

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 26th February 2024.**

Those present

Cllr E Buckmaster	Cllr N Parsad-Wyatt
Cllr R Buckmaster (Chair)	Cllr S Penney
Cllr A Furnace	Cllr G Rattey
Cllr D Newell	Cllr J Rider
Cllr S Pagdades	Cllr R Smith
Cllr A Parsad-Wyatt	Cllr S Smith

In attendance:

Chris Carter – Press

37 x members of the public

Thought of the day delivered by Councillor E Buckmaster.

23/120 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None were made

23/121 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None were received.

23/122 PUBLIC FORUM

Q1 Why do satellite navigation systems when travelling South on the M11 direct drivers towards Harlow then back on to the A1184. Will HGV infringements of weight restrictions be enforced?

Cllr E Buckmaster stated the issue with enforcement is HGV's can enter weight restricted roads to deliver and to prove a breach, drivers will need to be followed through the enforcement area. Monitoring this will take place and police made aware of concerns linked to the Wrenbridge development when it is opened.

Q2 Do the council liaise with technology companies such as Google to update satellite navigation systems to correctly navigate drivers?

Cllr E Buckmaster stated he will take this back to County colleagues to look at if this can be fed back to ensure diversions are mapped correctly.

Q3 How are the plans progressing for the Jubilee Gardens?

The Clerk responded. A meeting had been held today with the designer to finalise some updates required by EHDC, which when received will be sent to them for consideration. Once this has been approved tendering and works should follow.

23/123

MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the town council held on 29th January 2024 (M07)
[prop Cllr R Smith; sec'd Cllr S Smith]

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

Cllr G Rattey asked why the minutes didn't reflect the previous meeting under point 23/105.

The Clerk stated he had been advised to record the minutes in this way and a sound recording had been made and retained from the meeting.

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

Owner	Action	Completed
Cllr A Parsad-Wyatt	To draft a motion to increase the maximum amount to be awarded to successful applicants for the town council grant funding scheme	Completed

23/124

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Received and noted: the minutes of the planning committee held on 29th January 2024 (P13)

Received and noted: the draft minutes of the planning committee held on 12th February 2024 (P14)

23/125

TOWN ACTION PLAN & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Received and noted the draft minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 12th February 2024 (E03)

23/126

MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

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

- Bereavement Café contacted the Mayor to thank them for the recent grant funding awarded by the Town Council
- Met with Fawbert and Barnard School Council representatives
- Attended the Scouts when making bird boxes
- Attended cubs jamboree celebration who were learning sign language
- Attended Sawbo Sales event
- Attended open day at the Herts and Essex air ambulance base
- Attended the opening of a new shop in Bakers Walk
- Attended beavers and scouts pancake day event
- Met with the Co-op manager to discuss local concerns
- Attended the child contact service at Bullfields
- Attended the town twinning AGM
- Attended the year two anniversary of the Ukraine war event where the beacon was lit outside of the council offices
- Attended the new charity Legend on the Bench at Bullfields, unveiling a bench bearing the words "Someone is always listening" and has a QR code which provides the numbers of various helplines, including Suicide

Prevention UK (SPUK) and mental health charity MIND

Cllr D Newell stated she had been to the Taylor Wimpy site event and managers were happy to attend a council meeting to explain lessons learnt to apply to any future developments.

Cllr A Furnace stated that a list has been raised with the managers to highlight outstanding paths and road upgrades.

23/127

REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

Received and noted: Representatives reports from:

County Councillor E Buckmaster referred to his report additionally adding:

- Mandeville School may be taking in initial pupils but this hasn't been verified.
- The Sawbridgeworth North East 20mph consultation will be starting soon.
- Flooding prevention works have been completed reducing regular issues such as the A1184 South of the Town, West Road near to the A1184 junction, Parsonage Lane. Spellbrook is still seeing issues from water running off the fields and gully inspections have been requested to take place more frequently.
- Community Forum meeting at Gilston community hall to discuss the development tomorrow evening, which is open to the public.
- The no entry signs on Sheering Mill Lane are all in place and should now prevent vehicles breaching the no entry restriction.
- A number of pavements have been resurfaced and patchwork is being completed to the A1184 and West Road prior to resurfacing work.
- Will be seeking via statutory consultation to remove 20 meters of double yellow lines outside the cottages in Tudor Park.
- Has several parking engagements for five schemes relating to parking in central Sawbridgeworth due to pavement parking but also to consider relaxing some parking restrictions allowing shoppers to park for short periods of time.

Cllr A Furnace asked, is there potential for a quarry at Stanstead Abbots as this will have repercussions on air quality and HGV movements through the town.

