

SAWBRIDGEGWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL Minutes

of the Meeting of Sawbridgeworth Town Council held at the Council Offices, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth at 19:30 on **Monday 26 June 2017**.

Those present

Cllr Angela Alder	Cllr Pat Coysten
Cllr Roger Beeching	Cllr Don Hall
Cllr Eric Buckmaster	Cllr David Royle
Cllr Ruth Buckmaster	Cllr Mike Shaw (from 19:40)
Cllr John Burmicz	

In attendance:

7 members of the public

R Bowran - Town Clerk

Welcome by the Mayor, prayers were read by Cllr Alder.

17/28 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Riches – on holiday
Cllr Adamopoulos was absent

17/29 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

17/30 PUBLIC FORUM

To receive a Petition from residents relating to traffic issues experienced in the Vantorts Road area.

A petition with 250 signatures was presented to Members by **Mr Barry Ploughman**:

“We, the undersigned, believe there urgently needs to be measures put in place to calm the speed of cars and ensure pedestrians have safe areas to walk and cross roads.”

The petition noted that “There has been a marked improvement in the area since access to the top of Sheering Mill Lane has been restricted. This should be permanent”

The petition further noted: “We also request local agencies provide solutions to slow cars at the turning from Fair Green into Vantorts. For example, signage that clearly states that junction is single car only; provide mirrors to see on-coming cars; flashing speed lights to get cars to slow down”

The petition was presented to County Councillor Eric Buckmaster. There followed a discussion on the merits and demerits of a number of approaches.

Cllr E Buckmaster said that he had been plotting hot spots in the town and was in a dialogue with Herts Highways. He envisaged that a holistic approach should be taken to the whole area.

Other members of the public added their own endorsements to the petition.

Cllr Beeching gave a historical account and agreed an overall view of the whole town was the most sensible approach.

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

Mrs Annelise Furnace asked about the recent press reports that suggested the future of the Leventhorpe Swimming Pool was under threat.

Cllr E Buckmaster responded that EHDC were taking a look at leisure services for the next 20 years with a Task & Finish group. Although it is probably that significant investment will be made at Grange Paddocks, Hartham and Buntingford, but that since the 40 year old pool at Sawbridgeworth was losing in excess of £100k per year it was likely to be seen as unsustainable. The Leisure Service contract is going out to tender but it is envisaged that wider community use would be needed to make it viable. Key date for implementation is 2022.

17/31 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on 22 May 2017 (M01)
[prop Cllr E Buckmaster; secd Cllr Alder]

There were no matters arising from these Minutes and not dealt with elsewhere on this Agenda.

17/32 PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

- 05 June 2017 (P01)

To appoint a Member to fill a vacancy and serve on the Committee. It was agreed to defer this item until a new member was co-opted to the council.

17/33 FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE

Noted: The draft minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee Meeting held on:

- 05 June 2017 (F01)

To appoint a Member to fill a vacancy and serve on the Committee. It was agreed to defer this item until a new member was co-opted to the council.

Resolved: To approve the Terms of Reference for the Finance and Policy Committee as recommended by the committee, with the addition of n (to review policies of the council as required).
[prop Cllr E Buckmaster; secd Cllr Alder]

