

# 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 23 February 2015**.

### Those present

|                                   |                       |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Cllr Angela Alder                 |                       |
| Cllr Eric Buckmaster – Town Mayor | Cllr Peter Mitchell   |
| Cllr Ruth Buckmaster              | Cllr Spencer Richards |
| Cllr Pat Coysten                  | Cllr Joyce Vincent    |
| Cllr Derek Filler                 | Cllr Andrew Wincott   |
| Cllr Barry Hodges                 |                       |

### In attendance:

|                            |                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| County Cllr Roger Beeching | Michael Jarvis – H&E Observer       |
| R Bowran - Town Clerk      | Mrs J Kenny – Town Projects Manager |

Welcome by the Mayor, prayers were read by Cllr Angela Alder

### 14/145 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllr Tom Reeks – college work.  
Cllr Will Mortimer was absent.

### 14/146 PUBLIC FORUM

To receive representations from members of the public on matters within the remit of the Town Council. There were none.

### 14/147 STATEMENT BY A MEMBER

To receive a statement by a Member of the council. This item was deferred to another occasion.

### 14/148 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

### 14/149 MINUTES

**Resolved:** To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 26 January 2015 (M09)  
*[prop Cllr Alder; Secd Cllr Vincent]*  
There were no matters arising from these Minutes not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.

### 14/150 PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Received and noted:** The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on:

- 26 January 2015 (P15)
- 09 February 2015 (P16)

**14/151 AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

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

- 09 February 2015 (A03)

**14/152 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS**

To receive the Mayor's appointments and communications

- Received a letter from Flt.Lt. Andrew Passfield thanking the town council for facilitating the recent ATC Parade.
- Reminder of an information meeting on 25 February about the District Council elections.
- This may be the last meeting for Cllr Vincent who is moving from the area. She has been a councillor for 40 years and has been twice the town mayor.
- Received complaints about the number of motorists entering the car park through the no entry sign. Discussed, and agreed to install a cctv camera to monitor activity.
- Civic Dinner on 28 March. Entertainment is a "GlamRock" show featuring Paul Lillie.
- Attending the AMAC Day at the Muslim Community in Tring on 07 March.

**14/153 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS**

To receive representatives reports from:

- County Councillor Roger Beeching reported:
  - Complaints from SMH about parking in The Forebury. They have been advised that further restrictions than those already present would require a TRO at a cost of about £5k.
  - Installation of LED lamps in street lights are going ahead.
  - It is acknowledged that the street light reporting system is "rubbish".
  - Abelio have been told by Manchester Airports Group (owners of Stansted Airport) that a four track upgrade is needed for the line to Liverpool Street.
  -
- District Councillor Eric Buckmaster reported:
  - EHDC Council Tax for 2015/16 will decrease by 1%
  - HCC has given EHDC an additional £200k for Health and Wellbeing purposes.
  - EHDC are to take over the car park subsidy in 2015/16 freeing funds for other projects
  - Anti-Social Behaviour regulations can now be applied by EHDC Heads of Service.
  - There are still some community grants available to be applied for.
  - The library has been reclassified as a Tier 3 installation and will thus retain a paid staff member.
  - The priorities for the Highways Locality Budget for 2015/16 are being determined.
    - Cllr Alder asked if the Parsonage Lane signage was going to be removed. The response was that Herts Highways were going to investigate.

- The Locality Budget is all spent with a final £2k being given to the police to purchase purple bells.
- District Councillor Will Mortimer was not present.
- Hertfordshire Police were not present but reported:
  - No significant events
  - Continued usage of the towns CCTV system
- Rivers Heritage Site and Orchard. Cllr E Buckmaster reported:
  - A heavy pruning session to be held on 01 March
  - AGM will be held on 27 May 2015
  - There is still some apple juice available for sale
- Duckling Centre – Cllr Mitchell reported
  - The centre has undergone an OFSTED inspection
  - The Advisory Board were not holding the centre to account.
  - Much Hadham PC are to support manager Carol King
  - Meeting on 24 February to discuss the composition of the Advisory Board
  - There is a question about the role of the Town Council
  - Should the County Councillor be on that Board?
- Sawbridgeworth Memorial Hall – Cllr Wincott reported:
  - Viking Solar have been awarded the contract to install solar panels at SMH.
  - A Sport England initiative for the over 50s in conjunction with EHDC
  - Model Railway Exhibition will be held on 14 March
  - There will be a Food Fayre on the same day as the May Fayre.

#### **14/154 CLERK'S REPORT**

To receive and note the Clerk's report

- Staff Arrangements Tracey Dobinson is scheduled to have two knee replacement operations within the next few weeks and will then have an extended recovery period. Our General Hand will be filling in for some of her duties.
- Farmers Market. The February Market incorporated an Election information stand.
- Public Conveniences. The progress meeting held with officers of EHDC on 27 January established that EHDC have produced an alternative plan for the development of the conveniences. It was agreed however that the town council's original proposals would be evaluated in parallel with them. It was also agreed that EHDC would manage the tender process. The new Waste Manager will prepare the SLA for the project. It is unlikely that we will have received the requested response from EHDC by the date of STC's February meeting.
- Town Green. We have met with The EHDC landscape designer and the EHDC arboriculturalist on site. They were able to provide very helpful guidance. The next steps are for STC to commission a Topographical Survey of the area and a detailed Tree Survey. The landscape designer has expressed willingness to revisit our proposals when these surveys have been completed. It will then be for STC to undertake a public consultation before detailed designs can be commissioned.
- Town Sign. Is now in manufacture and still scheduled for completion in March. Some detailed specifications are to be sorted out.

- East Herts District Council have issued an Air Quality Management Order which will require them to produce an action plan to reduce air pollution along the main north-south route within 18 months.

**14/155 ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS**

To consider whether to authorise the distribution of official council papers to Members by electronic means.

**Decided:** To defer a resolution on this matter until the next council is formed.

**14/156 MAYOR ELECT**

To consider the nomination a Mayor-elect for the civic year 2015-16. Members agreed that it was helpful to have this knowledge in advance of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council.

**Resolved:** That Cllr Barry Hodges JP be nominated as Mayor-elect for the civic year 2015-16  
*[prop Cllr Alder; Secd Cllr Filler]*

**14/157 DEPOSIT & CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

- None received other than that from the Leventhorpe School previously discussed and minuted.

**14/158 FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Noted:** The current Financial Report

**14/159 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

**Noted and Approved:** Accounts for payment

Meeting was closed at 20:29