

SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL Minutes

of the Meeting of Sawbridgeworth Town Council, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth, CM21 9AN held on **Zoom** at 19:00 on **Monday 25 January 2021**.

Present: Cllrs A Furnace (Mayor), G Rattey, A Alder, E Buckmaster, R Buckmaster, J Burmicz, C Chester, D Patel, D Royle,

Absent: None

In Attendance: S Crocker – Town Clerk, L Dale – Admin Officer and three members of the public.

Press: Cat Barkley – Bishops Stortford Independent.

Welcome by the Town Mayor followed by Thought for the Day from Cllr Royle (Attached herewith)

20/122 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received and accepted from Cllrs Gray and Coysten

20/123 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Cllr E Buckmaster declared a non-statutory interest as a member of Hailey Centre, RHSO and Town Twinning.

Cllr D Royle declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 20/126 as Vice-President of the Cricket club

20/124 PUBLIC FORUM

To receive and respond to questions from members of the public on matters within the remit of the Town Council.

Mrs Gillian Squire noted concerns regarding air pollution on behalf of Sustainable Sawbridgeworth, and requested Council consider reviewing anti-idling information published by some London Boroughs with a view to considering making Sawbridgeworth an anti-idling town.

Mr Roger Beeching welcomed the new Town Clerk to his post and wished him a long and successful stay, and further offered congratulations to Cllr G Rattey with regard to his efforts in supporting local businesses.

20/125 MINUTES

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 30 November 2020 (M06) [Attached]

It was:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 30 November 2020 be approved as a correct record and duly signed by the Mayor.

*Proposed by **Cllr Alder**, seconded by **Cllr Royle** – All in Favour.*

Cllr E Buckmaster wished his dissatisfaction regarding communication over town events be recorded in the minutes.

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

Cllr A Furnace noted emails regarding events were sent.

20/126 GRANT APPLICATIONS

To consider grant applications from:

- East Herts Citizens Advice

It was:

RESOLVED to award the requested sum of £500 be awarded to East Herts Citizens Advice

Proposed by Cllr Alder, seconded by Cllr Burmicz – All in Favour

- Sawbridgeworth Cricket Club

It was:

RESOLVED to award the requested sum of £500 be awarded to Sawbridgeworth Cricket Club.

Proposed by Cllr R Buckmaster, seconded by Cllr C Chester – All in Favour.

20/127 HISTORICAL GRANTS

To consider a request from Stop Harlow North to divert historical grant monies to the Hunsdon, Eastwick & Gilston Neighbourhood Plan Group (HEGNPG).

Cllr E Buckmaster reported that the Stop Harlow North campaign was due to cease, and a request had been received to divert historical funding awards to the Hunsdon, Eastwick and Gilston neighbourhood plan group. The movement of money would have no effect on the current budget or precept.

It was:

RESOLVED to agree to the request to divert £10,636.39 of historical funding from the Stop Harlow North campaign to HEGNPG.

Proposed by Cllr E Buckmaster, seconded by Cllr Alder – All in Favour.

20/128 BUDGET 2021-2022

To consider a recommendation from the Finance & Policy Committee and set the precept for financial year 2021-2022

Members expressed thanks to the former Town Clerk for his work in preparing the draft budget. Cllr E Buckmaster reported that the new homes bonus was an unknown quantity at the present time and therefore the budget had been set to zero, and the sawbobus grant had been reduced by 50% meaning the shortfall needed to be funded by the precept.

It was:

RESOLVED To set the precept for financial year 2021/2022 at Three hundred and sixty-one thousand, Six hundred and twenty-eight pounds (£361,628)

Proposed by Cllr E Buckmaster, seconded by Cllr R Buckmaster – All in Favour.

20/129 FINANCIAL REPORT

To consider the current financial report

The report was **Noted**.

20/130 BANK RECONCILIATIONS AND MANDATES

To receive the latest bank reconciliation and consider an update on banking arrangements.

The Town Clerk reported that the changing of bank mandates was underway and an application for electronic banking was being processed.

The report was **Noted**.

20/131 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

To note and approve accounts for payment.

It was:

RESOLVED that the accounts for payment be received and approved.

Proposed by Cllr E Buckmaster, seconded by Cllr G Rattey – All in Favour.

20/132 COMMITTEE MINUTES

To receive and note the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 30 November 2020 (P11) *(Attached herewith)*

To receive and note the draft minutes of the Planning Committee held on 11 January 2021 (P12) *(Attached herewith)*

To receive and note the draft minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee held on 11 January 2021 (F03) *(Attached herewith)*

The minutes were **Noted**.

20/133 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

To receive Mayor's report

The Mayor had circulated a monthly report *(Attached herewith)*

20/134 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

To receive representatives reports from:

- County Councillor E Buckmaster
- District Councillor Alder
- District Councillor R Buckmaster
- District Councillor Burmicz (to follow)
- Hertfordshire Police
- Other Representatives

Cllr Royle - Footpaths; Schools; Town Twinning.

Cllr R Buckmaster – *RHSO; SYPRC* (to follow)

The reports *(Attached herewith)* were **Noted**.

It was:

RESOLVED to write to EHDC expressing concern at the lack of a transport plan for the West Rd Developments, and consider starting a monitoring group.

Proposed by Cllr Chester, seconded by Cllr Alder – All in Favour.

20/135 OFFICERS REPORTS

To receive the Town Clerk's and Projects Manager reports for the month of December 2020 *(Attached herewith)*

The reports were **Noted**.

20/136 AIR QUALITY

To consider a report from the Town Mayor

A previously circulated report was considered *(attached herewith)*, members discussed the recommendations therein.

It was:

RESOLVED to write to EHDC requesting regular updates and publication of air quality monitoring results, and information on plans to promote cleaner air in Sawbridgeworth including anti-engine idling campaigns.

Proposed by Cllr Royle, seconded by Cllr Patel – All in Favour.

20/137 LOCAL BUSINESSES

To consider an update on support for local businesses and shops.

Cllr Rattey delivered an update and reported local support grants were being fully paid out. Members expressed thanks to Cllr Rattey and the Town Projects manager for their supportive efforts.

20/138 DEVOLUTION AND RECOVERY

To consider any updates on the Government proposals, which is delayed from publication scheduled to be in a White Paper in September, to force through a reorganisation of local government.

There was no update.

20/139 DEPOSIT & CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

To note receipt of any Documents for Noting and Consultation

- EGTP – Eastern Area Growth and Transport Plan – consultation closes 31 January 2021

20/140 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

To note any items for future agendas

- Mayor elect.
- Committee Structure (Annual Meeting).

Meeting ended at 20:44