

SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL Minutes

of the Meeting of Sawbridgeworth Town Council held at 19.30hrs in the Council Chamber, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street on **Monday 29th November 2021**.

Those present

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

Cllr Annelise Furnace
Cllr Greg Rattey
Cllr David Royle
Cllr Nathan Parsad

In attendance:

Christopher Hunt Town Clerk
Joanne Sargant Town Project Manager

Thought of the day read by Cllr E Buckmaster

21/106 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr D Patel – Apology received and accepted
Cllr John Burmicz – Apology received and accepted
Cllr P Gray – Absent
Cllr P Coysten – Absent

All members present resolved to approve these apologies for absence.

21/107 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of Pecuniary Interests.

21/108 PUBLIC FORUM

Letter read from Mrs C Carter regarding the extension of the footpath on the East side of Vantorts Road at the junction with Sheering Mill Lane.

ACTION - For the Clerk to respond by letter as this was an East Herts Planning issue and not something the Town Council could assist with.

Letter from Mrs Mead asking how the arrangements are going to celebrate the Queens platinum jubilee. This item will be answered in the Town Projects managers update further along the agenda and it was agreed this could be dealt with there.

21/109 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25th October 2021 (M05)

[prop Cllr A Alder; sec'd Cllr R Buckmaster]

Matters arising from these Minutes and not dealt with elsewhere on this Agenda.

At the discretion of the Chair a resolution has been requested by Councillor R Buckmaster and can be authorised under Standing Orders Sect 23(q) being:

“Resolutions mover without notice to give the consent of the Council when such consent is required by these Standing Orders”

21/110 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Received and noted: the minutes of the planning committee held on 25th October 2021 (P08)

Received and noted: the draft minutes of the planning committee held on 15th November 2021 (P09)

21/111 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

- Attended Harlow Mayors Civic Ceremony
- Laid the wreath on Remembrance Sunday
- Organised a meeting with the developers at West Road due to the affect this is having on Crumps Farm
- Continued talks on race issues and sat on a meeting with the East Herts Black Parents Assembly (EHBPA) and will arrange a meeting with councillors and the EHBPA in the New Year
- Met with new shop owners for men's formal wear
- Met with shop owners group
- Working on the new government grant – additional restrictions grant for shops offering services.
- The Mayor has been made a patron of neuro centres at the Rivers Hospital.
- Assisted with a local homeless male with two shop keepers and EHDC did a great job in re housing him.
- Completed some town promotional work with the vlogger Adam Day.
- Cllr Chester thanked the nostalgic committee for inviting him as deputy mayor to lay the wreath on Remembrance Sunday

21/112 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

Received and noted: Representatives reports from:

- County Councillor E Buckmaster added:
 - Thanked all staff for the Christmas Fayre in the poor weather
 - Noted that the new heritage lights were being fitted in Bell Street
 - The New Mexico restaurant railings were to be replaced in the following two days
 - West Road is now open after works have been completed
 - Some of the highway's matters will be addressed in the new year after consultation with residents regarding yellow lines.
 - The first 20mph restriction will be in place prior to the end of the financial year and other projects are being developed through speed and volume studies.

Questions

Cllr Alder asked

- regarding the position of the library service in Sawbridgeworth,
- the process of applying for schools due to her concern of the number of children being home schooled.
- In regard to the Queens Canopy are people expected to plant a specific variety of tree and the Church will be planting trees in its grounds and is there any funding for this project.

Cllr E Buckmaster, alternative premises will need to be found for the local library and will be looking in to sharing with the extension of the memorial hall if specifications match.

Home schooling is a difficult question and Cllr R Buckmaster stated that families will be informed but do choose to home school.

Cllr E Buckmaster asked the Clerk to update on the tree question which he advised that any variety of tree was accepted, funding of up to £350 per project was available.

Cllr Furnace asked if real time monitoring of air quality would be available to advising parents the best route to walk to school.

Cllr E Buckmaster stated new software was being developed to find the cause on any hotspots so they can be addressed. Further funding may be available in the new year for districts to complete monitoring which he will have information on in the new year.

