

SAWBRIDGECWORTH 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 24 July 2017**.

Those present

Cllr Angela Alder	Cllr Pat Coysten
Cllr Eric Buckmaster	Cllr Don Hall
Cllr Ruth Buckmaster	Cllr Heather Riches
Cllr John Burmicz	Cllr David Royle
	Cllr Mike Shaw

In attendance:	Ms Nina Vila – Deputy CEO – Herts PCC
2 members of the public	PCSO Paul Weston – Herts police
R Bowran - Town Clerk	Ms J Sargant – Town Projects manager

The meeting was preceded by a briefing by Taylor-Wimpey on the concepts of their proposed development at West Road North. There is a separate note of the briefing.

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

17/45 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apology received from Cllr Beeching – on holiday.
Cllr Adamopoulos was absent.

17/46 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

17/47 CO-OPTION TO FILL THE VACANCY ON THE TOWN COUNCIL

To invite interested persons to make a short presentation relating to their interest in being co-opted to serve as a councillor.

There being neither of the two interested persons present:

Resolved: That the matter be deferred to the next meeting of council scheduled for 25 September 2017.

[prop Cllr Alder; secd Cllr Burmicz]

17/48 PUBLIC FORUM

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

Cllr David Royle brought the application for an alcohol licence at Rumbles Fish Bar to the attention of Members, and asked why our local police officers had not been consulted.

Cllr E Buckmaster said that representation could be made at the licencing committee on 04 August.

Cllr Shaw said there must be sound reasons for any objection, i.e. public safety

Cllr Buckmaster suggested that the Clerk should talk with the licencing officer.

Cllr Burmicz was concerned about the possibility of Anti-Social Behaviour

17/49 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 26 June 2017 (M02)
[prop Cllr Royle; secd Cllr Hall]

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

17/50 PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

- 26 June 2017 (P02)
- 17 July (P03)

17/51 AMENITIES COMMITTEE

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

- 17 July 2017 (A01)

Resolved: To approve the Terms of Reference for the Amenities Committee as recommended by the committee.
[prop Cllr Alder; secd Cllr Coysten]

17/52 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

To receive Mayor's appointments and communications

I have attended a wide variety of events in July. Unfortunately the annual teddy toddle at High Wych preschool nursery was rearranged owing to bad weather and I couldn't make the new date owing to work commitments.

Fun on the Field was a great success with many people enjoying the fair, food, and dog show. I think having different food stalls added to it this year. I'd like to thank Jo and all the staff for their hard work in organising and running this event.

The Civic Service was attended by many from a variety of local groups, along with the mayor's and chairmen across the district and elsewhere. Many people commented on the service which was thoughtfully presided over by rev Frances Arnold and included a Sermon by Gary Hanson from the Congregational Church.

I was also one of the judges for the schools art competition held at Tudor Gallery. F & B were the KS 1 winners, Mandeville KS 2, and Reedings were highly commended.

I went to the Guides AGM and judged the craft awards. There were awards for each section of rainbows, brownies, and guides. It was interesting to hear about all the different activities the girls have been doing over the past year.

At East Herts Sports Awards at Hertford Theatre I presented the prize for Young Volunteer of the Year, one of whom I believe comes from Sawbridgeworth.

Reedings school celebrated its 50th birthday with a 60s themed

garden party. Adults and children were in 60s fancy dress and were serenaded during the afternoon by Diverse Adults choir led by their teacher Amy, with Eric joining in with Hey Jude.

Continuing with the birthday theme, yesterday we attended Harlow Carnival to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the town. Various Chairs joined the procession of floats and groups parading through the town.

Next weekend I am looking forward to attending the trip to Belgium along with officers and members of the WW1 commemoration group to witness the unveiling of the memorial to the Hertfordshire Regiment.

17/53

REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

To receive representatives reports from:

- County Councillor E Buckmaster reported:
As suggested at the last meeting I met with two county officers and looked at lower sheering road, (Closure) and Vantorts road. We stopped to talk to residents. Further reports will need to be done but there may be some relatively inexpensive interventions. E.g. There may be some merit in making the top of Lower Sheering road one way after the building work is completed, subject to consultation. We also looked at both ends of Fair Green where buildings form a natural chicane. Potentially appropriately placed give way signs in the road could improve visibility for drivers and therefore improve safety for pedestrians. We also walked down to the Forebury then down Bullfields and looked at the impact parked cars are having on verges near Reedings. I have been allocated a new Highways assistant, Martin Wright, so I'll be working with him to look at potential solutions. I also met with a resident today who has had long term concerns about rainwater not draining away at West Road and in Newports. Gullies tend to be cleared on a rotation/area basis every 18 months, but clearly some need doing sooner by exception.

