



Sodbury Town Council
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
07 April 2015

at
The Old Reading Rooms, 26 High Street, Chipping Sodbury

Present: Councillors J Allard, R Barritt, L Boon, I Campbell, R Creer, P Downes, C Hays, P Robins, A Rush, P Smith, P Tily, S Tubby, P Whittle, W Whittle & A Williams

Clerk – Cate Davidson

Assistant Clerk – Jackie Stallard

Members of the public – Mr J Mainstone, Mr R Keen

The Chair welcomed all to the Annual Parish Meeting.

1. **Apologies**
None
2. **Minutes of the last meeting – 13th May 2014**
The Clerk read out the minutes and it was **Resolved** that the minutes of 13th May 2014 are approved and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.
3. **Markets Committee Report – From Cllr P Robins**
Cllr P Robins gave a report including the following items:
 - The Committee has met on a regular basis over the past year
 - The Farmers Market continues to be held on the Pitchings on 2nd & 4th Saturday of each month
 - The Pitchings continue to host many events, eg The Mop, Victorian Night, Festival and Classic Car run. In addition, smaller events, eg the ROCK charity event at The Royal Oak
 - Thanks was conveyed to the Environment & Leisure Committee and Sodbury in Bloom for the great floral displays in the town
 - Cleaning of the Pitchings, following the Mop Fair in March, was unsatisfactory and the issue should be addressed when the new Markets Committee is appointed in May
 - The Committee continues to manage booking of the Pitchings for events and the importance of taking into account residents and traders interests emphasised
 - Ownership of the Pitchings is still under review
 - Thanks given to Cate and Jackie and other members of the committee for their continued support over the past year
4. **Environmental & Leisure Committee Report – Cllr R Barritt**
Cllr R Barritt gave a report including the following items:
 - Budgets under pressure and exceeded
 - Further to cuts in the grass cutting service by SGC, issues arose with regard to SGC's –v- STC's responsibility and once established, quotes sought. In the event, SGC provided the most competitive quote and was appointed to cut specific areas
 - Due to cuts by SGC, STC has taken over the emptying of litter and dog bins
 - The Summer Playscheme was a success, despite the administrative problems, and a decision made that the scheme will be administered by STC in the future

- The public conveniences continue to be vandalised and consideration given to closing them between 19:00 and 07:00 hrs. The issue was publicised by The Gazette, although problems persist. A steam cleaner has been purchased to aid and improve cleaning
- The refurbished play area at The Ridings resulted in a few complaints but largely very popular and a new slide will be added shortly
- Thanks was conveyed to Cate for her fund raising efforts with contributions made by The Big Lottery, New Homes Bonus, Town Lands Charity & others
- New signage being sought to be situated in Wickwar Road car park vicinity – on-going discussion
- The importance of looking after constituents best interests as an elected body was highlighted, making decisions and solving problems in the best possible way
- Cllr Barritt announced he would be leaving the area in the Summer and thanked the Council for their help and advice during his term as a councillor

5. Planning & Consultation Committee Report – Cllr P Tily

Cllr P Tily reported the meetings have continued successfully on an as and when basis with more Applicants attending the meetings to seek advice/add weight to their applications. Thanks conveyed to Committee members and Cate and Jackie's support.

6. Chairman's Report – Cllr W Whittle

The Chairman gave the following report:


- Thanks given to Councillors for attendance/input at meetings, particularly the Chairs of Committee meetings.
- Mention made of the on-going traffic calming scheme plans and the hope that it will soon be finalised
- Support of a 30mph speed limit in Old Sodbury following road traffic accidents
- Delight expressed at the town council's new office and the successful 'opening' event which took place on 27/3/15
- The Snuggery (rental property to the rear of 26 High Street) has been redecorated and a suitable tenant being sought via a local estate agent
- Luck and best wishes conveyed to members as their 4-year term concludes
- Thanks to Cate and Jackie for their help and support

7. Any other Parish business

- Cllr P Whittle made reference to an increased amount of plastic signage in the area and the Clerk confirmed a meeting has been set to meet with SGC.
- Mr Mainstone brought to Members' attention a lack of signage in the town and the Clerk confirmed the Environment and Leisure Committee have the matter in hand. In addition, he expressed appreciation that the town council had refused a recent application for a music festival in the street and the importance of liaising with residents and businesses when such matters arise.
- Mr Keen, as a representative of The Joint Parishes Cycleway Committee, confirmed he had met with SGC to discuss a safe path from Yate to Sodbury.

8. Date of next Annual Parish meeting – To be confirmed

The Chairman closed the Annual Parish Meeting at 19:25 hrs

Signed  (Chairman)