

SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE, POLICY and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes

of the meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee held at the Chamber, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth at 8:00pm on **Monday 10th June 2024**.

Those present

Cllr Eric Buckmaster
Cllr Nathan Parsad-Wyatt

Cllr Greg Rattey
Cllr Reece Smith
Cllr Steve Smith

In attendance:

Christopher Hunt - Town Clerk
Lisa Dale – Finance Officer
Cllr A Furnace
1 x member of public

F 24/01 ELECTION OF CHAIR

To elect a Chair of the Committee for the year 2024/25.

Resolved: Cllr Eric Buckmaster

[prop Cllr N Parsad-Wyatt sec'd Cllr R Smith]

F 24/02 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

To elect a Vice Chair of the Committee for the year 2024/25.

Resolved: Cllr Nathan Parsad-Wyatt

[prop Cllr E Buckmaster sec'd Cllr R Smith]

F 24/03 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Ruth Buckmaster

F 24/04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr E Buckmaster and S Smith regarding the Hailey Centre Lease due to being on the committee.

F 24/05 MINUTES

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee held on 15th April 2024 (FO4).

[prop Cllr N Parsad-Wyatt sec'd Cllr R Smith]

F 24/06 STAFF MATTERS

To consider any matters relating to members of staff.

The Clerk referred to his report and covered the welfare of staff and that the rangers had received a health screening check on the advice of the health and safety expert.

F 24/07 FINANCE MATTERS

To consider any matters relating to the finances and year end arrangements of the Council.

The Clerk reported that the internal auditor had not sent his report in time to cover this item and requested that it be deferred to the full town council meeting. The chair agreed to this suggestion.

The Clerk raised he had been working with three independent insurance brokers to insure the Councils road going vehicles and the results being;

- ERS – current insurer £3,834 all vehicles comprehensive with breakdown cover included at £390
- Coversure - £4,250 but lawn mower insurance is only third party and no breakdown cover
- Flint – can't find any cover due to the minibuses.

Members unanimously agreed to retain cover with ERS.

No motion due to the lateness of the policy results being sent after the agenda was written

F 24/08 JUBILEE GARDENS (TOWN GREEN) WORKING PARTY

Update on the current project status, the Clerk reported that the consultation had finished on 31st May 2024, required by the officer at EHDC regarding tree removal with links to the plan on the website (posted 24th April) and on Facebook (Posted 10th May). There were two responses not related to the tree removal but to the footpath and the maze.

F24/09 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

To discuss proposals for promoting economic development in the town: Cllr G Rattey informed members that all shops had occupants and were vibrant. He continues to build the Sawbridgeworth Community Group which now has 6000 members and he will visit every shop as he did when Mayor from July 1st.

F24/10 COUNCILLOR ENGAGEMENT

The Clerk raised that the last cross border meeting was poorly attended and two parishes did not attend. It was agreed to set a date in September to call a meeting with Sheering, High Wych and Hatfield Heath to set a terms of reference.

F24/11 REDUCING THE COUNCILS CARBON FOOTPRINT

To discuss the following items to present a motion to the next full Town Council meeting. It was agreed that the following wording be presented.

- To aim to achieve net zero for the council's own generated emissions by 2030 and do all that we can to assist in achieving this by the same year for the wider town.
- In the interim, commit the council towards reducing its own carbon footprint to an absolute minimum by May 2027 [end of current council's term] whilst at the same time identifying a pathway to offset its residual carbon.

F24/12 BUILDING LEASE OF THE HAILEY CENTRE

To receive an update on the lease and to agree next steps. The Clerk presented the lease and made mention to the insurance which will be funded by the Hailey Centre Trust and all internal repairs will be their responsibility and all external repairs be that of the Council. The Lease had been worked on for several months utilising Tees Solicitors and the Hailey Centre Trustees.

It was agreed the lease was to be adopted and was signed by Councillor N Parsad-Wyatt and Cllr G Rattey. The Clerk then signed the lease and placed the official Sawbridgeworth seal on both documents.

[prop Cllr N Parsad-Wyatt sec'd Cllr G Rattey]

F24/13 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Councillor E Buckmaster stated that the Eco Audit Working Party may be able to apply for funding from County for eco projects and assisting the Council in reducing its own carbon foot print.

F24/14 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

To add a regular agenda item to assess the progress for reducing the councils carbon footprint.

Meeting Closed at 8:00pm