor Cllr J Burmicz – Raised the issues over car parking charges in the town and the impact on local businesses and clubs and what model was used to come up with the charging figures. He stated that it may be the Town Council could run the car park if the District Council could not make money from running them.

Cllr E Buckmaster called a point of order to express that Cllr Burmicz suggestion was going against what he had said earlier and the running of the car parks and earning money was nothing to do with the decision to raise the charges.

Concerns regarding the speed of lorries delivering to West Road was raised and the buffer zone at the rear of some of the houses had been implemented and his concerns regarding the volume of traffic when the developments houses are fully occupied.

Sawb 4 concerns regarding the location of the development and the impact this development will have with local residents which he will monitor.

Concerns were raised with the Christian Revival Church being situated in Leventhorpe school and perhaps the Board of Governors should be asked to make a statement.

Cllr Chester wanted to refute some of the issues raised regarding the CRC using Leventhorpe school and the head and Board of Governors had investigated the matter in detail and when they use the facility all children are off site.

Cllr E Buckmaster stated speed and volume detectors will be fitted in to West Road to assess the concerns raised.

- Hertfordshire Police Report read out by PCSO Amanda Higham who raised that over the past two months, three burglaries had been recorded which is not unusual for this time of year and generally there have been low numbers. There have been three theft from motor vehicles and two theft of motor vehicles but one has been recovered. There has been a small spree of criminal damages and the priority for three months will be to focus on youth related ASB in Bell Street car park. Mini police will be starting again and travel challenge week will be supported.

Halloween talks in schools will be repeated this year.

The Mayor raised an issue whereby a male has been assaulted and racially abused and hasn't had any contact. PSCO Higham said she will chase this up.

- Councillor R Buckmaster apple day was held with a great success and the library will be holding a chat and warm place on Monday and Wednesday mornings.
- Councillor Furnace mentioned the travel challenge week and the new SawboSaurus

22/73

TOWN CLERK REPORT

Town Clerk – updated on

- Interviews for the new bus driver are taking place.
- CiLCA has been completed and passed
- The new Town Ranger has passed his first aid course meaning all staff are now trained.

22/74

TOWN EVENTS MANAGER REPORT

Read out by the Clerk

- Planning for remembrance Sunday is taking place
- The market is being progressed but has stalled due to the stall holder's availability
- The welcome back fund for £12000 was explained that was monies for items already purchased.

Cllr Parr offered his apologies and left the meeting

22/75 POLICY MATTERS

Resolved: after three amendments which were noted by the Clerk.

- To approve the draft document 1.7.1 Corporate Structure
- To approve the draft risk management policy
- To approve the draft STC Financial Regulations

22/76 CIVILITY AND RESPECT PROJECT

Resolved:

The council resolved to sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge.

[prop Cllr Parsad; secd Cllr A Wyatt]

22/77 AIR QUALITY PLAN

Resolved:

To adopt the Air Quality Action Plan for Sawbridgeworth.

Cllr Furnace and Buckmaster discussed the plan and highlighted how the work being completed currently dovetails into the air quality plan.

Cllr Burmicz asked if any pressure could be levelled at developers to fit solar panels to buildings. Cllr E Buckmaster supported this position raised.

[prop Cllr Chester; secd Cllr R Buckmaster]

22/78 UKRAINE SITUATION REPORT

David Royle read from his report within the briefing pack regarding the current position in Ukraine

22/79 ROYAL PROCLAMATION¹

To record for posterity on Sawbridgeworth Agendas and Minutes the Proclamation to King Charles III

22/80 FINANCIAL REPORT

Noted: The current Financial Report

22/81 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Noted: the accounts for payment.

22/82 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

To note any items for future agendas.

Cllr Furnace wanted an agenda item on how the council are tackling the rise in the cost of living and what is available for residents and how they can be sign posted to support groups.

Meeting Closed 9:26pm

¹ *“Whereas it has pleased almighty God to call to his mercy our late Sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth II of blessed and glorious memory, by whose decease the Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is solely and rightfully come to the Prince Charles Philip Arthur George.*

The lords spiritual and temporal of this realm, and members of the House of Commons, together with other members of Her late Majesty’s Privy Council, and representatives of the realms and territories, aldermen, and citizens of London and others, do now hereby, with one voice and consent of tongue and heart, publish and proclaim that the Prince Charles Philip Arthur George, is now, by the death of our late Sovereign of happy memory, become our only lawful and rightful liege lord, Charles III, by the grace of God, of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, and of his other realms and territories, King, head of the Commonwealth, defender of the faith, to whom we do acknowledge all faith and obedience with humble affection, beseeching God, by whom kings and queens do reign, to bless His Majesty with long and happy years to reign over us.”

“God Save The King”

DRAFT