

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 January 2023**.

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
Press – Chris Carter
2 members of the public

Welcome by the Town Mayor followed by thought of the day Cllr Parsad.

22/112 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

22/113 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Declarations of Pecuniary Interests.
None declared that impacted on the budget debate at item **22/121**

22/114 PUBLIC FORUM

To receive and respond to questions from members of the public on matters within the remit of the Town Council.

Questions were received from Mr David Royle in relation to local snow clearance, Police commissioners council tax levy and updates on the Town Green, Market and EV chargers.

Councillor Buckmaster updated the meeting that the amenities committee will discuss the Town Councils response to extreme weather and gritting. He will request Bell Street is gritted by highways due to the essential services this road leads to.

Cllr Rattey raised the concerns from shop keepers the risk of clearing snow and being liable for injuries resulting in slips trips or falls. It was highlighted in Mr Royles questions that if the clearance was completed safely this wouldn't be the case.

The Clerk updated members on recent correspondence with the local police inspector who was aware of the vacancy for a PCSO in Sawbridgeworth and was waiting for officers to be replaced through the recruitment process. The EV chargers were to be discussed at the Eco Audit meeting tomorrow and the market and town green updates were on minutes open to the public from the previous Finance Policy and Economic Development Committee.

- 22/115 MINUTES**
Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the town council held on 28th November 2022 (M06)
[prop Cllr Parsad; secd Cllr R Buckmaster]
- All actions on the minutes had been completed.
- 22/116 PLANNING COMMITTEE**
Received and noted: the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 28th November 2022 (P10)
- Received and noted:** the draft minutes of the planning committee held on the 16th January 2023 (P11)
- 22/117 TOWN ACTION PLAN AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE**
Received and noted: The minutes of the Town Action Plan and Amenities Committee held on 17th October 2022 (T02)
- 22/118 FINANCE, POLICY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**
Resolved: To approve the minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee held on 13th June 2022 (F01)
[prop Cllr E Buckmaster; secd Cllr R Buckmaster]
- 22/119 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.
- 22/120 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS**
Received and noted: Representatives reports from:
- County Councillor E Buckmaster
 The May Fayre will be on the 30th April 2023 and road closures approved.
 Gave an overview on budget setting at County and District level to put the towns budget into context with the bigger picture.

 Discussion was held for the future plan to ensure Essex and Hertfordshire residents use recycling centres in the respective counties. When the information is available Cllr E Buckmaster will share the information to members.
 - District Councillor Alder
 Stated the meetings at district were out of alignment with the Town Councils and couldn't produce a written report. She updated that new residents and replacement general waste wheelie bins will be smaller and have a purple lid, this is to encourage recycling. Cllr R Buckmaster stated this was due to sharing facilities with North Herts and this is the size bins they already use there.
 - District Councillor R Buckmaster
 Referred to her report and if anyone had questions. Cllr Furnace asked why Sawbridgeworth affordable homes information was put together with Bishops Stortford. This was always set out in this format.

- The Clerk read out the police report from PC Shelly Marshall.
- Cllr R Buckmaster referred to her report and the successful Wassail event that was held this year.
- Cllr Furnace updated on the success of the January repair café with 55% of items repaired and 41% repairable requiring parts with predominantly electrical items being repaired. Community Eco event was held last Saturday with a film and local speakers presenting and launched the Sustainable Sawbridgeworth thermal imaging camera and thanked Cllr E Buckmaster for the funding for the camera.

22/121

BUDGET 2022-23 & DETERMINATION OF PRECEPT

Cllr E Buckmaster highlighted some of the budgeting items to allow the Town Council to deliver a service to the town.

Cllr Wyatt thanked Cllr Buckmaster, the Clerk and Joanne Sargant for the work put in to develop the budget for the forthcoming year. He highlighted the awareness of the hardships being faced by residents and the difficult decisions made to complete the budget.

Cllr Smith enquired with regard to the reserves and the investment, the Clerk reassured members the monies are invested by a government approved scheme.

Cllr Alder asked if hanging baskets were being put up this year as there was no money in the budget for them. The Clerk stated these would be donated by a local supplier.

1. **Resolved:** To consider the Recommendation of the Finance & Policy Committee and adopt a Budget for 2023-24
[prop Cllr E Buckmaster sec'd Cllr R Buckmaster]
2. **Resolved:** To determine the Precept for 2023-24 and instruct the principal authority accordingly.
[prop Cllr E Buckmaster sec'd Cllr Alder]

Precept on billing authority signed by the Mayor, Councillor E Buckmaster, Councillor R Buckmaster and the Clerk.

22/122

GRANT APPLICATIONS

Resolved: To approve the grant requests made by the following:

1. Citizens Advice – approved £145
 2. East Herts Council – approved £500
 3. Dragonfly Wellness – approved £500
- [prop Cllr Chester sec'd Cllr R Buckmaster]*

22/123

TOWN PROJECT MANAGERS REPORT

Town Clerk referred to the report

22/124

UKRAINE SITUATION REPORT

Mr Royle updated members on the current local position regarding families being housed from hosts and the approaching one year anniversary of the war. He would report back on how local Ukraine families would like to mark this period.

- 22/125 DEPOSIT & CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**
Noted: The deposit and consultation documents
- 22/126 FINANCIAL REPORT**
Noted: The current Financial Report
- 22/127 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**
Noted: the accounts for payment.
- 22/128 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**
None raised.

Meeting Closed 8:31pm

Chair

Date.....