

SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes

of the Meeting of Sawbridgeworth Town Council held at 7:00pm in the Council Chamber, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street on **Monday 24th February 2025**.

Those present

Cllr E Buckmaster	Cllr Nathan Parsad-Wyatt
Cllr R Buckmaster	Cllr Simon Penney
Cllr Annelise Furnace	Cllr Greg Rattey
Cllr Dawn Newell	Cllr John Rider
Cllr Salvatore Pagdades	Cllr Reece Smith
Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt	Cllr Steve Smith

In attendance:

Town Clerk	2 x Members of the public
Press, Chris Carter	

Welcome by the Town Mayor followed by a minutes silence to mark the 3rd anniversary of the war in Ukraine.

Thought for the day was read by Cllr Nathan Parsad-Wyatt.

24/128 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none

24/129 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

No declarations of pecuniary interest were declared.

24/130 PUBLIC FORUM

Q1. How are we going to address the call for sites, communicate with the public and ensure the infrastructure is improved.

Cllr Nathan Parsad-Wyatt responded the district Council state they cant rule anything in or out at this stage, each site will get assessed against planning policies then determined to see if it is acceptable to be developed or not. At that point developers will bring forward detailed applications and it at this point we as the town council can consider if these developments are acceptable or not. We need to make sure we have the infrastructure in place to further developments. Also other developments such as recreational schemes may be requested which could deliver more service provision for the town.

Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt The process for engagement will be through the district councillors, the district plan needs to be concluded within 30 months and into the new council structure.

Cllr Eric Buckmaster mentioned that from a County perspective the sites will be assessed around flooding, road networks, the Gilston 10,000 houses will take the development construction works up to the 2050's. Due to this it is critical we know what is being proposed and the impact this will have locally.

Cllr Nathan Parsad-Wyatt stated that there were two distinct parts to the process, Once the district plan is published sites will be assessed for suitability and we should encourage residents to be involved in this process. This will be followed by specific applications which will encourage applicants to take significant public consultation and we will

publicise this as much as possible.

Q2. Will the County Councillor applicants be supporting Ukrainian Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SME's) and translators via video link on a nonprofit basis.

Cllr Eric Buckmaster asked to put the question in writing to all councillors and when it is known what the specifics are to understand the question it will be addressed. Cllr Dawn Newell echoed this response.

Q3. A Church Street Trader has asked if parking could be supplied for deliveries in Vantorts Road for his shop.

Cllr Eric Buckmaster stated some derestricting of areas in Knight Street may support this request. Further public engagements will take place in respect of parking restrictions in the town which will provide business owners to have an input.

Q4. Can a Community Interest Company (CIC) be considered to support the opening of the Leventhorpe Swimming Pool.

Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt stated that many months of work has been invested in all avenues in keeping the swimming pool open. Unfortunately the decommissioning process has started and the pool does cost £300,000 in annual operational costs but also needs £700,000 to upgrade the pool.

Cllr Dawn Newell stated that it wasn't just the running costs needed as the whole pool needed upgrading.

24/131

MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the town council held on 27th January 2025 (M07) One amendment was required from Cllr John Rider at point 24/110, his comment should read East Herts District Council not Herts County Council.

[prop Cllr Nathan Parsad-Wyatt; sec'd Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt]

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

Action	Owner	Update
To submit the draft letter to the District Council and add a question on why the recent government funding for the pool had not been successful to the County Council.	Clerk	Completed
To contact the police regarding the faulty street lights in Station Road due to the danger it poses to pedestrians.	Cllr Salvatore Pagdades	Completed
To rewrite the Grant Applications policy.	Clerk	Completed
To add a nomination for the vacancy on	Clerk	Completed

the next full town council agenda for the planning committee.		
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24/132 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Received and noted: the minutes of the planning committee held on 27th January 2025 (P13)

Received and noted: the draft minutes of the planning committee held on 10th February 2025 (P014)

24/133 LEVENTHORPE SWIMMING POOL

Further discussion was made to the responses from both County and East Herts District Council.

It was requested the Clerk writes a further letter to East Herts District Council requesting for the rest of this school year East Herts District Council mitigate costs now faced by schools and parents to use alternative swimming pools following the closure of Leventhorpe swimming pool. These costs would not be budgeted for in this school year and are subsequently increased now pupils are travelling to Bishops Stortford rather than Leventhorpe.

ACTION - Clerk to write a further letter to East Herts District Council requesting for the rest of this school year they mitigate costs now faced by schools and parents to use alternative swimming pools following the closure of Leventhorpe swimming pool.

24/134 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

To receive new Mayor's appointments and communications
Cllr Reece Smith advised

- He attended the Indies newspaper awards which was very emotional but he congratulated Corrine Lewis on being presented with a Green award for her work with the Sawbridgeworth Repair Café and community litter-picking group Tidy Up Sawbridgeworth.