- District Councillor Alder added:
 - A number of EHDC staffing posts are currently on hold due to the review of the current structure and cost savings that need to be made.
 - Various training packages have been successfully completed by EHDC staff.

- District Councillor R Buckmaster added:
 - Referred to her report.

- Other Representatives –
 - Councillor Royle
 - Asked if the towns benches, as part of civic pride, could be adopted by the town council.
 - The Town Project manager stated the Town Council have painted the benches previously and the London Road bench will be adopted
 - Cllr E Buckmaster stated this was difficult but perhaps putting a small amount of funding in the budget may be the best way forward for minor repairs and painting to be completed.

 - Councillor R Buckmaster
 - Introduced the item to resolve, expenditure needed to fit a new kitchen and cooker at a cost of £7000 at the Bullfields community building.
To approve the Town Councils consent to allow the Trustees of SYPRC to commit to expenditure of over £5000 (Five Thousand Pounds) as outlined in the SYPRC constitution.
Cllr's Furnace, Royle, and Alder wanted it noted that they have an interest in this matter, but this was not pecuniary.

[*prop Cllr E Buckmaster; sec'd Cllr Parsad*]
 - Wassail and Apple Day events were planned and will be taking place

 - Councillor Furnace:
 - Updated that the tow paths were being repaired and the relationship with the river trust was helping this project
 - The film showing was a good event and further people are looking at joining the group for community gardening.

21/113 TOWN CLERKS REPORT

- The Sawbobus funding is being pursued and another report has been requested by the national lottery
- Cllr Jonathon Kaye EHDC would like to use the Chamber for a community event
Cllr Furnace asked if the welcome pack previously mentioned was going ahead.
The Clerk stated that the welcome pack will be produced in conjunction with the Mayor.
Cllr Furnace asked if any further information was available regarding the road names on the Taylor Wimpey site. The Clerk will liaise with Cllr E Buckmaster to explore when this may be planned.

21/114 TOWN PROJECT MANAGERS REPORT

- Updated on the Christmas Fayre and the poor weather that required the event to be closed earlier than planned.
- Some of the performers and stalls had been affected by Covid issues.
- Several members of staff had been subject to abuse from residents and customers using the shops and the event was perhaps too big for the area and the road layout.
Further research with other event organisers will take place prior to the 2022 event.

Cllr Alder thanked the staff for all their work on the Christmas event which was echoed by Cllr R Buckmaster

21/115 APPOINTMENTS AND APPRAISALS COMMITTEE

To appoint a Councillor to this committee following the resignation of Councillor E Buckmaster.

Councillor Alder wanted it noted Councillor E Buckmaster's many years of contribution to the committee and thanked him on behalf of the Council.

Cllr Alder proposed Cllr Parsad for the position, seconded by Councillor R Buckmaster. All councillors voted in support of this appointment.

21/116 QUEENS CANOPY

The Clerk updated the funding is capped at £350 and an ancient hedgerow in Pishiobury Park was the focus for this project. Further plants for projects are available from the Woodlands Trust
Cllr E Buckmaster stated he had funding to support the project if required.

Town Projects Manager will collate projects in relation to the Queens Jubilee in the Town and is already liaising with different organisations to see what resources are available. She also thought the Town Council could hold a competition to appoint a Town Cryer which she will explore in the new year.
Also call a meeting with managers for all the towns licensed premises to encourage an event with all involved and perhaps running a food festival.
Cllr Furnase thought this would encourage a multi-cultural community event. This will be explored in January and if required a working party formed if traders are interested in forming a larger event.

21/117 DEPOSIT AND CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

Noted: The Deposit and Consultation Documents

21/118 FINANCIAL REPORT

Noted: The current Financial Report

21/119 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Noted and Approved: Accounts for payment

21/120 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

To add the Queens Canopy as an agenda item

The Mayor concluded the meeting by wishing everyone a Happy Christmas

Meeting ended at 20.47hrs