

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 30th October 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 Steve Smith

In attendance:

Chris Carter – Press

3 x members of the public

Thought of the day delivered by Councillor Steve Smith

23/76 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None were received.

23/77 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None were received.

23/78 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the town council held on 25th September 2023 (M04)
[prop Cllr S Pagdades; sec'd N Parsad-Wyatt]

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

Actions noted from the previous minutes and both had been resolved.

Owner	Action	Completed
Clerk	To request further information from the police on proactive work in the town	email sent 26/9/23, the police report covered the proactive work being planned at the lead up to Christmas.

23/79 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Received and noted: the minutes of the planning committee held on 25th September 2023 (P07)

Received and noted: the draft minutes of the planning committee held on 16th October 2023 (P08)

23/80

PUBLIC FORUM

Questions

- *David Royle*

Q1. Wrenbridge appeal: Sustainable Sawbridgeworth has had no response of any kind from anyone to our email of 15th October. However, some of our members were glad to have the opportunity to discuss the issues and implications at the Planning Committee meeting on 16 October.

Can the Council please confirm that the committee did write to East Herts Council as promised and can that response be shared with our group and with the many residents concerned about the potential increase in HGV movements through our town?

Cllr N Parsad-Wyatt updated that he had written to the planning department at EHDC and had received a response. This highlighted the planning process had run its course but advised STC should work with the business taking up occupancy of the Wrenbridge buildings.

Q2. Standing Orders: Can I please clarify that STC Standing Orders do not preclude councillors from raising matters arising from the minutes of committees that they don't belong to at Full Council, when those minutes are 'received and noted', similarly from the Financial Report and Accounts for Payment?

The Clerk confirmed that councillors can raise matters arising from committees they do not attend.

- *Tony Carr*

What progress has been made towards the swimming pool improvements ? The need for which was agreed at the last council meeting.

Cllr E Buckmaster stated that he was meeting with the head of services on the 3rd November and will raise the concerns. He also stated that he would deal directly with Mr Carr with progress as repeated questions would not be answered in this forum. The Mayor also reiterated this point.

23/81

TOWN ACTION PLAN AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Received and noted: the draft minutes of the Town Action Plan and Amenities Committee held on the 16th of October 2023 (T02)

Councillor A Parsad-Wyatt confirmed the latest position of the action plan following public consultation and further consultation will take place this Saturday in the council chamber.

Action. For the town Clerk to place a resolution to adopt the Action Plan at the next full town council meeting, 20th November 2023.

23/82

MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

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

- At the beginning of the month we held community connections and the town walk which was attended by the MP and the High Sheriff.
- Attended the Broxbourne cheese and wine event which included a humanist civic service.
- Attended 60th anniversary lunch of the High Wych ladies group
- Attendance Breathe Easy event supporting residents in both Sawbridgeworth and Bishop Stortford with Councillor Hollebon.
- We held a vigil for Israel,
- Attended the Harlow civic service this month.
- Went to Moosburg as part of the town twinning group
- The deputy mayor attended the Bishop Stortford civic service in my place
- I had arranged to meet the Co-op manager to raise concerns by local residents but unfortunately this was cancelled. I will arrange this.

The Mayor raised the point that it is Remembrance Sunday next month and she would like to see all councillors attend.

23/83

REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

Received and noted: Representatives reports from:

County Councillor E Buckmaster referred to his report additionally adding;

- There are resurfacing works in Cutforth Rd 9th and 13th November.
- Parsonage Lane will be having flood investigations work taking place in January.
- Network Rail are working in station road in December which may cause some delays.
- The no entry upgrade in Vantorts Road has been delayed until later in November due to the clash with the Christmas lights switch on.

Questions.

Cllr A Furnace,

Welcomed the no idling policy and wondered if Sawbridgeworth town council could do something similar. It was agreed the Clerk will ask the drivers of the Sawbobus to switch their engine off when it is not required. Also remind people visiting the cemetery regarding leaving engines running whilst visiting.

Action

Sawbobus manager to request drivers switch the engine off when not in use.

Action

Cemetery manager to place no idling signs at the cemetery.

EV charging: There is a meeting run by East Herts and she will be attending on behalf of the Town Council.

Raised the saving food waste campaign and the success areas have seen in reducing waste. Cllr E Buckmaster stated this was through raising awareness and to use food rather than throwing it away as this increases further transportation even to use it as a fuel.