24/135 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

Received and noted: Representatives reports from:
County Councillor Eric Buckmaster

- Co-hosted with County officers 50 years of Countryside Management. It was also recognised for their investment in volunteers. And 100 volunteers attended an event to recognise this.
- The Youth COP 29 secondary schools attended to take part in climate change awareness and a careers fayre in the afternoon.
- The 20mph in the North East of the town has been agreed and will be implemented this week.
- Speed and volume surveys in Sawbridgeworth West have been concluded and all roads except Burnside complying being able to deliver 20mph restrictions. Burnside may need to have traffic calming measures to make it compliant.
- West Road and High Wych Lane are having pre patching repairs prior to resurfacing works and will require road closures.
- East Herts budget meeting is this Wednesday and Ringway and parking charges appear to be an issue. These are integral parts of the budget for this Wednesday but have already been decided by the executive member as a non-key decision and they are done.
- He has put a question to the executive on planning, regarding the

ongoing five year housing supply and the ongoing speculative development. We have seen applications not in the district plan approved as there is no five year housing supply.

- Parking charges also showed a direction of travel in removing the free parking period as it was only on a technicality that we haven't lost them.

Cllr John Rider asked regarding school composting. Can he forward details of the scheme as he will make the Head aware at Fawbert and Barnard School.

East Herts should make people aware of the access to green bins more accessible. Cllr Eric Buckmaster will forward details.

Cllr Annelise asked if there will be any feedback on the clean air night and the money invested in this campaign and the link in with the East Herts campaign. Cllr Eric Buckmaster will seek feedback but is frustrated at some of the responses to climate change posts and update on projects from members of the public.

Cllr Ruth Buckmaster

Stated nothing to report as she hadn't attended any district meetings prior to this meeting.

Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt

Stated that he has the full district council meeting on Wednesday but wanted to raise the community governance review. He mentioned on three occasions that we didn't want to be warded due to it not suiting the makeup of the town. This issue will be considered again at the full district council meeting, and the three district councillors will be making representations against it once again, as they have over the last two years. It appears that officers at the district council are applying the same considerations for similar-sized towns, but being warded will not suit Sawbridgeworth, as councillors have unanimously highlighted on several occasions over the past two years.

Sawbridgeworth Town Council has submitted representations on the 28 Knight Street licensing application.

ACTION - Due to the concerns for the warding consideration once again at District Council for the town it was agreed for the Clerk to write a letter on behalf of the Town Council. The letter should strongly object to the further consideration for warding as the town council appears to be being ignored on several issues managed by East Herts District Council.

Cllr Salvatore Pagdades

Highlighted the police surgeries and the dates that had been circulated to members.

The street lights in Station Road was raised with the local officers but they stated they could not assist with this matter.

He also raised the concern from Cllr Dawn Newell on the use of quad bikes at the Rivers Orchard. Police have increased patrols in the area for this issue.

Cllr Ruth Buckmaster

RHSO update, held the AGM last week and the group are in a good place financially but money will be utilised for the 300 anniversary events throughout the year.

The group changed its constitution as it was an open group meaning

only three members were required and the future and history of the group had no-one appointed this responsibility. A committee has now been adopted with 9 members including a Town Councillor.

Cllr Annelise Furnace

Has arranged the last Energy Hub event from the grant funding from East Herts, being Saturday 29th March 2025 9am – 1pm in Bell Street Car Park.

Cllr Simon Penney

No update as he couldn't make the last Sports Association meeting.

Cllr Steve Smith

Updated that the Hailey Centre held its first board meeting on the 22nd January, and the main topics were the finances as it has been running on a loss and this will exceed budgeted levels and expected to be £6,203 by the end of the financial year. Some of the expenditure was for a new boiler that has been fitted.

The refurbishment project is almost ready for a tender process to start, the timing of the project is key and a start date of July is planned. If this is not met it will need to be postponed until 2026 due to the colder weather requirements for hot food supply and a warm space for attendees. Funding has not reached its target and £70,000 is still required to complete the refurbishment works.

- 24/136 TOWN ACTION PLAN AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE**
Received and Noted the minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee held on 10th February 2025 (T03)
- 24/137 POLICY MATTERS**
To consider any matters relating to policies for the future development of Town Council services to the community.
 - **Resolved** to approve and adopt the draft document, Grants
[prop Cllr Nathan Parsad-Wyatt; sec'd Cllr Ruth Buckmaster]
- 24/138 TOWN CLERK REPORT**
Received and noted: the Clerk's report for the month of February 2025.
The Clerk highlighted the Energy Hub and the great work to make this a success from Cllr Annelise Furnace which was echoed by the mayor. Cllr Annelise Furnace thanked all the volunteers that are supporting her.
- 24/139 TOWN PROJECTS MANAGER REPORT**
The Clerk updated on the progress of the Town Project Manager's recuperation following an operation and the work by the rest of the team to ensure the council is still functioning smoothly.
- 24/140 WINTER ROAD TREATMENT**
Nothing to report due to the mild weather conditions.
- 24/141 FINANCIAL REPORT**
Received and noted: The current Financial Report
- 24/142 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**
Noted and Approved: Accounts for payment.
- 24/143 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**
Nothing was raised.

Meeting ended at 7:56pm

Action	Owner	Update
To write a further letter to East Herts District Council requesting for the rest of this school year they mitigate costs now faced by schools and parents to use alternative swimming pools following the closure of Leventhorpe swimming pool.	Clerk	COMPLETED letter sent 25 th February 2025
To write a letter on behalf of the Town Council. The letter should strongly object to the further consideration for warding in the East Herts District Council Community Governance review as the town council has made three representations previously and still is being considered.	Clerk	COMPLETED letter sent 25 th February 2025

Signed.....

Date.....