



# Sodbury Town Council

## Minutes of the meeting of Environment & Leisure Committee 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019, Sodbury Council Offices

**Committee Members:** Councillors B Allen, S Gibson, C Hays (Vice Chair), P O'Rourke (Chairman), P Smith, A Williams

**Present:** Cllrs. Brenda Allen, S Gibson, Chris Hays, Phil O'Rourke (arrived 19:40), P Smith, A Williams

Cate Davidson – Town Clerk  
Jackie Stallard – Assistant Clerk

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1. **Apologies**  
All Members present.
  2. **Declarations of Interest**  
None to report
  3. **Approval of Minutes of 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019**  
**Resolved** the Minutes of the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019 are approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.
  4. **Matters Arising**  
None to report.
  5. **Public Conveniences**  
At a Full Council meeting on 12/02/19, Members resolved that the matter be referred to the E&L Committee to look at various options. Following investigation, the Clerk reported as follows:-
    - Information on facilities in the area from other Councils had been obtained:  
**Yate Town Council** - Main toilets are the responsibility of the shopping centre which has an onsite team who regularly checks and cleans them. YTC are responsible for one facility in Kingsgate park which they get relatively little trouble with. A security firm opens at 07.00 and closes at 19.00 daily. In between these times they are checked 3 times a day and if necessary cleaned. The YTC maintenance team cleans the facilities apart from on a Sunday when a private firm goes in and does them once.  
**Wotton-under-Edge TC** - 2 facilities; one managed by District Council and one by TC. The TC has a buildings manager which checks the toilets 3x per day during the week and can clean them as required. The TC is currently doing a residents survey about the future of the toilets.  
**Kingswood Parish Council (Glos)** - 1 facility which the contractor opens at dawn and closes at dusk. There is an internal notice which the cleaner signs with date and time so public can see when they have been cleaned. There is also a notice telling people where to report problems though messages are only picked up during part time office hours. The contractor is a local person who sees to them 7 days a week. The PC is currently considering the future of the toilets.  
**Thornbury Town Council** - No facilities. St Mary's shopping centre has toilets which it maintains. The Mundy Playing Fields have toilets that are maintained by the playing fields staff. Thornbury TC did have some which were rented from SGC

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but were handed back and sold off by SGC years ago. The TC does run a toilet scheme which all local businesses were asked to subscribe to. Only 1 shop and 2 pubs signed up and they are given a grant of £1,000 pa for full facilities and £600 pa for just a loo; they have to display a sign in the window allowing people to use them whether or not they are buying anything.

**South Glos Council** - Various facilities which are all opened at 08.00 and closed at 18.00. Local teams open them and then cleaning teams clean once a day and check 3 times with any additional works being done as necessary.

- A meeting took place with the SGC CCTV and ASB Officers. It was confirmed that the CCTV camera on the Police Station was obscured by the parapet of the toilet block and to cover the toilet area, a camera would need to be located on a building 4 or 5 doors up from the STC Office at a cost to STC. Evidence gathered could not be used for prosecution and would only show anyone outside of the toilets. SGC would not support cameras in the toilet due to Data and Surveillance laws and it is not possible to use dummy cameras due to the false sense of security they would imply. Current CCTV signage in the area was deemed adequate.
- The Clerk met with a representative from a Pop-up toilets company who had carried out installations in the UK. The unit could be installed into the ladies cubicle and would be self-cleaning and vandal proof (pictures provided) with a minimum lifespan of 20 years, at a cost of £39,500. To take out a Public Works Loan Board would be an option and examples of loans and total repayments were provided.
- Cleaning is currently done once a day in the morning. If the facilities are to remain open the Council should consider increasing the frequency and the cost of this would be £15 per visit. The Clerk feels a minimum of twice a day is required.

The Clerk reported that the options appear to be:

- Close the facilities completely
- Return the current facility to a disabled only facility with a Radar key
- Install a self cleaning facility in the ladies at a cost of £40k and return the disabled facility to Radar access
- Consider asking local businesses to join a scheme to allow non-customers to use their facilities similar to the Thornbury Scheme.

Members spent some time considering the options and it was **Resolved** to proceed with a residents survey via Survey Monkey including the following questions:

- Are you a resident in the Sodbury Town Council area?
- Do you use the public facilities?
- Should the facilities remain open or be closed?
- Are you in favour of installing a self cleaning facility in the current block at a cost of £40,000?
- Are you in favour of reverting the current facility to a disabled facility only?
- Should the Town Council work with local businesses to allow the public to use their facilities?
- Any other comments

It was **Resolved** that no decision is made by this Town Council until after the local elections and the matter is an agenda item at the Annual Parish meeting.

Members also agreed to take a preferred option to Full Council and it was **Resolved** that the preferred option of this Committee is to install a self cleaning unit at a cost of circa £40,000 and annual maintenance costs of between £1,500 and £2,000 and revert the accessible facility for use with a Radar key only.

However, it was acknowledged that £40,000 is a lot of money for which the Town Council would have to take out a loan and which could be spent for the benefit of residents and it was noted that Old Sodbury Play Area is in need of replacement.

Members made some amendments to the press release which had been considered by Full Council and the Clerk was ask to proceed with circulating this.

**6. Items to report**

No items were reported at this time.

**7. Date of next meeting: 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

The meeting closed at 20:40 hrs

Signed .....  .....

Dated ..... 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019 ..... -

