



**Sodbury Town Council**  
**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting**  
**05 April 2016**  
**at Chipping Sodbury Town Hall**

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**Present:** Councillors B Allen, J Ball, L Boon, R Creer, P Downes, S Gibson, J Gough, C Hays, J Neuvo, P O'Rourke, P Rumney, P Smith (Chair), P Whittle, W Whittle (Vice Chair) & A Williams  
Clerk – Cate Davidson

Assistant Clerk – Jackie Stallard  
Members of the Public x 10

Representatives from: The Big Lunch, Chamber of Commerce, Football Club (The Ridings), Lions, Sodbury in Bloom, SYBA, Street Pastors, Twinning, Wards Catering (Town Hall), WI, *Sodbury players.*

PC Dan Jones, Neighbourhood Beat Manager

**1. Welcome by Chairman Cllr P Smith**

The Chair welcomed all to the Annual Parish Meeting and the Emergency procedure read out.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

**Resolved** the Minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> April 2015 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

**3. Reports from the Town Council**

Environmental & Leisure Committee Report

The Chairman Cllr O'Rourke read out a report summarised as follows:-

- The Committee meet on a regular basis
- Refurbishment and Redecoration of the public conveniences took place in Summer 2015
- The contract cleaning of the public conveniences has been awarded to Spotless Cleaning of Chipping Sodbury
- On-going discussions with regard to purchase of benches for the town
- The Assistant Clerk undertook training and is qualified to inspect play area equipment
- Thanks conveyed to fellow Councillors, Clerk and Assistant Clerk for help and advice in first year as a Councillor

Markets Committee Report

The Chairman, Cllr P Downes reported as follows:

- The Markets Committee is responsible for issuing Licences for use of the Pitchings
- The Farmer's Market had closed, partly due to the opening of another market and lack of stallholders, but the Council is open to fresh ideas to revive it.
- The Committee is responsible for sourcing and purchase of Christmas trees and consideration may be given to consulting local traders for financial backing in the future
- Cleansing of the Pitchings following the Mop Fair has hopefully improved

Planning & Consultation Committee Report

The Chairman, Cllr P Whittle reported that the Committee meet on an 'ad hoc' basis to discuss planning applications and SGC consultations.

Chairman's Report – Cllr P Smith

The Chairman reported as follows:

- An exciting first year as Mayor, attending many events such as the Victorian Evening and special birthday celebrations. Thanks conveyed to Cllr W Whittle for attending the Festival in his stead.
- The traffic-calming scheme in Chipping Sodbury has almost been completed, funded by Section 106 monies linked to the Barnhill Development, aiming to make the town more pedestrian friendly
- In 2015, seven new Councillors were elected and most had undergone "Good Councillor" training
- During times of financial restraint, the Town Council had worked hard to minimise the impact that South Glos Council savings had on this area. The Town Council now pay for grass cutting and dog/litter bins as well as funding the Youth Club and giving grants to other local organisations.
- The councillors were thanked for their support and work over the last year and thanks conveyed to Cate and Jackie in the office

**4. Any other Parish business**

Questions were invited from the public:-

Mr P Tily requested an up-date in relation to the lane adjacent to 40 Brook Street. The Clerk reported, following information received from SGC, that the lane had been confirmed as a public right of way and the matter was in the hands of lawyers.

Mr R McDonough as a Chamber of Commerce representative requested an up-date on baby changing facilities in the town. The Clerk confirmed that these facilities would be installed in the disabled toilet in the new financial year.

**Date of next Annual Parish meeting – To be confirmed**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 19.50 hrs

Signed  ..... (Chairman)

Dated .....