

SAWBRIDGEWORTH 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 7.30 pm on **Monday 24 November 2014**.

Those present

Cllr Angela Alder	Cllr Will Mortimer
Cllr Eric Buckmaster – Town Mayor	Cllr Tom Reeks
Cllr Pat Coysten	Cllr Spencer Richards
Cllr Derek Filler	Cllr Joyce Vincent
Cllr Barry Hodges	Cllr Andrew Wincott
Cllr Peter Mitchell	

In attendance:

County Cllr Roger Beeching	1 Member of the Public
R Bowran - Town Clerk	Mrs J Kenny – Town Projects Manager

Welcome by the Mayor, prayers were read by Cllr Joyce Vincent

14/100 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllr Ruth Buckmaster - unwell.

14/101 PUBLIC FORUM

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

Mr Norman Manion commented that he had posed 37 questions to the council and that there had been no changes as a result of them.

Mr Norman Manion commented that there were 3 cars parked on the footway outside his house and that the fumes getting into his kitchen window could have ignited – and there was a need for a “No Parking” sign to be placed there.

Cllr Beeching and Cllr E Buckmaster said they would pursue this with their respective councils.

Mr Norman Manion commented that there was a car parked by his house which was untaxed and uninsured.

Mr Manion was advised that this was a matter for the police.

Mr Manion then said that it had already been moved by the Environment Officer.

Mr Norman Manion commented that nothing had been done to institute a one way traffic system at his end of Millfields into Saffron Gardens.

Clerk confirmed that the matter was being dealt with by Herts Highways.

Mr Norman Manion said that he contacted the local government ombudsman on these matters and had been advised that the chief executive of the District Council had been written to, However he

had heard nothing back.

Cllr E Buckmaster said he would follow this up with the chief executive.

Mr Norman Manion commented again that he knew that nothing had been done to prosecute Barratt Homes for the removal of a number of ash trees.

Cllr E Buckmaster confirmed that there were some matters over which the town council had little influence.

14/102 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

14/103 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 27 October 2014 (M06) [*prop Cllr Alder; secd Cllr Hodges*]

To attend to any matters arising from these Minutes and not dealt with elsewhere on this Agenda.

Minute 14/94. Cllr Alder advised that Spellbrook school had a useful meeting on the subject of a crossing near the school. There is hope that there might be a solution in the medium term

Minute 14/94. Cllr Alder advised that there had been a meeting of all relevant parties to discuss issues surrounding the youth group. It is now expected that they can move forward and resolve some of the difficulties experienced.

14/104 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Received and Noted: the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on:

- 29 September 2014 (P08)
- 13 October 2014 (P09)

14/105 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

The mayor reported:

- Many thanks for the great turnout at the Remembrance Sunday Service. It was a landmark date and councillors and the town responded by attending in great numbers.
- Attended the Memorial Hall AGM. He congratulated John Rider for his period as chairman and gave best wishes to Peter Lee who has taken over. They are in really great shape, have a good annual income, and sufficient reserves to maintain themselves in future. He was impressed that they are very outward looking and community focussed. It is also a vindication of the town council's decision 4 years ago to offer them our trust and financial support. They are an asset to the town.
- Thank you to those of you who have bought tickets to his Christmas party on 6th December at the Memorial Hall. Numbers are building but more are needed.
- Lights of Love, sponsored by Isabel Hospice, will be this coming Saturday at 4pm in Bakers Walk. It will be a lovely service as always and all are welcome.

- The WW1 commemoration football match will be on 14th December at the Football club starting at 2pm. Details are in the newsletter and online.

