

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 28th April 2025**.

Those present

Cllr E Buckmaster
Cllr R Buckmaster
Cllr Annelise Furnace
Cllr Dawn Newell
Cllr Salvatore Pagdades

Cllr Simon Penney
Cllr Greg Rattey
Cllr John Rider
Cllr Reece Smith
Cllr Steve Smith

In attendance:

Town Clerk
PC Shelly Marshall
PCSO Fallon Collins

0 x Members of the public

Welcome by the Town Mayor followed by Thought for the Day read by Cllr Simon Penney.

24/159 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt, Cllr Nathan Parsad-Wyatt
[prop Cllr Ruth Buckmaster; sec'd Cllr Salvatore Pagdades]

24/160 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

No declarations of pecuniary interest were declared.

24/161 PUBLIC FORUM

Emailed question received for this meeting.

Q1. "What opportunities will there be in the 2025/6 Council year for councillors to engage with residents, over and above Council meetings?"

Councillors discussed the question and stated all engaged with members of the public on a daily basis. Social media email and the Flyer are used regularly. Surgeries have been tried and not successful and attendance at events have been successful.

Cllr John Rider asked if East Herts District Councillors from other areas could be invited to visit Sawbridgeworth so local matters can be highlighted.

ACTION Clerk to email the inquirer to assess what ideas they may have for further engagement.

ACTION Clerk to write to the leader of East Herts District Council to invite Councillors to visit Sawbridgeworth and familiarise themselves with local concerns in the Town.

24/162 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the town council held on 31st March 2025 (M09).

[prop Cllr Greg Rattey; sec'd Cllr Steve Smith]

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

Action	Owner	Update
To contact local officers to request for speed enforcement in the new 20mph areas in the North side of the town.	Clerk	COMPLETED E-mail sent 1/4/25 to the local officers and Sergeant
To write to the EHDC Community Governance Review Working Group requesting a direct meeting to discuss the matter further with Sawbridgeworth Town Council members.	Clerk	COMPLETED E-mail sent to Edward McCreadie EHDC 1/4/25
To report the incident where a driver assaulted a pedestrian in Bell Street to the police again.	Clerk	COMPLETED E-mail sent to Insp Mark Collins 1/4/25, pending update. Update received from Insp Mark Collins that the victim was not supportive of police action.
To write to EHDC to enquire if the discretionary tax relief for charities has been withdrawn across the district.	Clerk	Email sent to Jonathon Geal EHDC and waiting on a response 1/4/25

24/163 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Received and noted: the minutes of the planning committee held on 31st March 2025 (P17)

Received and noted: the draft minutes of the planning committee held on 14th April 2025 (P018)

24/164 FINANCE, POLICY and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Noted, the draft minutes of the Finance, Policy and Economic Development Committee.

24/165 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

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

- Met the MP Josh Dean and highlighted the need for EV chargers and the difficulties related to the closure of the Leventhorpe Swimming Pool. Also the impact on the rise in National Insurance payments for schools. One local school has seen a rise in payments increase by £23,000 and after grants this still leaves an increase of £6,000 per year to be met from the school curriculum.
- Hosted the annual civic dinner with over 90 attendees and a large amount of money has been raised. A thankyou to the Leventhorpe School band who will receive a donation after performing at the event.

- Attended Rumbles restaurants opening of their secret garden restaurant with the deputy Mayor
- Led St Georges Day Parade and dismissed the Scouts at the end of the event
- Thanked all councillors and staff as this is his last meeting as Mayor and wished the new mayor the best of luck for the next 12 months.

24/166

REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

Received and noted: Representatives reports from:

County Councillor Eric Buckmaster

- Secondary school acceptance rates have been published
- West Road will receive further resurfacing
- Two speed indicator devices have been ordered and one will be fitted in High Wych monitoring traffic travelling towards Sawbridgeworth. The other will be fitted on the Cambridge Road monitoring the 30 MPH area.
- The May Fayre is on the 4th May and road closures are authorised.
- Attended the licensing panel for the new venue in Knight Street. Police requested several conditions and debate was held over controlling customers outside and dispersal and the meeting was paused and a further date is to be set to continue debate and reach a conclusion on agreed licensing conditions.