Action

Sawbridgeworth Town Council with Sustainable Sawbridgeworth to raise awareness regarding food waste and to utilise material available on the County Council website.

Cllr John Rider raised the trial the town council were completing adding signs to grass areas to prevent parking and associated damage. He asked if this could be considered by district and county councils on their land.

District Councillors reports

Cllr E Buckmaster referred to his report.

Cllr A Parsad-Wyatt referred to his report and raised the decision to review the district plan and increasing housing numbers across the district and the call for sites for housing over the next five to ten years.

Cllr Furnace asked how the public can add to the review and what would Sawbridgeworth expectation be regarding more housing. Cllr A Parsad-Wyatt stated the decisions will be around land availability and infrastructure, district councillors will be ensuring Sawbridgeworth will have a say in the process but the community will be able to add to the plan through consultation.

Cllr E Buckmaster stated he had made his views clear on previous mistakes on urban extensions such as West Road and Wrenbridge. He with District Councillors will be clear in their views that no further development will be welcome.

Cllr R Buckmaster stated no planning applications had been received at district level and the other district councillors had covered the main points of recent meetings she had also attended.

Police

Cllr Pagdades read the police report highlighting recent engagement events and future ones leading up to Christmas and highlighted two dates that may be useful for councillors to be aware of for engagement opportunities.

Crime prevention surgeries.

16th November – Co-Op Store 11:00-12:30

7th December – Town Council reception area 09:00-11:00

Question

- Cllr Rattey, raised the issue with recent door to door salesmen that had sold diaries at a raised price to elderly occupants. He reported it to the police and when he spoke to the local officers they knew nothing about it and felt there is an issue with communication. Cllr Pagdades stated he would take this up with the local officers and was aware of the Daily Morrisons selling alcohol until 10pm from 8pm in Bell Street and will be keeping a close eye on this and any rise in anti-social behaviour linked to this licensing extension.
- Cllr R Buckmaster highlighted the planning applications submitted by SYPRC for the Bullfields extension.

RHSO update, she raised her concern with the report in the High Wych The Link magazine, which was misinformed and no attempt had been made to speak to the council or RHSO regarding the placement of signs to prevent stealing apples. The theft was completed on a large scale and one variety targeted and the signs were to try and prevent further thefts.

Cllr John Rider thanked Cllr R Buckmaster for her response to the magazine report and the great work the RHSO are completing. Cllr Newell thought that local people who regularly use the orchard to exercise dogs were upset by the signs.

- Cllr A Furnace there is a new Sawbridgeworth Swifts Facebook page, this is to promote awareness of swift nesting in the town.

23/84 TOWN CLERK REPORT

Received and noted: the clerk’s report for the month of October 2023.

Cllr A Parsad-Wyatt wanted to thank the Clerk for his money saving approach on the front desk refurbishment and training for road closures for council events to reduce costs in employing a sub-contractor. He also asked if anything had been planned to run the current Sawbridgeworth buses along the M11 to ensure the current issues of the particulate filters getting blocked can be reduced. The Clerk confirmed that this had been built in to the Rangers job sheets once a week.

Cllr R Smith asked if there was any update on the overgrowth along Station Road The Clerk stated he had reviewed this and due to the Rangers needing to work in a live carriageway or on the footpath forcing the public in to the carriageway this could not be completed. The danger had been reported to East Herts Council.

23/85 TOWN PROJECTS MANAGER REPORT

Received and noted: the project managers report for the month of October 2023.

23/86 FINANCIAL REPORT

Noted: The current Financial Report

23/87 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Noted and Approved: Accounts for payment.

23/88 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Resolution to adopt the Town Action Plan for the November Full Town Council meeting

Meeting ended at 8:24pm

ACTIONS

Owner	Action	Completed
Clerk	To add a resolution in the next agenda of the Full Town Council Meeting to adopt the Town Action Plan 2023-2027.	
Sawbobus manager	To request the drivers of the Sawbobus to switch off the engine	

	when not required,	
Cemetery Manager	To place no idling signs at the cemetery	
Clerk / Cllr Furnace	Sawbridgeworth Town Council with Sustainable Sawbridgeworth to raise awareness regarding food waste and to utilise material available on the County Council website	