

SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes

of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held at the Council Offices, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth at 20.15 hrs. on **Monday 08 July 2013.**

Those present

Cllr Angela Alder

Cllr Derek Filler

Cllr Pat Coysten

Cllr Tom Reeks

In attendance:

Cllr Eric Buckmaster

R Bowran - Town Clerk

Joanne Kenny – Projects Manager

A13/01 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

Resolved: That Cllr Alder be Chairman of the Amenities Committee for the civic year 2013/14. [*prop Cllr Coysten; secd Cllr Filler*]

Resolved: That Cllr Coysten be Vice-Chairman of the Amenities Committee for the civic year 2013/14. [*prop Cllr Alder; secd Cllr Filler*]

A13/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Jane Adams – unwell and Cllr Andrew Wincott – Attending a meeting of the Memorial Hall Trustees.

A13/03 PUBLIC FORUM

To receive representations from members of the public on matters within the remit of the Amenities Committee. There were none.

A13/04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any Declarations of Interest by Members. There were none.

A13/05 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 13 May 2013 (A04) [*prop Cllr Filler; secd Cllr Coysten*]

A13/06 ALLOTMENTS

To report on matters relating to Allotments

- Allotment Association. Meetings have taken place with the officers of the allotments associations.
- Water supplies. There are still water charging issues to be resolved at Southbrook.
- Southbrook. There is an on-going issue with one tenant in particular who is possibly in breach of his tenancy agreement and who has set up a rival “Garden Club” is being addressed robustly.
- Vantorts. A dispute between a tenant and a neighbour in Greenstead who has a gate into the site but who is not a tenant is being resolved.

- Bellmead. The hedge between the site and Springhall Road houses has been cut back at a cost of £400.
- Waiting list. Decreased by two as plots are reallocated.

A13/07 CEMETERY

To report on matters relating to the Town Cemetery

- Inspections. Continue to be carried out on a regular basis.
- Vandalism. There have been instances when bins and plant containers have been moved and left scattered randomly about the site.
- Breaches of Regulations. Dog walkers have been seen allowing their animals to roam in the cemetery off the lead. They have not usually been responsive to a challenge pointing out the issue.
- Suggestion made that a CCTV camera be installed if there are any further incidents.

A13/08 OPEN SPACES & FOOTPATHS

To report on matters relating to Footpaths and Open Spaces.

- Bullfields
 - Inspection and maintenance carried out, a young volunteer is working with us during the summer.
- West Road
 - Inspection and maintenance carried out. Vandalism to play equipment and a tree has been suffered.
- Other areas
 - Bell Street flower beds have been maintained.
 - London Road flower beds have been replanted for the Jubilee and have received compliments.
- Footpaths
 - General state is said to be good although there is rapid growth at edges.
 - Agreed that the council should budget for an extra grounds person for 2014/15

A13/09 CIVIC AMENITIES

To report on matters relating to Civic Amenities

- Ranger Activities
 - Report on current arrangements. Steve Parrish continues to be a valuable asset.
- Farmers Market
 - Report on May, and July Markets. Consistent footfall at around 800 visitors at each market. Stall holders come and go and continue to niggle about the finer points of market arrangements.
- Manor Facilities
 - Report on post mortem meeting with Herts Police. This was postponed by the police, we await a new date.
- Floral Displays
 - Display for 2013. All planters and baskets are on display, this year sponsored by Oakridge Nursery. The watering and upkeep will demand significant

time from the Ranger.

- Town Signs
 - A proposal is being prepared by Herts Highways to revise and make more relevant a number of highway signs, in particular to highlight the shopping centre of the town.
- Bell Street Conveniences
 - Quotations are being obtained for improving the facility on the assumption that EHDC will pass the asset on to the town council in exchange for the town council accepting revenue responsibility for their maintenance.
- EHDC Champions
 - The district council are nominating Heads of Service to become more involved with the towns and parishes of the district.

Meeting ended at 21:15