

# SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

## MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL Minutes

of the Meeting of Sawbridgeworth Town Council held at 7:00pm in the Council Chamber, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024**.

### Those present

Cllr Eric Buckmaster	Cllr Simon Penney
Cllr Ruth Buckmaster	Cllr Greg Rattey
Cllr Annelise Furnace	Cllr John Rider
Cllr Dawn Newell	Cllr Reece Smith
Cllr Nathan Parsad - Wyatt	Cllr Steve Smith

In attendance: 22 x members of the public  
Lisa Dale –

Welcome by the Town Mayor followed by a minutes silence to mark the passing of previous serving councillors Pat Coysten and Heather Riches.  
Thought for the day was read by Cllr Annelise Furnace.

### 24/43 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies, all members were present.

### 24/44 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Three councillors declared interests due to the grant application process where members are volunteers for two of the applicant groups, Cllr John Rider, allotment association, Cllr Ruth Buckmaster, Cllr Eric Buckmaster RHSO.

### 24/45 PUBLIC FORUM

#### Questions

1. DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW I have seen the call for sites and that the consultation runs until Monday 30 September 2024. What is this Council's view on future developments in Sawbridgeworth? I note that sites sought include for community facilities. Following the removal of SAWB5 from the 2018 Plan, the Sports Association will be seeking to restore the provision of additional sporting facilities to meet a growth in demand.

Cllr Nathan Parsad-Wyatt, landowners can propose land for development, this can be for housing or employment use. The Town Council haven't been approached on specific sites and it is thought East Herts Council will consult when sites are identified with the wider public. This is when the district councillors and the planning committee can assess these proposals. Consultation will take place with members of the community and proposals responded to robustly.

2. OUR LIBRARY. I note HCC's *Inspiring Libraries: My Place, Hertfordshire Libraries Strategy 2022-32* and the ambition to 'provide a network of vibrant modern libraries that are destination venues welcoming the whole community'. Sawbridgeworth volunteers are featured in the strategy summary on HCC's website. How does our community library fit in with this strategy? Are

alternative sites still being seriously explored or has this been abandoned? Are there any plans to invest in the refurbishment of the building?

Cllr Eric Buckmaster, stated that there are forty six libraries across Hertfordshire and these are to be used as community hubs as well as for traditionally borrowing books and all the volunteers in the library do a great job. The memorial Hall was identified as a new location but this was not affordable but any new locations will be explored moving forwards.

3. Has there been any local engagement with the police around the use of illegal exhaust on cars? Modifications to cars have been popular to increase the noise from exhaust systems and these are used regularly around the town.

Cllr Salvatore Pagdades, will speak with the police to raise the issue.

**24/46 MINUTES**

**Resolved:** To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the town council held on 24th June 2024 (M02)  
*[prop Cllr Greg Rattey; sec'd Cllr Ruth Buckmaster]*

To attend to any matters arising from these Minutes and not dealt with elsewhere on this Agenda.  
Nothing was raised.

**24/47 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Received and noted:** the minutes of the planning committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024 (P03)

**Received and noted:** the draft minutes of the planning committee held on 15th July 2024 (P04)

**24/48 TOWN ACTION PLAN AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

**Received and noted:** the draft minutes of the Town Action Plan and Amenities Committee held on 15th July 2024 (T01)

Cllr Eric Buckmaster wanted to commend the committee for the amount of good work they are covering.

**24/49 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS**

To receive new Mayor's appointments and communications  
Cllr Reece Smith advised.

- Attended the Buntingford Civic reception hosted by Mayor Duncan Wallace.
- Opened the new disability platform at the local angling society.
- Attended Mandeville School summer fayre
- Held our annual civic service attended by community leaders and neighbouring mayors. £200 was raised for the Mayors charities.
- Attended a town twinning event.
- Attended a Guides and Brownies event and handed out badges and prizes.

**24/50 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS**

**Received and noted:** Representatives reports from:

- County Councillor E Buckmaster additionally added;
  - The A1184 has had the surface dressing added a few weeks

ago, prior to this substantial repairs took place. This also has happened at Spellbrook and Essex will complete the work at the County border. Then re lining will occur.

- Part of West Road has been repaired under his budget, more will be completed next year due to budget constraints.
- West Road double yellow lines outside the Taylor Wimpey site will be reduced by 20 meters.
- Flooding checks took place after the recent heavy rain and the usual spots were not affected.
- LCWIP consultation is open currently and he explained how to make comments on the website. There will be an event in Sawbridgeworth to raise awareness of the consultation.
- Local Nature Recovery Partnership stakeholder consultation is live, this is to explore where land can be improved for nature with different awareness events.
- East Herts Council have a motion on the next agenda on nature recovery and will declare an ecological and bio diversity crisis. Cllr Eric Buckmaster has added delivery mechanisms to this item so when issues are raised work can be completed to address these.
- He has written to the secretary of state for the environment inviting them to see some of the great work being completed locally.
- He has raised with District Council Executive members that the planning approvals for air source heat pumps are too rigid as several have been refused.

#### Question.

Cllr Furnace asked, with the local nature recovery strategy all the events are some distance from Sawbridgeworth, can this be assessed?

