

SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL Minutes

of the Meeting of Sawbridgeworth Town Council held at 19.30hrs in the Council Chamber, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street on **Monday 25th April 2022.**

Those present

Cllr Angela Alder	Cllr Greg Rattey
Cllr Eric Buckmaster	Cllr John Rider
Cllr Ruth Buckmaster	Cllr David Royle
Cllr John Burmitz	Cllr Frederick Parr
Cllr Craig Chester	Cllr Nathan Parsad
Cllr Annelise Furnace	Cllr Angus Wyatt

In attendance:

Clerk – Christopher Hunt	Press – Chris Carter
Town Project Manager – Jo Sargant	1 x member of public

Thought of the day read by Cllr Craig Chester topic covered the responsibility of elected members to maintain high standards and represent the public.

21/139 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies received

21/140 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

No declarations received

21/141 PUBLIC FORUM

No questions were received

21/142 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28th March 2022 (M09)
[prop Cllr Alder, sec'd Cllr R Buckmaster]

21/143 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Received and noted: the minutes of the planning committee held on 28th March 2022 (P16)

Received and noted: the draft minutes of the planning committee held on 11th April 2022 (P17)

21/144 FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Received and noted: the minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee held on 11th April 2022 (F04)

21/145 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

- Annual report delivered at the Annual Town Meeting
- He received a donation from the fund raising made by a local young girl, Freya of £120 for Ukraine and presented her with a tablet on behalf of Reedings School, donated by Adam MacKay's
- Wrote an article for the Town Flyer
- Met a landlord of the last empty shop in the town
- Planning meeting for the local fashion show for charity

- The Community multi agency meeting is progressing
- Ukraine welcome packs are ready for refugee families.
- Attended the Mayor of Hertford quiz night

21/146 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

Received and noted: Representatives reports from:

County Councillor E Buckmaster added:

- Under 11 school places for Sawbridgeworth were 100% in success on getting one of the options applied for
- West Road, latest road closure causes issues and damage to residents vehicles. He is waiting a response from a Managing Director for one of the developers and a site meeting may be arranged, the buffer zone is still under scrutiny
- County officers have been invited to a meeting to discuss the West Road and A1184 junction development
- New yellow line parking restrictions, traffic management, road and footpaths repairs throughout the Town were being progressed.

Questions

Cllr D Royle raised his concerns regarding lack of information on energy saving from County and will be passing out information and advice to local residents. *Cllr E Buckmaster* has raised the issue of the County website at the highest level.

Cllr Furnace asked if there was any further information on the Library grant encouraging young people to volunteer and how would this be implemented in the Town. *Cllr E Buckmaster* will try to find out more information.

District Councillor A Alder:
had no further update

District Councillor R Buckmaster:

Due to cancelled meetings had no update but wanted to pass on the thanks from the Hertfordshire Deputy Lord Lieutenant to Parish and Town Councillors for all their work they do.

Questions

Cllr C Chester asked regarding leaf clearance, *Cllr R Buckmaster* confirmed leaves would not be cleared until they have broken down and this policy had been in place for twelve years.

Cllr D Royle highlighted that laybys in Parsonage Lane and Spellbrook are particularly bad and 'Tidy Up Sawbridgeworth' had collected 9 bags of waste. He also reported that schools were not happy with the food waste collection provision.

- Other Representatives –
 - Councillor Royle referred to his report
 - Councillor R Buckmaster, no further update.
 - Councillor Furnace referred to the local farming webinar and the effect of global warming is having on crop yield and farming techniques. Also, the Ukraine situation is restricting supplies and some abuse received by farmers from members of the public. *Cllr E Buckmaster* stated that sustainable Hertfordshire will be reaching out to community groups and farmers to support them and the negative effect fly tipping has in terms of cost and time to clear.

21/147 UPDATE ON UKRAINE LOCAL SUPPORTING EVENTS

Cllr Royle, updated on the Ukraine working party,

- 27 hosts have come forward locally and Sawbridgeworth were quick off the mark to get organised. Thirteen children and twenty adults will be housed. He reported on the great support from MP Julie Marson but still applications for Visas were troublesome.
- DBS checks were needed as well as home checks and these were also slow in progress.
- Google drive and social media platforms have been set up and translators have been sourced locally to assist.
- He wanted the drive for donations and collections continued as well showing support by flags being put up.

Cllr Furnace wanted her thanks noted for the work Cllr Royle was doing in respect of the Ukraine support, this was echoed by other councillors.

21/148 REVIEW STANDING ORDERS

Resolved: amendments to Standing Orders at points 12,13, and 69 relating to the audio or visual recording of meetings with the express permission of the Council, originally reviewed at the Finance and Policy Committee 17th January 2022

Cllr E Buckmaster pointed out an update required, to refer complaints to the East Herts Monitoring Officer not Standards Board for England.

Also the rules of debate were a good guide for all councillors and asked if this section could be sent out to all to highlight good practice.

[prop Cllr Alder sec'd Cllr Parsad]

ACTION: Clerk to send out to all Councillors the rules of debate section of Standing Orders

21/149 HR & HEALTH AND SAFETY

Resolved: To move HR support to Citation from the three tendering companies as listed in the agenda pack.

[prop Cllr Chester sec'd Cllr R Buckmaster]

21/150 SECTION 106 WEST ROAD ALLOTMENTS AND COMMUNITY LAND

Discussion was had to the public amenity land in West Road and agreed to the retention by Barratt Homes to hand to a management company. It was agreed to allow this to occur if requested as the land will not require management at the cost of the Town Council.

21/151 TOWN CLERKS REPORT

Clerk read from the report in the agenda pack

21/152 TOWN PROJECT MANAGERS REPORT

The Town Project Manager read from the report in the agenda pack

21/153 JUBILEE FOUR DAY WEEKEND

The Town Projects Manager read from the report in the agenda pack and she will be collating events throughout the town and promote these through the website and social media.

Cllr Wyatt informed the meeting that there is a National Website with jubilee events entered on to them which could be referred to.

Cllr Burmitz asked if the alcohol restriction still existed in Bell Mead and the Town Centre.

The Clerk stated no restrictions exist at either of these locations and arrangements will be made to remove the old signage.
It was confirmed the beacon lighting for the event will be at 9:45pm

21/154 DEPOSIT AND CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS
Noted: The Deposit and Consultation Documents

21/155 FINANCIAL REPORT
Noted: The current Financial Report

21/156 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT
Noted and Approved: Accounts for payment

21/157 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS
Cllr Furnace asked if the Freedom of the Town could be added.

Meeting ended at 8:27pm