Cllr Ruth Buckmaster

Referred to her report, and raised her concerns over the increase in the need for Battery Storage Systems (BSS) when renewable energy is increased in use.

Hertfordshire Police

PC Shelly Marshall updated members with local policing activity in the town. They had worked on the current policing priority to reduce retail theft and working with Essex Police and retailers has seen a reduction of 70% in thefts. A local prolific shoplifter has been identified following a theft in a local outlet and has been remanded in custody.

A local surgery had seen only four attendees and an online survey had 12 responses and did not reflect the concerns of the local community. A new priority will be set and shared with members and asked councillors to promote Herts Connected the online neighbourhood watch messaging system.

Knight Street Parking patrols had been conducted with engagement and fines issued.

The incident in West Road has seen a male arrested and the investigation continues.

Mini police has taken place in every school in the Town for the first time. Police will be attending the VE Day 80 event.

Debate was held over local parking matters and how engagement can be improved for both the police and councillors. Cllr Eric Buckmaster informed the meeting that a consultation had been conducted and double yellow lines were going to be added to reduce current issues in Knight Street.

Cllr Steve Smith mentioned that when canvassing councillors could leaflet on behalf of the police as they are visiting large amounts of homes in the town.

Cllr Ruth Buckmaster

RHSO update. A further celebration of the 300th Anniversary took place on 26th April at the High Wych Hall with 100 people attending and positive feedback.

Cllr Annelise Furnace

The Eco Audit working group had met and minutes of the meeting will be circulated. River Day on 31st May is being arranged with numerous events taking place

Friends of Pishiobury Park are publishing events in the park throughout the year.

Cllr Simon Penney will be exploring the development of an app to assess real time air quality in the town.

A Japanese resident contacted her regarding a project aiming in the planting of 10,000 cherry trees (Sakura) across the country to celebrate a new era of UK- Japan friendship and cooperation. Her details have been passed to the Clerk in relation to the requirement to off site tree planting for the Jubilee Gardens project.

Cllr Simon Penney

Had no new update but raised awareness of the open water swimming now open at Redricks Lakes.

Cllr Steve Smith

Updated that the Hailey Centre had seen a loss in profits this year which had been expected. The one off costs and expected costs are rising and there is no financial buffer to mitigate this.

Donations are lower than the previous year and meal costs were to be increased.

The refurbishment project is ongoing and tenders are due back on the 9th May from contractors and the project costs are rising towards £300,000.

24/167

TOWN CLERK REPORT

Received and noted: the Clerk's report for the month of April 2025.

24/168

TOWN PROJECT MANAGERS UPDATE

The VE Day 80 arrangements were circulated to members

24/169

POLICY MATTERS

Resolved to adopt the following policies agreed at Finance, Policy and Economic Development Committee.

- Finance Regulations

[prop Cllr Eric Buckmaster; sec'd Cllr Annelise Furnace]

24/170

APPROVAL OF LAND REGISTRY DOCUMENTATION AND APPLYING THE COUNCIL SEAL

Resolved – to accept the transfer of land via the Land Registry documentation from Barratt Homes for the Chalks Farm New Allotment Site.

[prop Cllr Ruth Buckmaster; sec'd Cllr Steve Smith]

Transfer documentation signed by the Clerk, Cllr Eric Buckmaster and Cllr Reece Smith.

The official seal was applied by Cllr Reece Smith

- 24/171 DEPOSIT & CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**
Received and noted: The current deposit and consultation documents.
- 24/172 FINANCIAL REPORT**
Received and noted: The current Financial Report
- 24/173 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**
Noted and Approved: Accounts for payment.
- 24/174 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**
 Nothing was raised.

Meeting ended at 8:05pm

Action	Owner	Update
To email the inquirer to assess what ideas they may have for further engagement.	Clerk.	COMPLETED Email circulated to members and agreed. Email sent to enquirer 29/4/25
To write to the leader of East Herts District Council to invite Councillors to visit Sawbridgeworth and familiarise themselves with local concerns in the Town.	Clerk	COMPLETED Email sent 29/4/25 to Cllr Ben Crystall inviting members to the town

Signed.....

Date.....