

SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL Minutes

of the Annual Meeting of Sawbridgeworth Town Council held at the Council Offices, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth at 7.30 pm on **Monday 23rd May 2022**.

Those present

Cllr Angela Alder
Cllr Eric Buckmaster
Cllr Ruth Buckmaster
Cllr John Burmitz
Cllr Craig Chester

Cllr Greg Rattey
Cllr John Rider
Cllr David Royle
Cllr Frederick Parr
Cllr Nathan Parsad
Cllr Angus Wyatt

Welcome by the Mayor,
Prayers were read by Cllr Alder

22/01 ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR

Resolved: To elect Cllr Greg Rattey as Town Mayor for the civic year 2022/23
[Prop Cllr Alder; Secd Cllr Burmitz]

22/02 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Cllr Rattey signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took the chair.

In accepting the Office of Mayor for the coming year Cllr Rattey thanked everyone.

22/03 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive and approve apologies for absence.

There were apologies from Cllr Furnace. *Approved*
[Prop Cllr Parsad; Secd Cllr R Buckmaster]

22/04 THE MAYORAL YEAR 2021/22

It is a Great honour to serve as the mayor for another year, it's been a fantastic experience and I have enjoyed every minute.

We have had the biggest business growth in decades with seven new shops opening throughout the year and new businesses have moved in and I intend to visit each and every one of them and promote them all.

Its been a year of unity for the Town Council and we have worked together as a body. There are no achievements made by a Mayor only achievements made by all of you.

We have not been a political council and we have had a year of

positivity, last year I said I would talk Sawbridgeworth up and I believe I have done that. Sawbridgeworth has led the way, from the study on racism to the welcoming of Ukrainian refugees. The generosity of our people has been outstanding and to the people of Ukraine, you're welcome in Sawbridgeworth, you are safe in Sawbridgeworth.

In regard to my charities, I have raised £2,968:29 from the Men's Health Forum and the Hayley Day Centre. The Bell Public House have raised £205 in memory of the late Nick Simkins who died over a week ago and condolences to his family and friends.

My charities for the next year will be Mind and Isabell Hospice, Mind as I have always supported mental health issues and the Isabel Hospice where my own Mother Betty, received amazing treatment and care at her end of life.

We truly are a unique Town; our businesses are united as ever with amazing volunteers and voluntary services and I thank each and everyone. We will continue to lead and inspire as a Town Council and my thanks to my fellow Councillors, our staff here and the people of Sawbridgeworth, your support to me is beyond amazing.

We should be mighty proud of our Town and God bless you on this special year, God Save the Queen.

22/05 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

22/06 ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

Nominations were received for:

- Cllr R Buckmaster [*Prop Cllr Alder; Secd Cllr Parsad*]

Resolved: Cllr R Buckmaster elected as Deputy Town Mayor for the civic year 2022/23

22/07 PUBLIC FORUM

To receive representations from members of the public on matters within the remit of the Town Council.

Mrs H Mead highlighted the River Day event and how well that had been attended and proposed this was repeated next year with a few amendments. She highlighted the Jubilee mural and how good it was and promoted a forthcoming event at the memorial Hall by the History Society.

22/08 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25 April 2022 (M10)
[Prop Cllr Alder; Secd Cllr Ruth Buckmaster]

To attend to any matters arising from these Minutes and not dealt with elsewhere on this Agenda. There were none.

22/09 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Received and Noted: The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on:

- 25th April 2022 (P18)

Received and Noted: The draft minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on:

- 9th May 2022 (P19)

22/10 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

Nothing Received

22/11 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

To receive representatives reports from:

- County Councillor E Buckmaster congratulated Cllr Rattey on his appointment as Mayor and reported:
 - There will be over 500 road closures for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations.
 - Local cycling and walking infrastructure plan, discussions are taking place between County and District Councils.
 - School Lane double yellow lines have had a mixed reaction from residents and the improvements will be to keep the junction clear and to prevent people driving on the pavement during school drop off and pick up when the pavement is busy.
 - Bullfields, waiting for more information but the junction with station road will be a focus, he will be investigating the removal of some restrictions to compensate in Station Road so people can still park.
 - In the 20mph areas people have requested repeater signs but this may increase the speed of drivers trying to achieve 20mph rather than driving to the road conditions which includes speed tables.
 - The Orchards and New Street are being looked at to restrict the parking and driving on the pavement.
 - The 'No Entry' design for the sheering Mill Lane is in progress
 - Further resurfacing of roads will be taking place and he will be sharing ideas on preferred locations
- District Councillor Alder
 - Stated her meetings took place after the Town Councils and as such did not have an update.
- District Councillor R Buckmaster mentioned
 - Hertfordshire Youth Forum, the young peoples survey was shared and it was surprising how much Covid had affected the young people.
- District Councillor Burmitz
 - Stated he had written to MP Michael Gove, over his view in the development in Hertfordshire and the lack of engagement with the local people by the builders.

