

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 25th March 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

In attendance:

Chris Carter – Press

5 x members of the public

Thought of the day delivered by Councillor N Parsad-Wyatt.

23/139 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr A Parsad-Wyatt, Cllr S Smith
Both apologies approved

23/140 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None were received.

23/141 PUBLIC FORUM

Q1 Is there going to be a communication plan for the town action plan and when will this be produced?

Cllr N Parsad-Wyatt, the communication plan is being worked on and will be part of the updates throughout the year.

Q2 Will the council liaise with the public on the format of the annual town meeting, for example introducing a roll for youth council or councillors?

The Clerk responded, discussions had been held between the Mayor and the Mayor elect to review the annual town meeting for next year.

23/142 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the town council held on 26th February 2024 (M08)
[prop Cllr R Smith; sec'd Cllr N Parsad-Wyatt]

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

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

Owner	Action	Completed
Cllr E Buckmaster	To liaise with County Councillors to explore if diversions can be mapped correctly on satellite navigation systems	Highways are looking into this but currently this issue cannot be resolved
Town Project Manager	Place police engagement dates on to the town council website	On 'upcoming events' on the website

23/143 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Received and noted: the minutes of the planning committee held on 26th February 2024 (P15)

Received and noted: the draft minutes of the planning committee held on 11th March 2024 (P16)

23/144 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

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

- Visits made to the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides who were making mothering Sunday presents.
- Attended Harlow Civic dinner.
- Attended Commonwealth flag raising at County Hall.
- Attended Brownie's meeting where the new uniform designs were being drawn.
- Attended Spellbrook School Council meeting.
- Was present when Reeding's school council attended the chamber.
- Attended the Ware Civic dinner.
- High Sheriff will be visiting the library this week.

23/145 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

Received and noted: Representatives reports from:

County Councillor E Buckmaster referred to his report additionally adding:

- Current engagement on the five parking schemes will not be moving forward without prior meetings with business representatives and Highways officers. I understand the petition is in and this should go to democratic services at County Hall.
- The Northeast 20mph consultation is about to start.
- West Road the removal of 20 meters of double yellow lines by the cottages by the Taylor Wimpy site.
- Footpath 22 where the bank had collapsed has been repaired.
- Potholes on the border with Essex has been raised at County level for Hertfordshire highways to liaise with Essex when putting road closures in place to both then repair the roads.
- Air source heat pumps, a planning application for the fitting of the pump has been refused by East Herts planning and the applicant feels they are using policies going beyond national policies as they are stipulating the pump should be 5 decibels below background noise. The policy being used hasn't had any councillor scrutiny.

Cllr E Buckmaster asked for the Sawbridgeworth Town Council planning committee to challenge East Herts planning to publish policies for residents wishing to make an application. To estimate the number of applications in urban areas that would meet approval under the current policy and to introduce a clearer lighter touch process for residents based on National policy and under permitted development.

Councillor N Parsad-Wyatt stated this would be reviewed at the planning meeting following this meeting today.

Councillor S Pagdades asked how far had Councillor E Buckmaster had got with the lobbying for higher penalties intended for fly tipping offences and fines at court to be at least equivalent to fixed penalty notices.

Councillor E Buckmaster stated this work was ongoing, the current issues are if offenders elect to go to court and their income is assessed, a lower value fine can be issued. He has asked for a consistent licensing process for waste carriers to reduce fly tipping. Figures for offences can be found on the district council website.

District Councillors Reports

No updates were presented for district councillor reports.

Other Reports

Councillor R Buckmaster referred to the report for SYPRC, the RHSO report the juice stall the previous Saturday raised £216.

Councillor A Furnace added, we have been awarded the £3000 grant from East Herts for environmental sustainability work. This will go towards a mobile energy hub and to update our eco audit to assess progress. Sustainable Sawbridgeworth has had another successful repair café event and tidy up Sawbridgeworth volunteers were out last Saturday and on the 13th April will be cycling day. Sawbridgeworth swifts have placed bird boxes up including one on the Town Council building.

- 23/146 TO RESOLVE THE START TIME OF COUNCIL MEETING 2024 2025**
Resolved to start committee meetings and full town council meetings at 7pm from May 2024 following the Annual meeting of the Town Council. The report from the Clerk was referred to.
[prop Cllr G Rattey; sec'd Cllr N Parsad-Wyatt]
- 23/147 TOWN CLERK REPORT**
Received and noted: the Clerk's report for the month of February 2024. The Clerk mentioned he had received a petition on the engagement on the proposed parking changes along Bell Street containing over 1000 signatures and this will be forwarded to County Hall.
- 23/148 TOWN PROJECTS MANAGER REPORT**
Received and noted: the Project Manager's report for the month of March 2024.
- 23/149 FINANCIAL REPORT**
Noted: The current Financial Report
- 23/150 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**
Noted and Approved: Accounts for payment.
- 23/151 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**
None raised.

Meeting Finished at 19:59