

SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE

Minutes

of the meeting of the Economic Development and STAP Committee held at, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth at 20.00 on Monday 14th March 2022.

Those present

Cllr A Alder
Cllr A Furnace

Cllr N Parsad
Cllr David Royle
Cllr G Rattey – ex officio

In attendance:

Christopher Hunt – Town Clerk
J Sargent – Town Projects Manager

E 21/44 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr R Buckmaster
[Prop Cllr A Furnace, Sec'd Cllr D Royle]

E 21/45 PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present at the Economic Development and STAP Committee.

Cllr Alder wished to add a comment at this point in regard to the vigil held in respect to the situation in Ukraine the previous Saturday outside the Town Council offices.

She proposed a vote of thanks for the Town Council staff, police officers and volunteers who arranged and set up the event ready for the speakers to present.

Cllr Alder also wanted it recorded that she felt it wasn't appropriate that political views were expressed.

Cllr Furnace also echoed the thanks for the people organising the event but didn't support Cllr Alders comment.

E 21/46 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Pecuniary Interest by Members

E 21/47 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 17th January 2022 (E04)
[Prop Cllr A Furnace, Sec'd Cllr D Royle]

E 21/48 TOWN GREEN WORKING PARTY

Updates:

- The Town Projects Manager produced a report from the survey Monkey sent out to members of the public. The working party was yet to meet and consider the results of the survey who would then report back to the EDSTAP committee with recommendations.

E21/49 TOWN MARKET AND BRANDING

Updates:

- The Town Projects Manager stated that the market start date will need to be pushed back due to the current demand on the council and difficulty in contacting EHDC to understand the license required. At a retailer meeting many were supportive of the market to generate more footfall into the town.

E21/50 TOWN ACTION PLAN

Updates:

- The Clerk updated the committee that he had visited the David Wilson site at West Road and had met with managers regarding land to be passed to the Town Council under the 106 agreements. An arrangement had been made that the developers would design allotments to the Town Councils requirements as well as providing storage space. Part of the discussion it was mentioned by the developers they would like to retain land to the North of the site adjacent to West Road also part of the 106 agreements.
- The Clerk covered other areas of the action plan with the updates on paths, youth and councillor engaging and the good press coverage in the local paper and the Flyer.
- The Town Projects Manager covered the request by EHDC to investigate projects to claim funds from the 'return to the high street'. Several items were discussed for the town to improve vibrancy such as a promotion social media video, crowd metal barriers for events, planters, the phone box, surveys and other items before the deadline at the end of March.

ACTION; The Clerk to contact Jackie Bruce regarding the above situation and to report back to the full town council.

E21/51 COUNCILLOR ENGAGEMENT

Updates:

- Police have re-introduced 'Coffee wit a Cop' but changed the branding to run these as surgeries with a partnership theme and Councillors.
- The Clerk mentioned the security app, 'Hollie Guard' he had emailed members recently due to increased engagement and councillor security being paramount.

E21/52 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Updates:

- The Clerk updated that the National Lottery application for SawboBus had been received and was waiting for an answer, this could take up to twelve weeks. Laura will be looking into new sponsorship opportunities from local companies.
- Other funding streams had been covered in the previous agenda item by the Town Projects Manager.

E21/53 NEW RESIDENTS WELCOME PACK

Updates:

- The Clerk introduced the draft report he had pulled together on this subject and some amendments Cllr Alder had made. It was discussed and agreed the welcome pack should be in the form of a hard copy letter signposting people to the town council website. The website should have the up-to-date information on partner agencies and contact details as well as local clubs and groups.
- Cllr Alder raised that in previous years an event was hosted whereby members of the community can meet their local councillors. It was agreed to look at a community open day and for this to be put on the agenda for future meetings to develop.

E21/54 TRAILTALE

Cllr Royle introduced a new project to increase visitors and promoting health in the town. The project encourages participants to walk to different points of interest and learn some history points. The funding may be available from the 'return to the high street funding' and it was felt that it wouldn't need to go to full council for a motion to be supported as it wouldn't affect the budget.

[Prop Cllr Parsad, Sec'd Cllr D Royle]

E21/55 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

'Community event' to meet councillors and partners and community group leaders.

Meeting Closed at 20.55