

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 30th March 2026**.

Those present.

Cllrs Salvatore Pagdades (Mayor), Eric Buckmaster, Ruth Buckmaster, Simon Penney, John Rider, Reece Smith, Annelise Furnace, Dawn Newell and Angus Parsad-Wyatt.

Also present was L Nolan (Officer) and six members of the public.

Cllr Salvatore Pagdades welcomed everyone and asked if the council could observe a minute silence in recognition of the tragic loss of life recently of Megan Swann plus two other people who were also injured in a traffic incident near the town. The council extends its sympathy to the parents and friends of those involved. Thought for the day was read by Cllr S Penny.

25/144 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Steve Smith and Greg Rattey.
[prop Cllr D Newell sec'd Cllr R Buckmaster]

25/145 Declarations of Interests – None.

25/146 Public Forum

Cllr S Pagdades then suspended standing orders so that the members of the public present could address the council.

There was a question as to whether the council had a view on the 'It Takes a Town' proposal and, on behalf of the Local History Society he had submitted some names for the new streets in the area.

The council stated that were supportive of the 'It takes a Town' proposal and would look forward to future updates. Any funding requirements would need to be made through the grant funding criteria.

There was also a question regarding charges on the car park, which did not appear to be on the EHDC website. Cllr E Buckmaster to follow this up.

As there were no further questions Cllr S Pagdades resumed standing orders.

25/147 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the town council held on 23rd February 2026 (M08) had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no amendments, so it was

Resolved that Cllr S Pagdades signs the minutes as a true record of that meeting. [prop Cllr A Furnace sec'd Cllr R Smith]

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

Action	Owner	Update
Write to Greater Anglia regarding the impact that recent timetable alterations, reduced carriage numbers, and changes to the starting points of certain services are having on our residents who commute daily from Sawbridgeworth Station.	Cllr S Pagdades and the Clerk	Clerk emailed the letter to Greater Anglia and circulated it to members on 27th February. Chaser email sent 19/03/26 – Cllr S Pagdades to chase.
To highlight the seriousness of fly tipping with MP Josh Dean and request for the government to increase the penalties for offenders.	Cllr S Smith and D Newell	Cllr D Newell reported that this matter was subject to a government review and the view is that the £1,000 fine needs to be increased.

25/148 Planning Committee minutes

The planning committee minutes of the meetings on 23rd February and 16th March 2026, had been circulated prior to the meeting and were noted.

25/149 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

Cllr S Pagdades advised that he had

- Attended the Youth Community Initiative for Leventhorpe sixth form students to volunteer with community groups over Easter.
- Attended the opening of the Jewish Experience Initiative.
- Hosted the 1st & 3rd Sawbridgeworth Brownies in the council Chambers.
- Visited the Sawbridgeworth Fire Station where the recently purchased defibrillator was unveiled.
- He also attended the 'Full of Beans' art exhibition.

25/150 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

M09 Minutes 263003

The following reports were received.

County Councillor E Buckmaster stated that his report had been circulated, but added that he was aware of the road where the tragic accident had occurred and, whilst it was too early to speculate on the cause he had raised concerns with the executive, especially as they had recently agreed to put 20MPH signs in across the county, although these seem to be mainly in urban areas, and he has asked about some of the rural roads.

- Jubilee Gardens – should be determined by officers by 19/4
- The LCWIP is nearing completion, and he has put forward Bunce Hill for a pedestrian crossing.

Questions

Cllr J Rider, can you get the potholes in Back Lane on the way to Sheering repaired. Unfortunately, this is out of the parish.

Cllr A Furnace, thank you for the update on Jubilee Gardens, please note that there are three cherry trees on order for this area.

District Councillor Ruth Buckmaster -- referred to her report.

SYPRC Cllr Ruth Buckmaster – nothing to add.

RHSO Cllr Ruth Buckmaster

~~The chairman~~ A long standing member has stepped down after many years of service. Planning is now taking place to add some apple trees to the six plum trees planted in December of 2024. This will probably happen in eighteen months' time.

R Buckmaster reminded everyone that there is a 'Teddy Bears Picnic' on 17th May.

Sustainable Sawbridgeworth Cllr Annelise Furnace

The water in Sawbridgeworth Brook has been tested for phosphate etc and found to be of good quality. There was also good support for 'Tidy up Sawbridgeworth' event.

Cllr J Rider asked if the group could look to publicise the current reductions in the prices of solar panels.

Cllr R Smith asked for an update on the provision of EV chargers in the car park. Cllr A Parsad-Wyatt reported that the tender contract was being advertised currently.

Sports Association Cllr Simon Penney

Cllr S Penney asked if there was any discussion on the car parking charges at the weekend which could affect the sports clubs. Cllr E Buckmaster stated that this was on the agenda for the joint meeting with EHDC due this week.

25/151 TOWN CLERKS REPORT

A report from the Clerk had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

25/152 POLICY MATTERS

Two policies were circulated prior to the meeting. Councillors considered these in turn, and it was then

Resolved;

a) That the Data Protection Policy be adopted.

[prop Cllr A Furnace sec'd Cllr R Buckmaster]

b) That the IT policy be adopted.

[prop Cllr A Furnace sec'd Cllr R Smith]

25/153 STREET NAMING - SAWB 4 KECKSYS FARM

A report on this matter had been circulated prior to the meeting. Councillors welcomed the additional names suggested by the historical society. There was a long discussion on the appropriateness of some of the proposed names as they have been used elsewhere in the town. It was then

Resolved that the list, as amended to be sent to EHDC and the developer.

25/154 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

Cllr A Parsad-Wyatt stated that there was nothing further to report as the recent government consultation had finished, so the outcome of that will not be known yet.

25/155 DEPOSIT & CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS – There were no items to report.

25/156 FINANCIAL REPORT

This has been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

25/157 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The payment list was noted and approved for payment.

25/158 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS – None.

There being no further business to transact the meeting closed at 8.28pm

Signed.

Dated.