Cllr E Buckmaster stated this was still being investigated by officers but has been on hold due to an application that may go to appeal for a quarry in the Hatfield area.

Cllr A Furnace stated there was some interesting information in Cllr E Buckmaster's report on the impact of wood burning fires and stoves, what is the campaign going forward in relation to this?

Cllr E Buckmaster stated fossil fuel and wood burners are very unhealthy due to the particulates they produce. It will be an ongoing campaign and awareness raised.

District Councillors reports

Cllr R Buckmaster referred to her report

Cllr A Parsad-Wyatt attended a standards committee recently and figures from this had been circulated to members. His main focus has been on the Barclays Bank development in Knight

Street. He will be attending the next full district council meeting this Wednesday.

Other Reports

Police Report, this was read by Cllr S Pagdades, local Police had completed a road traffic operation today on the A1184 the operation involved fourteen officers.

The primary aim of this operation was to prevent, detect and deter vehicle crime, burglary and other criminal activity as well as enforce road traffic legislation.

Over thirty vehicles were stopped during the operation. A number of drivers were dealt with for minor road traffic offences, one vehicle and occupant/s were searched under section 23 of the misuse of drugs act, intelligence-based enquiries are continuing.

Police engagement dates will be placed on the town council website.

Cllr S Pagdades is exploring further information on recent burglaries in School Lane and is writing to the Police and Crime Commissioner to obtain figures on 20mph speed enforcement.

Cllr A Furnace

Raised awareness of swift boxes being fitted in several locations around the town including the town council building starting on the 22nd March by the Sawbridgeworth Swift group.

Sustainable Sawbridgeworth were holding a cycle day event 10am-12pm in the Co-op car park on the 13th April. To promote cycling through the town and east herts council officers will be attending to speak to residents to gather feedback on footpaths and cycling routes.

Cllr R Buckmaster

RHSO had their AGM with reports on the years' work and plans are being made to celebrate next year's 300th anniversary of the Thomas Rivers Orchard.

The planning permission has been granted for the Bullfields extension and funds were being sought to complete this project. There will be an all-day music event later this year at Bullfields which is currently in the planning phase and wanted to offer prior warning that this event will take place.

23/128

DETERMINATION OF A MAYOR-ELECT

Resolved: Cllr R Smith designated mayor-elect for the civic year 2024-25. To be determined by resolution at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council in May 2024.

[prop Cllr S Pagdades; sec'd Cllr N Parsad-Wyatt]

- 23/129 TOWN CLERK REPORT**
Received and noted: the Clerk's report for the month of February 2024.
- 23/130 TOWN PROJECTS MANAGER REPORT**
Received and noted: the Project Manager's report for the month of February 2024.
- 23/131 ANNUAL RISK ASSESSMENT**
Resolved: To approve the Risk Assessment relating to the activities of the Town Council in the year 2024/25
[prop Cllr S Pagdades; sec'd Cllr S Smith]
- 23/132 COMMITTEE VACANCIES**
Resolved: Cllr S Penney was elected to sit on the following committees with vacancies.
 - Town Action Plan and Amenities Committee
[prop Cllr A Parsad-Wyatt; sec'd Cllr A Furnace]
 - Planning Committee
[prop Cllr N Parsad-Wyatt; sec'd Cllr J Rider]
- 23/133 TOWN COUNCIL GENERAL GRANTS AWARD VALUE**
Resolved: to alter current grant funding guidance to state; Guidance to members is to award a maximum amount of £500 per application. However, if it is considered appropriate in extraordinary circumstances to award a higher amount than £500 for an application then this may be completed by a resolution of the Full Town Council.
[prop Cllr A Parsad-Wyatt; sec'd Cllr R Smith]
- Resolved:* Any residual grant funding money will be considered for awarding to any applicant or applicants from that financial year's grant funding process.
This year 2023/24 the remaining funds will be awarded equally to East Herts Council youth diversionary work and the Bereavement Café.
[prop Cllr A Parsad-Wyatt; sec'd Cllr D Newell]
- 23/134 FINANCIAL REPORT**
Noted: The current Financial Report
- 23/135 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**
Noted and Approved: Accounts for payment.
- 23/136 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**
None raised.
- 23/137 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**
Resolved: 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.
Nomination for Freedom of the Town

23/138

FREEDOM OF SAWBRIDGEWORTH

To receive and resolve the nomination for Freedom of the Town
nominated by
Cllr E Buckmaster

Meeting Finished at 20:22

ACTIONS

Owner	Action	Completed
Cllr E Buckmaster	To liaise with County Councillors to explore if diversions can be mapped correctly on satellite navigation systems	
Town Project Manager	Place police engagement dates on to the town council website	

PART 2