Regarding air purifiers in schools, are there any plans for Sawbridgeworth Schools having these fitted as the schools are actively taking part in recording data.

Cllr Eric Buckmaster explained the air purifiers are being fitted in schools with poor air quality. The most obvious school would be Spellbrook, if we get the data from this location it would prove useful in an application.

The locations for the strategy consultations have been set due to the short deadline and this has necessitated the hiring of an independent company to complete these. Views can be submitted on line for those not attending the events.

- Cllr Ruth Buckmaster, updated that the recent planning meeting had been cancelled so she had nothing to report.
- Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt, a standards meeting had taken place following the agenda pack being sent out. Nothing to report.
- Herts police – No report received.

Cllr Ruth Buckmaster updated on SYPRC who had held an AGM recently and the officers remain the same but the town council representative will now be Cllr Salvatore Pagdades.

Cllr Annelise Furnace updated the repair café held another event with a repair rate of around 70% and passed her thanks to Corrine Lewis and her team for the

great work involved in this project.

She attended the East Herts District Council sustainability forum and presented with the Clerk on the recent successful Energy Hub held in the town.

**24/51 TOWN CLERK REPORT**

**Received and noted:** the clerk's report for the month of July 2024.

Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt encouraged Cllr Salvatore Pagdades engagement with the police due to the recent crimes reported in the town

Cllr Annelise Furnace asked if there had been any update from Tees regarding the Southbrook footpath.  
An appointment has been made.

**24/52 TOWN PROJECTS MANAGER REPORT**

**Received and noted:** the Town Project Managers report for June 2024

**24/53 GRANT APPLICATIONS**

To consider and **resolve** the following grant applications:

The Mayor explained the process and invited councillors to indicate if they were for or against the applications.

1. Hertfordshire Boat Rescue  
Water Safety Patrols **£500**  
**Not Granted**, due to lack of detail of how the support would benefit people in Sawbridgeworth. Encouraged to reapply with more detail at the next round of grants.  
*[prop Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt; sec'd Cllr Eric Buckmaster]*
2. Citizens Advice East Herts  
Staffing Costs **£500**  
**Granted**  
*[prop Cllr Nathan Parsad-Wyatt; sec'd Cllr Ruth Buckmaster]*
3. East Herts District Council  
Diversionary Activities **£500**  
**Granted**  
*[prop Cllr Ruth Buckmaster; sec'd Cllr Dawn Newell]*
4. Friends of Sawbridgeworth Neuro Centres  
Music therapy sessions **£500**  
**Granted**  
*[prop Cllr Salvatore Pagdades; sec'd Cllr John Rider]*
5. Rivers Heritage Site and Orchard (RHSO)  
300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations **£500**  
**Granted**  
*[prop Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt; sec'd Cllr Nathan Parsad-Wyatt]*
6. Southbrook Allotment Association  
Insurance to loan out machinery **£300**  
**Granted**  
*[prop Cllr Nathan Parsad-Wyatt; sec'd Cllr Greg Rattey]*
7. Sawbridgeworth Sports Association  
Replacement street signage **£1104**

**Not Granted** Cllr Eric Buckmaster felt this funding should be considered through next years budget from the Town Council after debate and resolution. Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt didn't feel signage wasn't to the benefit of the community. Councillors wanted to support the sports association and thought the Council may support this in next years budget or reapply in January with more detail how this will improve more involvement of local people in local sport.  
*[prop Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt; sec'd Cllr John Rider]*

**24/54 LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN AND HERTFORDSHIRE LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY PLAN**

**Resolved:-** Sawbridgeworth Town Council as a whole will provide feedback and input into the following two consultations, in addition to any responses submitted by individual councillors:

- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan  
[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/EasthertsLCWIP](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/EasthertsLCWIP)
- Hertfordshire Local Nature Recovery Plan  
<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/how-the-council-works/partnerships/herts-nature-recovery-partnership/hertfordshire-nature-recovery-partnership.aspx>

Presented by Cllrs Annelise Furnace and Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt  
*[prop Cllr Annelise Furnace; sec'd Cllr Steve Smith]*

**24/55 SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN MARKET**

**Resolved:-** To explore locations to re-introduce a market to the town as per the requests made via the consultation for the Town Action Plan 2023-2027.  
*[prop Cllr Ruth Buckmaster; sec'd Cllr Nathan Parsad-Wyatt]*

**24/56 DEPOSIT & CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

**Noted:** deposit and consultation documents

**24/57 FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Noted:** The current Financial Report

**24/58 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

**Noted and Approved:** Accounts for payment.

**24/59 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Nothing was raised.

*Meeting ended at 8:24pm*

Action	Owner	Update
Mayor and Cllr Salvatore Pagdades to jointly write to the police asking for reassurance and	Cllr Reece Smith and Cllr Salvatore Pagdades	

<i>proactive patrols are completed in relation to recent crime spikes and anti social behaviour</i>		
<i>Update from Solicitor in regard to the the application being appealed to HHC to modify the definitive map in connection with the footpath at Elmwood</i>	<i>Clerk</i>	<i>Consultation with Tees completed and advised not to appeal the matter. Email sent to all interested parties 8/8/24</i>

Signed.....

Date.....