The consultation from the PCC is underway, on our agenda, to consider combining the functions of the Fire Service with the Police. At Council all parties were unanimous in opposing this. Many members expressed the view that having 78 locally elected members served democracy better than having a service accountable to a single commissioner. HCC have responded to say they support option 2 in the report that the commissioner should sit on the HCC committee that is in charge of the fire service.

Another important consultation is underway to consider bring Children's Centres and Community and School nurses together. The proposal is to create a new Family Service going from pre-natal up to adulthood. There will be opportunities to share resources and premises and closer working to support families. The tender process would allow for a single provider, as now, for Community and School services and for the Children's services to be split into four segments across the district. Finally a special Health Scrutiny will operate in August to consider the Herts Valleys CCG recent decision, without sufficient notice or consultation, to cease funding at Nascot Lawn a family respite centre for families with severely disabled children.

- *Cllr Alder asked about the creation of the families' service. Will they need more space, possibly at the library site? Cllr E Buckmaster said there would be a combining of resources.*
- District Cllr E Buckmaster reported:
 Quite a lot has happened in the last week in my portfolio. I made a couple of decisions under delegated authority. The first was to extend funding for the Dementia Friendly Homes project until October. The hope is that after that it can be rolled into the county wide Home Improvements Agency that deals with adaptations for those with disabilities. We have also now placed an advertisement to recruit a coordinator for our Social Prescribing Pilot. The role will be to liaise with GPs, Pharmacists, CCG navigators and other referrers to provide opportunities for people to improve their physical and mental health and to combat isolation. The potential solutions will be through community clubs and associations, such as U3A or local youth organisations for the young. Special support groups could be set up to help people with particular conditions. The member champions of the Council's Community Wellbeing forum could support this and we have recently increased the maximum community grant from £1,000 to £3,000 to aid the setting up of these support groups. There will now be one application form for grants and they will be considered in two tranches and will be scored against one another and against meeting the council's health and wellbeing policies.
 Also in my portfolio the Council agreed to move forward with the investment strategy to secure long term provision of Leisure Facilities with sites we own in Hertford and Bishop's Stortford, and in the County owned site in Buntingford.
 I received petitions from Ware and Sawbridgeworth. Lizzie Hall spoke very well and there were over 2,000 signatures on each. I outlined the challenges to investing in pools owned by Chauncy and Leventhorpe in that 40pc of the running costs are paid for by Government funding. This funding is not guaranteed and could put the schools into difficulty if/when it ends. The Swimming clubs requested a consultation so I tabled amendments to agree this and for the recommendations to report back in October. I stressed that even after the consultation we shall continue to engage with the schools and other stakeholders to help them seek a solution which could involve a community trust, a leisure provider, or local sponsorship.
 For our own sites the intention in the procurement project plan is to appoint a contractor by summer 2019. It could take a further 3 years to complete the work so hence the time available to seek options for the joint use facilities.
 There are two Leisure providers in Sawbridgeworth, SLM for the pool and Nuffield for the Leisure Centre. A single provider could be a way forward if the school believes in that way a sustainable solution could be provided.
 We also need to consider how we manage supply and demand. Leventhorpe pool provides a proportion of the swimming lessons in the town. I contacted the owner of a company called Splash that provides swimming lessons for around 300 children at Manor of Groves Leisure Centre. Some of the students come from as far afield as Takeley, Bishops Stortford, and Hunsdon. The new

facility at Grange Paddocks should more than double capacity and take up more local demand and release capacity in Sawbridgeworth. I said I'd stay in touch with them. East Herts officers are arranging meetings with the schools to discuss the situation and options. The consultation will run into September. Finally, not in my portfolio but is also consultation on the proposed shared waste services with North Herts. There is a question around charging for green waste. The East Herts consultations can be found on the website.

