

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 27th February 2023**.

Those present

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|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 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 | Jo Sargant - Projects Manager |
| Press – Chris Carter | |
| 2 members of the public | |

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

22/129 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

22/130 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Declarations of Pecuniary Interests.
None declared.

22/131 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 road closures in the town and how these can be better communicated and signage improved.

Cllr Eric Buckmaster responded to inform Mr Royle that he monitors one.network online which offers regular updates on roadworks. The main issue is if roadworks do start under emergency powers the agency completing works should inform the council within two hours. Any breaches Cllr Eric Buckmaster can inform the council and contractors fined.

- What measures is the Council taking to generate new candidates for the town council and make it more representative of the town as a whole?

The Mayor stated it was the responsibility of councillors to complete this, the Clerk stated that how to become a councillor and the role was on the website and on Facebook.

Cllr Alder stated she would like to see more women on the council.

22/132 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the town council held on 30th January 2023 (M07). One amendment to be made in regard to Cllr Alders update which was completed.
[prop Cllr Smith; secd Cllr R Buckmaster]

- All actions on the minutes had been completed.

22/133 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Received and noted: the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 30th January 2023 (P12)

Received and noted: the draft minutes of the Planning Committee held on the 13th February 2023 (P13)

22/134 TOWN ACTION PLAN AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Received and noted: The minutes of the Town Action Plan and Amenities Committee held on 13th February 2023 (T03)

The Clerk updated on the funding for the Jubilee Gardens had been secured for the next financial year.

Updated on the options to move the office telephone system over to a VOIP system. Cllr Smith offered support due to working in this field.

22/135 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.
- Cllr Rattey thanked everyone who sent him supporting messages regarding the recent court case where he was subject to harassment.

He also raised that he had been told that being vocal on equality may have bought about the harassment he receives. He felt that without people putting their heads above the parapet over the last few decades then people would not be enjoying the equality we have today.

22/136 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

Received and noted: Representatives reports from:

- County Councillor E Buckmaster
Referred to his report and several projects he was working on were progressing. He was concentrating on the Gilston planning application which was being heard the next day.

Cllr Furnace asked if there was an update on the Harlow recycling centre and an agreement for use by Hertfordshire residents. Cllr E Buckmaster stated there was no arrangement between Essex and Hertfordshire and advised to monitor this situation going forward.

Cllr Alder wanted her thanks noted to the fire service for their support with the Centre for Older People, Age Concern and the Hailey Centre. Cllr E Buckmaster will pass this on.

- District Councillor Alder
Referred to her report.
Cllr Furnace asked if there was an update on the recruitment of planning officers at the district council. Cllr Alder stated that candidates are now invited in prior to the interview process to get a

feel for the workplace. This was to encourage people to join as they are short of the officers due to private industry paying higher wages which draws planning officers away from the council role.

- District Councillor R Buckmaster
Referred to her report and she had been working very hard over the last month on the Gilston development attending several meetings and had received hundreds of pages of information which was to be used in the application the following day.
- Cllr Furnace raised her concerns on the amount of paperwork councillors received at very short notice for these applications. Cllr E Buckmaster stated Cllr R Buckmaster was limited on what she could mention prior to attending the application process. Cllr Parsad raised that many of the papers received at late notice were from objections not just from officers which added to the pressures of members of the East Herts Council Development Management Committee (DMC).
Cllr R Buckmaster is keeping an open mind and will listen to all the reports at the meeting.
- The Clerk read out the police report from PC Shelly Marshall and highlighted a multi-agency meeting being held on the 25th March in Sayesbury Road and councillors were invited to attend.
- Cllr R Buckmaster referred to her report and stated SYPRC were still looking for a treasurer. The RHSO had their AGM and they were holding their juice stall on the 18th March.
- Cllr Furnace updated on the cooking club being held at Bullfields with three classes being held so far and French, German and Ukraine cuisine being cooked in future sessions, with Hailey Centre attendees being invited to share favourite recipes.
East Herts Council had been in touch with Sustainable Sawbridgeworth members and the Town Council staff regarding tailored ideas in pollution reduction. They also have pollution monitors to hand out for use to measure air quality, future meetings are planned.

Cllr E Buckmaster added that there was a County seminar on air quality the next day for members which he will get an update on.

22/137

FLAG FLYING POLICY

Resolved to adopt of the flag flying policy presented by the Clerk with an amendment to the Remembrance Sunday date to November.
[prop Cllr Alder; secd Cllr Chester]

22/138

SAWBRIDGEWORTH ACTION PLAN NEW START DATE

Resolved to change the start date of the Town Action Plan to coincide with council elections being May 2023. The current plan runs in four year cycles and ends in 2024.
[prop Cllr Chester; secd Cllr Furnace]

22/139

UKRAINE SITUATION REPORT

Mr Royle updated members on the vigil held on the 24th March and the event held by families in Bishops Stortford the following day which was

very emotional. Reported on local position regarding families being housed from hosts and the difficulties on accessing services.
Cllr Alder asked for improved accuracy on his report but thanked him for his report.
Cllr R Buckmaster also thanked Mr Royle for his work and highlighted the Friday event for the wars one year anniversary which was very emotional.
Cllr Rider was concerned how to donate money and Mr Royle stated he could give Cllr Rider a list of charities.
Cllr Wyatt also thanked Mr Royle and asked if a fund-raising stall could be held at the May Fayre to raise funds.

- 22/140 DEPOSIT & CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**
Noted: The deposit and consultation documents

- 22/141 FINANCIAL REPORT**
Noted: The current Financial Report

- 22/142 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**
Noted: the accounts for payment.

- 22/143 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**
None raised.

- 22/144 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**
Resolved that pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following agenda item
[prop Cllr Chester; secd Cllr Furnace]

- 22/145 FREEDOM OF SAWBRIDGEWORTH**
To receive and resolve the nomination for Freedom of the Town nominated by
Cllr John Rider

Meeting Closed 8:25pm

Chair

Date.....