- He had been in contact with a company wanting to develop a solar power farm locally and had suggested this was a waste of arable and farming land. He suggested that solar panels should be put into the roofs of new houses being built.
- Hertfordshire Police
 - The Clerk read the report which was attached but highlighted the times and dates available for Councillor engagement when the Police team were holding events.
- Cllr Royal
 - In regard to dog fouling and the waste bins consultation there is a planned walkabout in the town on 20th June at 10:30am.
 - Cllr E Buckmaster added work on footpath 21 should be starting in June.
- Cllr R Buckmaster
 - Added to her report that the film club at Leventhorpe ran a successful event today.
 - Cllr Wyatt added a date for the diary for the SYPRC AGM on the 25th July at the Bullfields Centre.
- Cllr Royle
 - Spoke in the absence of Cllr Furnace, he updated that a clean air day stall was being held on 3rd June. An email exchange between him and Cllr E Buckmaster had occurred looking at how to target people sitting in cars idling and East Herts are looking at specific targeted events and as a council will this be something we want to do.
 - Cllr E Buckmaster added approaching drivers with engines idling was a sensitive thing to do as some may take it badly but with hi visibility jackets and a gentle approach this may achieve the aim.

22/12 OFFICERS REPORTS

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Received and Noted: The Town Clerk's report for the month of May 2022

TOWN PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT

Received and Noted: The Town Project Manager's report for the month of May 2018.

Additionally, she reported on the new bench outside the front entry door to celebrate the Queens Jubilee and will eventually be placed in the Town Green. She also reminded Councillors of the Church thank giving service Father Simon is holding during the Jubilee weekend on the Sunday at 3pm, she urged all councillors to attend if possible, which was echoed by Cllr Alder.

River day the previous weekend had been very successful and will be repeated next year with a few tweaks that were found on this first event.

Cllr Alder thanked the Towns Events Manager on the new layout of events report to the councillors.

22/13 CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY CONSULTATION

To note Sustainable Sawbridgeworth response to EHDC Climate Change Strategy Consultation May 2022. Cllr Royle.

- Cllr E Buckmaster added due to the original document not being available and the consultation date had passed he would take on board all the thinking but would not be able to respond.

22/14 UPDATE ON UKRAINE LOCAL SUPPORTING EVENTS

Cllr Royle, updated this was day 89 of the war and highlighted the numbers of refugees in the Country and those in other Countries with over a million Ukrainians returning to their country. Sawbridgeworth are supporting 28 Ukraine refugees and the children have been successful in getting into local schools.

English classes are being run on a Monday and there is concern for the teenage children over the summer period especially if the parents are working.

Cllr R Buckmaster commended Cllr Royle on his talk to the WI on this subject and all councillors congratulated him on his work in supporting Ukraine refugees.

22/15 COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP

Cllr E Buckmaster explained the streamlining of the committee structure and the placement of Town Green Working Group now feeding into the Finance, Policy and Economic Development Committee due to the writing of the business plan, budgeting and purchasing.

Resolved: To agree the Committee structure for the year 2022/23
[Prop Cllr Parsad; Secd Cllr Chester]

22/16 DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

Resolved: To agree the delegation of authority to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Planning Committee for the months of August and December.

[Prop Cllr Burmitz; Secd Cllr Ruth Buckmaster]

22/17 CHAMPIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Resolved: With an amendment from the draft proposal, to appoint Members as Champions for areas of Council responsibility and to appoint Members as representatives to serve on other organisations.

[Prop Cllr R Buckmaster; Secd Cllr Wyatt]

22/18 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Cllr Wyatt queried the increase for payment for the Society of Local

Council Clerks due to the difference from the previous year. This was answered by the Events Manager as it was due to the partial absence of a Clerk in year 2021/22 prior to the appointment of the current Clerk and is salary related.

Resolved: To continue with membership of the Community Transport Association, to make payment of Subscriptions for the year 2022/23

[Prop Cllr Alder; Secd Cllr Parsad]

22/19 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

Cllr R Buckmaster highlighted that as Shaping Sawbridgeworth should be changed for Town Green Working Party listed under 'other meetings'

Resolved: To approve the Calendar of Council and Committee meetings for the year to May 2023.

[Prop Cllr Royle; Secd Cllr Parsad]

22/20 STANDING ORDERS

Resolved: To approve the continuation of current Standing Orders.

[Prop Cllr Wyatt; Secd Cllr Alder]

22/22 DEPOSIT & CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

To note receipt of any Documents for Noting and Consultation.
There were none

22/23 FINANCIAL REPORT

Noted: The current Financial Report

22/24 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Noted and Agreed: Accounts for payment

22/25 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

To note any items for future agendas.

Meeting closed at 20:24