

SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes

of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held at the Council Offices, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth at 20.30 hrs. on **Monday 10 October 2016**.

Those present

Cllr Angela Alder
Cllr Ruth Buckmaster

Cllr Pat Coysten
Cllr D Royle

In attendance:

R Bowran - Town Clerk

Joanne Sargant – Projects Manager

The previous Chairman and Vice Chairman not being present, members agreed that Cllr R Buckmaster was to chair the opening of the meeting.

A16/01 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

Resolved: That Cllr R Buckmaster be Chairman of the Amenities Committee for the civic year 2016/17.
[prop Cllr Alder; secd Cllr Coysten]

Resolved: That Cllr Alder be Vice-Chairman of the Amenities Committee for the civic year 2016/17.
[prop Cllr Coysten; secd Cllr R Buckmaster]

A16/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllr Burmicz – business commitment
Cllr Adamopoulos was absent.

A16/03 PUBLIC FORUM

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

A16/04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

A16/05 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Committee Meetings held on:

08 February 2016 (A03)

[prop Cllr Alder; secd Cllr Coysten]

Noted: The notes of the inquorate meeting on 11 July 2016 (A01).

A16/06 ALLOTMENTS

To report on matters relating to Allotments

- Allotment Association
 - A new tenancy agreement has been sent to all allotment holders with new clauses emphasising neighbourliness and that bonfires are forbidden.
 - The sale of allotment produce at the weekly WI market had been noted and the Clerk was asked to remind all

allotment holders that produce was for personal consumption and not for resale.

- Water supplies
 - Water pipeline extensions still to be completed. This work to be included in the budget for 2017/18.
- Bullfields
 - Weed clearance from bank adjacent to Reedings Way
 - Schedule of future works being drawn up.
- Southbrook
 - Have asked for several water stand pipes to be moved.
 - Have asked for help in erecting and anti-deer fence around the site.
- Vantorts
 - Path widening completed, a tree felled and space left for machinery access to clear spoil from houses in Greenstead.
- Bellmead
 - No specific issues, some tree clearance.
 - Asked about the tenant that objected top paying for water, the issue is resolved.
- Waiting list
 - Is static due to requests for very specific allotments. Plots continue to be halved when they become vacant as experience suggests that a whole plot is too big for many to handle.

A16/07 CEMETERY

To report on matters relating to the Town Cemetery

- Inspections
 - Compliments about the state of the site.
- Maintenance
 - New fence installed adjacent to C section. This will be extended to the whole length of the north boundary.
 - Noted the vandalism to the fence and hedging on the east boundary. Members suggested that it be replanted with Pyrocanthea or Hawthorn.

A16/08 OPEN SPACES & FOOTPATHS

To report on matters relating to Footpaths and Open Spaces.

- Bullfields
 - Inspection, litter clearance and maintenance continue under contract to SYPRC
 - Annual RoSPA inspection revealed no issues needing attention.
- West Road
 - Inspection and maintenance
 - Annual RoSPA inspection revealed no issues needing attention.
- Other areas
 - Bell Street flower beds are in good order.
 - London Road flower bed
 - Continues to look good.
 -

- Return of rat infestation due to collapsed sewer. EHDC have installed traps.
- Town Green
 - No progress to report. In abeyance until access issues for the proposed surgery extension are resolved.
- Footpaths
 - Continue to work with EHDC and HCC on issues that arise from day to day.
 - Suggestion that another community litter pick be organised.
- Rivers Heritage Orchard
 - Licence to occupy for the next three years now signed with the landowner.
 - Maintenance days continue although more volunteers are needed
 - Apple Day a great success, awaiting outcome of yield of apple juice.

A16/09 CIVIC AMENITIES

To report on matters relating to Civic Amenities

- Ranger activities
 - Working arrangements for the summer season have now ended.
 - Sub-contracting works for Gilston and Eastwick PC, SYPRC and RHSO have now terminated
- Farmers Market
 - There have been no further developments although when the council obtains the Lordship of the manor this will carry inherent market rights.
- Floral Displays
 - Displays for summer 2016 have been disappointing and are now being removed.
 - Displays for winter 2016 are proposed and will be planted in the approach sign troughs.
- Public Conveniences
 - The Clerk had met with Jess Khanom the new head of service at EHDC. She said she would consider the propositions in November.
 - It was suggested that the Clerk should contact Jeff Williamson of the EHDC assets group to explore the issue of a potential asset transfer.
- War Memorial Repairs
 - The working party had met Abbey Memorials and explored a number of options. Abbey will evaluate and quote for each of the alternatives.
- Street Naming
 - EHDC has received a request from Mr Spens that Plots 1-6 of his Springhall Road development should be called "Wallen Park". Members had no objection.

Meeting ended at 21:40