

SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN ACTION PLAN AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes

of the meeting of the Town Action Plan and Amenities Committee held at the Council Offices, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth at 8pm on **Monday 13th June 2022**.

Those present

Cllr John Burmicz

Cllr Craig Chester

Cllr Annelise Furnace

Cllr Greg Rattey (Ex Officio)

Cllr John Rider

Cllr David Royle

Cllr Angus Wyatt

Cllr R Buckmaster (Ex Officio)

In attendance:

Christopher Hunt - Town Clerk

1 x member of the public

T22/01 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

Cllr Furnace requested to stand for the position as Chair

Cllr Burmicz was proposed by Cllr Rattey

Voted by show of hands, 6 Cllr Furnace, 2 Cllr Burmicz

Resolved: That Cllr Furnace be Chair of the committee for the civic year 2022/23 [*prop Cllr Royle; sec'd Cllr Chester*]

T22/02 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR

Resolved: To elect Cllr Wyatt as Vice Chair of the committee for the civic year 2022/23 [*prop Cllr Chester; sec'd Cllr Buckmaster*]

T22/03 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received

T22/04 PUBLIC FORUM

There were no questions from members of the public on matters within the remit of the Amenities Committee.

T22/05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Pecuniary Interest by Members

T22/06 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 14th February 2022 (A03) [*prop Cllr Rattey; sec'd Cllr Furnace*]

There were no matters arising from these Minutes and not dealt with elsewhere on this Agenda.

T22/07 ALLOTMENTS

Received and noted – Allotments Officer Report

The report was talked through by the Clerk.

Cllr R Buckmaster asked if the new West Road allotments will alleviate the waiting list which the Clerk confirmed they would do.

Cllr Rider asked if a date had been set for the work to start at the Southbrook allotments to alleviate the flooding. The Clerk stated no date had been set but this was the next job to go forward when the Bullfields allotments were all completed.

Cllr Royle stated the Bell Mead allotments were now being cultivated especially the ones in the shadows.

The Clerk highlighted when the new Ranger starts in role a day per week will be dedicated to the allotments for maintenance.

Cllr Furnace congratulated Laura on the work to reintroduce the twelve plots at Bullfields.

Cllr Rider also thanked Laura for her work but asked she is given more backing to ensure tenants cut paths and any plots not in use can these be strimmed regularly by the ranger.

T22/08 CEMETERY

Received and noted – Cemetery Officer Report

Cllr R Buckmaster stated how good the wild meadow looked.

The Clerk highlighted the pilot project with the probation service and community pay back scheme with the work they are completing every Sunday.

Cllr Wyatt wanted it noted how good the cemetery is currently looking.

T22/09 FOOTPATHS & OPEN SPACES

Cllr Royle, stated no progress had been made to footpath 22 and footpath 21 has had some work completed at the top point of the path due to the trip hazards.

The recent walk about the town indicated replacing some bins and moving some.

Cllr R Buckmaster clarified the workshops being run on waste management are being held at Buntingford and a total of eight were being held and attendance to some of these is mandatory if signed up to.

Cllr Chester asked if further warnings could be placed at footpath 22 as the collapsed path is becoming very dangerous.

ACTION - Clerk to write to Nicholas Maddex to highlight the issue.

Cllr Rider raised concern regarding bird flu after seeing children trying to touch a wild bird in distress.

ACTION – Clerk to find out any update on bird flu advice for Hertfordshire

Cllr R Buckmaster raised the positioning of the Chatter bench in Pishiobury Park.

ACTION – Clerk to email Cllr E Buckmaster re the positioning of the bench

T22/10 OPERATIONS

To receive, note and discuss matters relating to Operations

- SawboBus is running well under the donation scheme and insurance has been secured at half the price of last year's policy.
- Ranger will be starting in July and the clerk raised that the current Ranger had been approached by allotment holders who would like to take over an abandoned allotment to grow vegetables to donate to the Hayley Centre and the Church for people who are on low income and using foodbanks, offering a healthy option. Councillors agreed to run it as a project and

T22/11 ECO-AUDIT WORKING PARTY

Received and noted – Eco Audit Report

- Cllr Furnace advised that:
 - Next working party meeting will be on the 5th July.
 - Three acorns will be holding a further visit, who recorded the original eco audit. There will be a comprehensive form to complete to allow the revisit.
 - River Day received positive feedback from people attending as well as the Canals and rivers trust. Bob Reed thought it was a rewarding day and received positive comments and awareness was raised of the bio diversity of the River Stort. Cllr Furnace feels this event should become an annual event.

Cllr R Buckmaster wanted it noted her thanks to Cllr Furnace for her work on the river day event and in turn Cllr Furnace wanted it noted her thanks to the Town Council staff who helped set up the event.

- The Clerk updated that East Herts District Council had notified him that the decision had not been reached on funding they had applied for. As such the charging points were still outstanding with no date supplied for fitting the ones designated to Sawbridgeworth.

ACTION – The Clerk to write to East Herts to share the disappointment at the time this has taken to fit the EV chargers and the detriment on the town and environment.

T22/12 TOWN ACTION PLAN

The Clerk asked if a representative from the committee would work with him to move the project forward as has stalled in the last 12 months.

Cllr Wyatt and Burmitz stated they were willing to assist.

T22/13 COUNCILLOR ENGAGEMENT

- The Clerk offered an update on Community connections project, it was moving forward with partnership agencies offering to attend and this will gain momentum as the date moves closer.
- Cllr Alder updated the committee that Sawbridgeworth were being used as a pilot for the rest of the County re public engagement between the police and council to set local priorities, Sawbridgeworth were leading the way.

T22/14 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Cllr Rider – Safety protocols for the Allotments,
Cllr Wyatt – Adopt a Rail Station

Meeting ended at 20:25