

SAWBRIDGEWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN ACTION PLAN AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes

of the meeting of the Town Action Plan and Amenities Committee held at the Council Offices, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth at 8pm on **Monday 13th May 2024**.

Those present

Cllr R Buckmaster (Ex Officio)
Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt

Cllr Simon Penney
Cllr John Rider

In attendance:

Christopher Hunt - Town Clerk
1 x Member of public

T23/43 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Annelise Furnace, Cllr Dawn Newell, Cllr Salvatore Pagdades
[prop Cllr Ruth Buckmaster; sec'd Cllr Simon Penney]

T23/44 PUBLIC FORUM

Q1. Concern for the upgrading of footpath 9 and 10 due to the paths becoming unusable in poor weather and the positive impact in using the footpath on the pollution currently being suffered?

Q2. Have Taylor Wimpey complied with their commitments in relation to the placement of footpaths?

Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt stated that Councillors and Officers were all working on trying to resolve the issues with footpath 9 with enquiries set to the County Council and developers. Cllr Eric Buckmaster was chasing up the footbridges over the river in West Road to encourage more people to walk and cycle.

T23/45 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Pecuniary Interest by Members.

T23/46 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Town Action Plan and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 12th February 2024 (T03)

[prop Cllr Ruth Buckmaster; sec'd Cllr John Rider]

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

Owner	Action	Completed
Clerk	To circulate update on footpath 32	Email sent 13/2/24 to all councillors and staff
Cllr R Buckmaster	To write to East Herts Council to raise the issue of pupils parking in the	Email dated 18/2/24 Dear Cllr Buckmaster, Thank you for raising the observations and

	Leventhorpe swimming pool, restricting places for pool users.	concerns of customers regarding the car parking at Leventhorpe leisure centre. Please be reassured that I have spoken to the General Manager about the parking and this will be reviewed by them and the school. Kind regards Emily
Clerk	To add the information and links to the Town Council website	Website updated with useful link information

T23/47 ALLOTMENTS

Received and noted - Allotments Officer Report.

The Clerk updated the meeting on the West Road allotments being worked on by solicitors.

Cllr John Rider thanked staff on the allotment orchard development and raised the allotment association insurance and the town council responsibility may be crossing over.

T23/48 CEMETERY

Received and noted – Cemetery Officer Report

The Clerk reported that grass cutting had been affected by the poor weather.

T23/49 FOOTPATHS & OPEN SPACES

Cllr J Rider

- Raised the concerns with the path ownership on Faire Green.
- Footpath 22 had now been repaired next to the brook.
- Church Crescent water leak had been assessed by EHDC and stated it was on private land.
- The Clerk stated a two-week consultation had been raised for the tree removal on Jubilee trees. This finished on Friday 24th May and this can be part of the tree removal application being made.

Cllr Ruth Buckmaster asked if the goal area on the open land to the rear of the Orchard could be repaired as a big dip had been formed. Are the two bridges being built still from the Barratts site. The Clerk confirmed this work is imminent.

ACTION – Clerk to ask rangers to repair the goal area.

Cllr Simon Penney asked if the council are informed regarding cattle placement in Pishiobury Park. Cllr Ruth Buckmaster stated the farmer placed some of the cattle in the park today and East Herts Council were informed of this.

T23/50 OPERATIONS

The Clerk updated members on the Sawbobus and current repair issues.

The Lease was nearly complete for the Hailey Centre and will need to be signed and sealed soon.
CCTV has been assessed and a new CCTV camera will be needed to be fitted next to Toplines Hairdressers to increase cover along Bell Street

Cllr John Rider raised the increase in squirrels and was concerned regarding damage they could cause to buildings and the fence at the rear of the Bell has been vandalised and needed repairing.

T23/51 ECO-AUDIT WORKING PARTY

Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt referred to Cllr Annelise Furnace and updated that he is exploring alternative solutions to EV charging points.

Cllr Simon Penney asked what was happening with the Hertfordshire Tree giveaway scheme as the website states it reopens in 2024.

Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt stated County Councillor Eric Buckmaster will be informed when this scheme will reopen. Several trees have been planted around the town from the previous giveaway and demand outweighs the supply across the County.

Cllr Simon Penney asked if bat boxes and hedgehog houses were being made locally.

ACTION – Clerk to write to Bob Reed and Gilly Squires to explore if projects were underway.

Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt asked if there was any update on the abandoned canal boat by the station.

The Clerk responded that this has been reported several times to the Canals and Rivers Trust but due to their high work load this may come lower down on the list of priorities.

T23/52 TOWN ACTION PLAN

To review status of the Town Action Plan, by Cllr A Parsad-Wyatt, who stated communication was key and regular meetings with himself and the Clerk should take place to review the plan and updates made at this meeting and at full town council meetings.

ACTION – Clerk to diary in regular meetings throughout the year with Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt.

T23/53 HGV INCREASED MOVEMENTS IN THE TOWN

To review the concern with the Sheering HGV restriction and the impact of increased use of local roads in the town by HGV's. Members of the meeting have not seen an increase in HGV movement in Station Road or surrounding streets but the A1184 appears to be the preferred route.

T23/54 COUNCILLOR ENGAGEMENT

River Day was the next event in the diary and councillors were encouraged to attend and support the event and use this as an opportunity for engagement.

T23/55 STATION ADOPTION SCHEME

Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt has a contact with the Men's Sheds scheme that may be able to make planters that can be used at the station.

Plants and appropriate planters were being explored that would be safe at the location.

T23/56 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Cllr Ruth Buckmaster raised community tensions in Truswell Crescent over a parking restriction placed by the management company which has impacted on residents not in support of the scheme.

Cllr J Rider, asked to place winter maintenance programme on the next agenda to monitor the support in Sawbridgeworth.

Meeting ended at 8:19pm

ACTIONS

Owner	Action	Completed
Clerk	To ask rangers to repair the goal area in the park near to the Crescent.	Requested 29 th May 2024
Clerk	To write to Bob Reed and Gilly Squires to explore if projects were underway regarding hedgehog houses and bat boxes.	Email sent 28 th May 2024
Clerk	To diary in regular meetings throughout the year with Cllr Angus Parsad-Wyatt to review the Town Action Plan	Completed 29 th May 2024