- District Cllr Angela Alder reported:
Attending Performance, Audit and Governance meeting on 04 July. Main item the proposal for a pilot business incubation facility at Charrington House Bishops Stortford. Future topics anti-fraud, performance of housing associations review of pay on exit parking software and medium term financial plan.
Attending AGM of HAPTC on 13 July. Elected as vice chair of the finance committee.
HCC Health Scrutiny Committee./ CCG's Let's Talk Together" consultation and financial pressures
Public meeting on the issues at the Apton centre Bishops Stortford.
- Hertfordshire Police, PCSO Paul Weston reported:
Young people on bikes in Bell Street, CCTV used to identify and house visits made.
A burglary in Pishiobury Drive
School visits before the summer break to advise on water safety, road sense etc.
Visiting Pishiobury Park this Thursday for the Get Active day
Cllr E Buckmaster asked what was being done about parking on pavements and verges. PCSO Weston responded that enforcement was down on the agenda because of priorities.

17/54 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Received and Noted: Town Clerk's report for the month of July 2017. There were no questions.

17/55 TOWN PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT

Received and Noted: Town Project Manager's (TPM) report for the month of July 2017.

The mayor gave particular thanks for the TPM for the organisation and effort of staff that resulted in a successful event.

TPM said she had met her budget target for the event.

TPM said that if at budget time Members determined that they would support the event next year the date would be Sunday 01 July 2018.

Cllr Royle noted the closure of the Goosefat and Garlic and asked what the council would do to enhance the retail offering. He said the council must promote a "use it or lose it" philosophy. He noted that Peyman of Tudor House had produced a Town App. TPM advised that it had been created in association with the town council.

Cllr E Buckmaster said there was a lot going on in other towns and that he was to meet shortly with Liz Watts, CEO of EHDC to see what support could be obtained.

17/56 GRANT APPLICATIONS

To consider Grant applications from the following:

.1	Al's Adventures in Wasteland	Support for schools visits	£500
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Resolved: To make a grant of £500.
[prop Cllr Alder; secd Cllr Royle]

.2	Sawbo Schools Challenge	Printing and Publicity material	£500
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Resolved: To make a grant of £500.
[prop Cllr Riches; secd Cllr Hall]

.3	Sawbridgeworth Neuro Centres	Wheelchair accessible pathway	£500
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Resolved: To make a grant of £500.
[prop Cllr Alder; secd Cllr Riches]

17/57 PROPOSAL FROM HERTS CC TO CO-LOCATE SAWBRIDGEWORTH FIRE STATION AND SAWBRIDGEWORTH LIBRARY.

Noted: The response to East Herts District Council by the Town Council following the feed-back received from Members

17/58 RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON CONTENTS OF NEW EHDC PARKING ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT

Noted: The response to East Herts District Council by the Town Council following the feed-back received from Members

17/59 CONSULTATION BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

To consider a response by the Town Council to the proposal by the Police and Crime Commissioner to combine the management of the Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service with the Constabulary.

Ms Nina Vila introduced the consultation:

- This is a "Blue Light collaboration"
- KPMG had been commissioned to produce a business case
- Local MPs are all in favour of the proposal
- Hertfordshire CC are against the proposal
- After responses, proposal will be subject to independent assessment
- This is not a merger and Police and Fire Service will remain two distinct services
- The proposal is essentially a change in governance
- There will be not Cross-subsidy between the services

Cllr Royle asked what the implications would be for Sawbridgeworth?
Cllr Shaw asked why does the PCC want to extend his remit when the police service is currently in chaos?

Cllr Shaw said a positive outcome would be for the services to share resources. Nina Vila said there would be a joint estate strategy.

Cllr E Buckmaster said that individual responses should be made.

Cllr Shaw disagreed and said that the council should present an opinion on such a fundamental change.

Resolved: To make representations and oppose the changes proposed by the 2017 Act.

[prop Cllr Shaw; secd Cllr E Buckmaster]

17/60 EAST HERTS DISTRICT PLAN

To report on any information received relating to the public examination of the East Herts District Plan. None received.

Received: Harlow and Gilston Garden Town Concept Framework Consultation which runs to 01 September, Open day at Manor of Groves on 05 August to meet the developers.

17/61 DEPOSIT & CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

To note receipt of any Documents for Noting and Consultation

- To note the EHDC on-line petition relating to the proposed withdrawal of support for the Leventhorpe leisure facility and swimming pool.
- To note that there is a pending Road Closure Order for Springhall Road from 31 July for up to 18 months for water main connection works.
- To note that there is a pending Road Closure Order for High Wych Road from the A1184 to Broadfields from 31 July for up to 18 months for water main connection works.
- To note the Joint Waste and Recycling Consultation which ends on 31 August

17/62 FINANCIAL REPORT

Noted: The current Financial Report

17/63 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Noted and Approved: Accounts for payment

17/64 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

To consider any items for inclusion on future agendas. There were no further items.

Meeting closed at 20:53