

SAWBRIDGEGWORTH 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 28th November 2022**.

Those present

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

In attendance:

Christopher Hunt - Town Clerk

Welcome by the Town Mayor followed by a prayer from Cllr Angela Alder.

22/98 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Craig Chester – apologies accepted by members vote

22/99 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Declarations of Pecuniary Interests.
None declared

22/100 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the town council held on 31st October 2022 (M05)

[prop Cllr Alder; secd Cllr R Buckmaster]

- Action - J Sargant to speak to Gary Hanson re collections for Ukraine at the Christmas Fayre, 4th December.
Completed Confirmation that the collection will take place.

22/101 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Received and noted: the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 31st October 2022 (P08)

Received and noted: the draft minutes of the planning committee held on the 14th November 2022 (P09)

22/102 PUBLIC FORUM

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

One received but would be covered in the town events managers' report included in the papers, appendix D.

22/103

MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

To receive new Mayor's appointments and communications:

- Cllr Greg Rattey updated members on the events he has attended this month

22/104

COST OF LIVING CRISIS

- Cllr Furnace raised the points that the council should be signposting residents to assistance locally to those who are needing help over the winter.
- It was raised that the council chamber could be used as a warm place if the need was required. The Clerk stated that this can be offered when the weather changes and if there is demand for further locations in the town.
- Cllr E Buckmaster asked for partner agencies and community groups to be cascaded with the link to be made aware of a webinar on the cost of living – what professionals need to know.
- Cllr Alder raised awareness of the support Herts Help can offer and have different advisors.
- Cllr Wyatt highlighted the Sawbridgeworth Railway Station will be collecting for the local community pop up shop, also can signposting be refreshed for this and the library 'warm space'
- Cllr Parr raised awareness for the support that the Salvation Army may be able to offer.

ACTION –

- Clerk, webinar details to be shared with local agencies and groups.
- Clerk to arrange for signposting on Facebook for the community pop up shop and warm space at the library.

22/105

REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

Received and noted: Representatives reports from:

- County Councillor E Buckmaster
 - Informed members of the multi-agency operation arranged by the local police, operation Agrarian, targeting criminals using the road network with a great success.
Cllr R Buckmaster raised that Sawbridgeworth library was very successful in the children summer reading challenge, seeing the highest number of children attending a library.
- District Councillor A Alder – raised that at the District HR meeting arrangements were being made for retaining staff especially in the planning department.
- District Councillor R Buckmaster – referred to her report and updated that at district there are 40 vacancies with 20 being in the planning department.
 - Cllr Furnace asked if there was an update on the LCWIP, Cllr E Buckmaster stated the officer had moved from the role dealing with this matter and a replacement was being sought. Cllr Furnace asked if we could bring pressure to maintain momentum for this programme, Cllr E Buckmaster said he could keep monitoring the situation.
- District Councillor J Burmicz – thanked Father Simon and Gary Hanson for the Remembrance service as well as the attendance of

Cllr Ian Devonshire. He raised his concerns on the waste collection revised collections, the issues in West Road and the development of buildings close to existing residents properties, he welcomed comments on this situation. He also wanted to be made aware of any updates from the recent meeting regarding the CRC and local concerns, Cllr Rattey said he would update him when he has news.

- Hertfordshire Police submitted a report and contained in the agenda pack.
- Councillor R Buckmaster – referred to her report.
- Councillor Furnace - mentioned the success of the recent repair café whereby many items were repaired, Sustainable will be promoting the COP 27 event on 28th January and councillors will be invited. She thanked the project manager, Clerk and Mayor for the travel challenge award presentations.
 - Cllr E Buckmaster asked if there was a theme to the items being bought in to the repair café and it was evident this was predominantly electronic items and Cllr Burmicz offered help with some equipment he holds
- Councillor Alder updated on the Hayley Centre and the bereavement café was being held twice per month and was a success.
- Cllr Rider attended the memorial Hall AGM on behalf of the Council, the committee at the hall were doing some great work for the community and will continue to attend meetings there.

22/106 TOWN CLERK REPORT

Town Clerk referred to his report updated on the Co-op taking over from Budgens for sponsorship of the bus.

- Cllr Rider raised concerns on the amount of dog fouling in the town
- Cllr Wyatt asked if the council could do more to warn people regarding crime trends through our social media accounts. Cllr E Buckmaster stated that all members should raise awareness through their own social media accounts.

ACTION –

- Clerk to request staff update website and Facebook in regard to crime prevention at the run up to Christmas

22/107 TOWN EVENTS MANAGER REPORT

The report was in the pack the Clerk made members aware of the need for voters in the elections in May 2023 will require photographic identification.

- Cllr Wyatt asked if the Easter Monday date which was showing a date for council meetings had been re-arranged. The Clerk confirmed this will be the following Monday, 17th April 2023.

ACTION –

- Clerk to circulate the ID documents accepted at the polling stations

22/108 UKRAINE SITUATION REPORT

Cllr Smith updated members on the recent Ukraine event for families and hosts in Church House and was a great event and thanked organisers.

22/109 FINANCIAL REPORT
Noted: The current Financial Report

22/110 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT
Noted: the accounts for payment.

22/111 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS
None raised

Meeting Closed 8:06pm

Chair

Date.....