

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 8:20pm on **Monday 15th April 2024**.

Those present

Cllr Eric Buckmaster

Cllr Greg Rattey

Cllr Ruth Buckmaster

Cllr Reece Smith

Cllr Nathan Parsad-Wyatt

In attendance:

Christopher Hunt - Town Clerk

1 x member of the public

F 23/36 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr S Smith,

F 23/37 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr E Buckmaster stated he was a trustee of the Hailey Centre and would not vote on the lease agenda item 23/45

F 23/38 MINUTES

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee held on 15th January 2024 (F03).

To attend to any matters arising from these Minutes and not dealt with elsewhere on this Agenda.

- Agenda item postponed to focus on reducing the councils carbon footprint to zero by 2030 until the next meeting due to information still required to discuss the item in depth.

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

F 23/39 STAFF MATTERS

To consider any matters relating to members of staff.

The Clerk stated that the past three weeks two members of staff had been off sick and with periods of leave staffing had been at a minimum level. All staff are now back at work.

F 23/40 FINANCE MATTERS

Resolved: • To receive, consider and approve management accounts for the twelve-month period to 31st March 2024

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

F 23/41 JUBILEE GARDENS

The Clerk updated the committee on the current situation on the project. Pre planning advice had been submitted and the application for tree removal had been submitted. The current observation from EHDC Tree Officer requiring further consultation was noted and agreed to get this completed as soon as possible and re-apply for the tree removal.

F23/42 COUNCILLOR ENGAGEMENT

The Clerk updated that a request for a further meeting date had been requested from Sheering Parish Council and when this is received High Wych will also be invited.

F23/43 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

To discuss proposals for promoting economic development in the town:

Cllr G Rattey updated;

- All of the shops were now occupied by businesses.
- Several new businesses have applied and been awarded funding for a new start up business from the Shared Prosperity Fund.
- There was still concern over the 18 month TRO for road works in Bell Street but he was explaining to business owners that this will be only a short time period for work to be completed.
- There has been recent police visits to the Tuck shop which relates to a fraud investigation involving an ex member of staff.
- The shops are reporting an increase in people travelling from outside of the town to visit businesses in Sawbridgeworth.

F23/44 POLICY MATTERS

Resolved to approve and recommend adopting the following policies at the next full town council meeting

- Complaints policy
[prop Cllr N Parsad-Wyatt; secd Cllr R Buckamster]
- Flyposting policy
[prop Cllr R Smith; secd Cllr R Buckmaster]

F23/45 LEASE APPROVAL

To consider and recommend the lease for the Hailey Centre for resolution at the next full Town Council meeting.

This Item was deferred to the next Finance, Policy and Economic Development meeting as discussions were still progress between the Clerk and Trustees.

F23/46 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Clerk highlighted he had been successful in securing £3000 for the energy hub project. He was also liaising with Taylor Wimpy who had shown an interest in supporting the Jubilee Gardens project.

£50,000 funding had been received from East Herts District Council also for the Jubilee Gardens development.

F23/ ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Nothing further was raised.

Meeting Closed at 08:48pm