

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 20th November 2023**.

Those present

Cllr Annelise Furnace	Cllr Greg Rattey
Cllr Salvatore Pagdades	Cllr John Rider
Cllr A Parsad-Wyatt	Cllr Reece Smith (Chair)
Cllr N Parsad-Wyatt	Cllr Steve Smith

In attendance:

Chris Carter – Press

25 x members of the public

Thought of the day delivered by Councillor Reece Smith

23/89 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Eric Buckmaster
Cllr Ruth Buckmaster
Cllr Dawn Newell

23/90 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None were received.

23/91 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the town council held on 30th October 2023 (M05)
Cllr A Parsad-Wyatt and Cllr A Furnace raised points that were corrected.
[prop Cllr S Pagdades; sec'd G Rattey]

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 add a resolution in the next agenda of the Full Town Council Meeting to adopt the Town Action Plan 2023-2027.	Added to this agenda
Sawbobus Manager	To request the drivers of the Sawbobus to switch off the engine when not required,	Drivers briefed
Cemetery Manager	To place 'no idling' signs at the cemetery	This action has been considered and not seen as an issue, visitors and families attending ceremonies see drivers switching off engines to

		reduce noise.
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	Waste aware link added to Town Council website

23/92

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Received and noted: the minutes of the planning committee held on 30th October 2023 (P09)

Received and noted: the draft minutes of the planning committee held on 13th November 2023 (P10)

23/93

PUBLIC FORUM

No questions were raised

23/94

MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

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

- The Mayor wanted her thanks passed on to all who attended the Remembrance Sunday event and her thanks to Joanne Sargant for arranging this.
- The Mayors fund raising quiz night is on the 27th January 2024 at Bullfields.

23/95

REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

Received and noted: Representatives reports from:

County Councillor E Buckmaster referred to his report additionally adding;

- The Chair referred to the report submitted by Cllr E Buckmaster.

District Councillors reports

Cllr A Parsad-Wyatt relayed information from Cllr E Buckmaster being

- The Sheering Mill Lane no entry will be starting next week.
- A1184 near Pishiobury/Rowney Gardens. The gullies were cleared by Ringway. The blockage is caused by building material/concrete in the Thames Water pipes. They are due to visit to work on this on Thursday 23rd November 2023
- Parsonage Lane. This has been another problem area for many years. Ringway have booked a flooding investigation for 25th/26th January. The equipment is a Vactor Unit with CCTV and suction. It is very specialist equipment and is booked for work across the county.
- West Road junction seems to be holding up well so far as surface water is concerned but further investigations will also take place in January.
- The overgrowth on to the path in Station Road has been cleared.

Police

Cllr Pagdades read the police report highlighting recent engagement events, one being with Ukraine women and children.

Op Advent will start on the 1st December being different policing operations every day until the 24th December.

Engagement opportunities with Police and Councillors.

7th December – Town Council reception area 09:30-11:00

Question

- Cllr Rattey, asked if there was any feedback on the recent anti-social behaviour issues at the Gables.
The Clerk stated he had spoken with PCSO Collins who had been working with the residents and is looking at developing a neighbourhood watch scheme.
- Cllr A Furnace referred to her report and added, she attended the East Herts Council sustainability and climate forum on the 14th of November. £566,000 was available as funding at East Herts level for environmentally sustainable projects which is to be spent by March 2025. This in turn allows for local grants to be awarded for £3000 for decarbonisation projects, tree planting with 25,000 trees available, solar panels for community buildings with potential match funding and improving domestic energy efficiency.
Several households in Sawbridgeworth have met the criteria for funding under the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2). Being households that do not use gas for heating and have a combined income below £31,000 or are on certain means-tested benefits with an EPC rating D-G. These homes will be targeted for energy efficient upgrades of up to £14,000.
The project also includes an idea to create an energy hub, with East Herts offering the support of a dedicated officer at a permanent or pop-up location for advice on how to save energy.
EV charging was the last point of the project whereby Sawbridgeworth was raised as in urgent need due to the several years of delay in these being installed.

Questions

Cllr Pagdades asked how many trees were to be allocated to Sawbridgeworth and what is the criteria in applying for them?
Cllr Furnace confirmed that the councillors and members of the public were to apply for the trees and the available funding.

Cllr S Smith raised a point that sustainability should be an item on the town council's website.

ACTION – Cllr Salvatore to make police aware of the HUG2 project so residents realise the funding opportunity is not a scam.

23/96

TOWN CLERK REPORT

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

23/97

TOWN PROJECTS MANAGER REPORT

Received and noted: the project manager's report for the month of October 2023.

23/98

TOWN ACTION PLAN

Resolved to adopt the Sawbridgeworth Town Action Plan 2023 - 2027
[prop Cllr Furnace; sec'd Pagdades]

Thanks from Cllrs R Smith and S Pagdades were passed to Cllrs A Parsad-Wyatt and N Parsad-Wyatt for all their hard work and dedication to deliver the action plan through the various stages of consultation.

23/99

PROPOSED AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN FOR EAST HERTFORDSHIRE

Cllr Furnace raised awareness of the East Herts Council's air quality action plan, this is a legal requirement as Sawbridgeworth has been declared since 2015, as an Air Quality Management Area. This is due to the high levels of Nitrogen Dioxide recorded along the Cambridge and London Roads. This pollution was recorded as rising in 2021 – 2022 (the most recent recordings) and is a real danger to public health.

Cllr Furnace is encouraging councillors and members of the public to complete a survey online and respond collectively as a Town Council to East Herts Council with their views.

23/100

ACTION - All Councillors to send a response to Cllr Furnace and the Clerk with their views on the proposed air quality action plan.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Noted: The current Financial Report

23/101

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Noted and Approved: Accounts for payment.

23/102

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Meeting ended at 7:52pm

ACTIONS

Owner	Action	Completed
Cllr Pagdades	To make police aware of the HUG2 project so residents realise the funding opportunity is not a scam	Email sent 21/11/23 by the Clerk to PC Marshall and the project manager and the Police neighbourhood watch coordinator are now linked in.
All Cllrs	to send a response to Cllr Furnace and the Clerk with their views on the proposed air quality action plan.	Email sent to all councillors requesting views 21/11/23