- 17/34 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL RETURN 2016/17**
1. **Resolved:** To approve and sign the Annual Governance Statement [*prop Cllr E Buckmaster; secd Cllr Coysten*]
 2. **Resolved:** To approve and sign the Annual Return for 2016/17 [*prop Cllr E Buckmaster; secd Cllr Royle*]
 3. **Noted:** The recommendations of the Internal Auditor
- 17/35 COUNCILLOR VACANCY**
- To note that no election has been requested and the town council may now co-opt to fill the vacancy. Clerk reported that four parishioners have expressed an initial interest and have been invited to complete an application form by 07 July. Interested parties will be invited to attend the meeting of council scheduled for 24 July 2017.
- 17/36 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS**
- To receive Mayor's appointments and communications,
 Attended:
- Photo session to launch clean air day.
 - EHDC Air Quality Action Plan launch
 - Carers in Herts at Hertford Castle
 - Fire Station and Library exhibition
 - Buntingford Civic Reception
 - EHDC Civic Service in Buntingford
- Future events
- High Wych Pre-school Teddy Toddle 27 June
 - Fun on the Field on 02 July
 - Civic Service 09 July
- 17/37 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS**
- To receive representatives reports from:
- County Councillor Eric Buckmaster reported:
 - HCC/HAPTC conference on 03 July; agenda- 3 tiers working together, risk strategies and flood risks.
 - 70,000 street lights in the remaining areas will be converted to l.e.d. operation in the next three years.
 - Fire Governance Consultation to seek views on combining Fire and Police services under the control of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office.
 - District Councillor Angela Alder reported:
 - Attending Audit & Governance committee looking at fraud
 - Leisure Service at Leventhorpe had received an 85% satisfaction rating and that attendance was significantly up on last year.
 - Local Housing Associations are reviewing cladding of high rise buildings in East Herts.
 - The new chair of STAC will be announced at their AGM
 - The HAPTC AGM will be on 13 July.
 - District Councillor Eric Buckmaster reported:
 - Attending the Gilston/Eastwick and Widford working group to discuss the implications of the proposed District Plan.
 - The Stop Harlow North group expressed their continued opposition to the plan.
 - The examination in public of the plan will be in the

- autumn.
- Noted that there are no properties in East Herts that are over 5 storeys in height.
 - Cllr Shaw asked when and what is the plan for the examination and would the plan be made public?
 - *Cllr E Buckmaster responded that the examination would be taken topic by topic over a period of about two months.*
 - Cllr Shaw asked if STC will debate their response before the examination?
 - *Cllr E Buckmaster responded that it was up to Members to decide whether they wished to do this.*
 - Cllr Shaw suggested that the plan be published and then each topic could be subject as an agenda item for council.
 - Hertfordshire Police were not present, Clerk reported:
 - Police were investigating several vehicle crimes
 - Operation STOMP had checked on a number of vehicles
 - A presentation to the WI had resulted in a number of people signing up to the OWL alert system
 - There were no other Representatives reports

17/38 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Received and noted: The Town Clerk's report for June 2017.

- Clerk responded to a question about the ownership of the Southbrook footpath. This has not yet been definitively established.
- Clerk responded to a question about the handling of hazardous substances. This related to the training of the Ranger to handle weed killer.

17/39 TOWN PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT

Received and noted: The Town Project Manager's report for the month of June 2017. There were no questions.

17/40 PROPOSAL FROM HERTS CC TO CO-LOCATE SAWBRIDGEWORTH FIRE STATION AND SAWBRIDGEWORTH LIBRARY.

Following the public exhibition held on 19 June at Sawbridgeworth Fire Station and from 20 June to 27 June at Sawbridgeworth Library. To discuss and determine the council's response to the proposals.

Some Members had attended the exhibition. Members discussed the proposals put forward by Herts County Council to sell the Library site in order to fund the creation of a combined Fire Station & Library on the site of the existing fire station in Station Road.

The main point in favour of the proposal is that:

- Current library is not fit for purpose and that it
- Ensures the retention of a Library in Sawbridgeworth

On the other hand:

- Site not easy to access and has limited parking
- Site is located at a hazardous junction
- Site is located at the edge of town with no obvious transport
- The library site is registered as an Asset of Community Value and has the potential to provide other facilities for the

community.

- Plans show an inappropriate sharing of work and recreation rooms
- There are obvious planning issues involved with the development of the library site next to the conservation area.

17/41 DEPOSIT & CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

To note receipt of any Documents for Noting and Consultation; Clerk reported:

- Consultation from EHDC for views on the contents of the next parking enforcement contract being put out to tender. Response from council required by 05 July – so members asked to contact the Clerk by 03 July with their thoughts which he will consolidate.
- FoI request via the DfT asking for details of the minibus provided under the Community Bus Grant scheme. Clerk had responded with no objection to the DfT providing the information requested.

17/42 FINANCIAL REPORT

Noted: The current Financial Report

17/43 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Noted and Approved: Accounts for payment

17/44 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

It was agreed to include “Response to the District Plan” as a standing agenda item until the conclusion of the Examination in Public has been concluded.

Meeting closed at 21:09