14/106 REPRESENTATIVES & CHAMPIONS REPORTS

To receive representatives reports from:

- **County Councillor Roger Beeching** reported:
 - Parking consultations being carried out for Leat Close, The Orchards and Duckling Lane.
 - Inspection of flooding issues especially around the cemetery and advised his liaison with Herts Highways.
 - Having used is HLB for various works in 2013/14 and continuing works in 2014/15
 - Q: Parking in The Orchards. A: anser as above
 - Q: Parking at Rumbles Fish and Chip shop A: no further action is envisaged
 - Q: Removal of unsightly signage at Parsonage lane A: this is EHDC for enforcement but because of a lack of officers is not at the top of their priorities.
- **District Councillor Eric Buckmaster** reported:
 - We received a report from officers on the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing act 2014 and how it affects environmental crime. The new legislation will affect: Littering from cars, clearing litter and waste on land, graffiti and other defacement and controlling dogs. Community Protection notices will replace previous Control Orders in areas such as street litter, graffiti and fly posting, as well as dog control order offences. There was some discussion as to whether or not some more delegated powers/agency agreements could be given to the towns. This could involve issuing ASBOs. Some of the documents are in draft form so officers will report back when there is greater clarity.
 - Elections 2015 In addition to our own Farmers Market open events there will be a District and Town public information evening here in the chamber on Wednesday 25th February. Officers from East Herts and the Town Clerk will explain the process for candidate nominations and field any questions.
- **District Councillor Will Mortimer** had nothing to report,
 - but said he was attending the Audit Committee and the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and would report back.
- **Rivers Heritage Site and Orchard Cllr E Buckmaster** reported:
 - Will be at the Christmas Lights and Christmas Farmers Market selling the recently produced apple juice.
 - The Wassail will take place at the Orchard on the 2nd Saturday of January at 6:30pm to 8pm. We'll be burning the seasons dead wood and the remains of the WW1 trench
- **Mann Memorial Trust.** Cllr Vincent reported:

- A Fig tree has been removed as it was causing damage to the flint wall
- There will be a get together before Christmas
- Iris Theobald has been made a Trustee to replace Les Richardson.
 - Mayor agreed to send her a letter of thanks for acting as the STC representative.
- **Memorial Hall.** Cllr Wincott reported:
 - The AGM on 13 November
 - Accounts for 3013 showed a healthy position.
 - There is a proposed scheme to install solar panels on the roof
 - A wide range of activities are being hosted
 - Contact with Sport England concerning activities for elderly people
 - Thanks to John Rider for his chairmanship
 - Mayor noted the relationship with STC and thanked Cllr Wincott for representing the council so effectively

14/107 CLERK'S REPORT

Received and noted the Clerks Report:

- **Staff Arrangements** We currently have two members of staff on sick leave. Lisa Dale has returned to work and is making a valuable contribution. Gill Abbott who will be away until November. Other members of staff are being redeployed to cover the absence. We have put a Temporary Receptionist in place to provide some relief to them.
- **Farmer's Market** The October market was attended by 650. There was no significant difference in attendance as a result of the revived Heart Radio campaign.
 - Clerk was instructed to carry out a survey to determine the demand for the Farmers Market and also a survey of retailers and customers to determine their wishes.
- **Bell Street CCTV** The installation continues to prove worthwhile and has been visited by clerks from Ware, Hertford, Hatfield and Wheathamstead. The contractors, Sunstone, are using the installation as a case study for a national security journal.
- **Bell Street Conveniences** It now appears that EHDC have treated the installation as a low priority and wish to start the procurement process afresh. The promised SLA from EHDC has apparently not been written despite previous reports. We continue to receive complaints from the public about the poor state of the present facility
- **Christmas Lights event** Plans are now well under way. More details to follow!

14/109 CHRISTMAS EVENT

The Town Projects Manager briefed Members on arrangements for the Christmas event scheduled for Friday 28 November.

14/110 TOWN GREEN

Clerk reported that a meeting had been arranged with officers of EHDC on 10 December to discuss the way that this project could be progressed.

14/111 TOWN SIGN

Clerk reported that the London Plane tree had now been removed by Herts Highways. Clerk presented four possible options for a location. London Road, Bell Street, Fair Green and Town Green. After a debate on the merits and demerits of each location:

Resolved: that the location for the Town Sign should be in the planter at the junction of London Road and Bell Street
[Prop. Cllr Alder; Secd. Cllr Vincent]

14/112 DEPOSIT AND CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

- None received

14/113 FINANCIAL REPORT

Noted: The current Financial Report

14/114 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Noted and Approved: Accounts for payment

Meeting was closed at 21:05