



Sodbury Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council

10th September 2019, Sodbury Town Council Offices

Present: Councillors J Ball (Chairman), L Banister, L Boon, G Dyer, S Gibson, C Hays (Vice Chair), M Gilpin, M Lewis, D Jeal, A Rumney, A Rush, P Smith, S Spooner, A Williams

Cate Davidson – Town Clerk
Jackie Stallard – Assistant Clerk

Members of the Public : x 4

A Public Participation

- With regard to the Old Sodbury Woodland Area, a local resident requested to speak at Agenda item 069 and the Chairman confirmed this would be acceptable.
- An Old Sodbury resident addressed Members with regard to the closed footpath at Wickwar Road. The Clerk confirmed this was due to an unsafe gable and action needed to be taken quickly.

059 Apologies and Chairman's Report
Received and accepted from Cllr Allen.

060 Declarations of Interests and Granting of Dispensations
None

061 Reports from South Gloucestershire Councillors on matters relating to the Parish and not included on the Agenda

Cllr Rush reported:-

- the West of England Joint Spacial Plan (JSP) had been rejected by Inspectors and South Glos Council were due to release a report on 11/9/19 relating to this matter
- with regard to vans parked in Horse Street and causing obstruction, a SGC Officer attended the location on 3 or 4 occasions but did not witness such a problem with only one van parked. Cllr Rumney added that on that particular evening, many vans were parked with drivers having to cross white lines to get round the vans.
- the 30mph extension in Old Sodbury had been turned down by SGC. Report to be forwarded to Clerk.
- the problem of commuters parked inconsiderately on The Elms Estate was on Task Register. An Officer had attended the area in August but did not detect a problem and would revisit in September.
- with regard to implementation of a crossing in Old Sodbury – this item should be on the List.

062 Reports from representatives from other bodies on matters relating to the Parish and not included on the Agenda

Cllr Banister reported attendance at a Chipping Sodbury Library meeting which was positive and lots of activities were planned for half-term. Also, Sodbury & Yate Business Association (SYBA) met recently and further breakfast meetings were planned.

Cllr Gilpin reported (1) attendance at Tourist Information Centre (TIC) meeting when mention was made that the Centre was running at a loss with sales down by 30%. A grant had been submitted to the town council and the outcome awaited (2) attendance at a Shopmobility meeting and reported that they were looking for more volunteers. Their AGM was on 3rd October 2019 at 3pm in Yate Library, and (3) attendance at a South Glos Youth Housing

meeting. Andrew Millman Court and Southwold House provide housing and support for the area.

063 Approval of Minutes of Full Council Meeting on 9th July including confidential
Resolved the minutes of the 9th July 2019 were approved as a true and accurate copy and signed by the Chairman.

064 Matters Arising

The Clerk reported:-

- the setting up of a new banking system was ongoing
- the Environment & Leisure Committee meeting had been brought forward to 17/9/19 to give further consideration to the opening times of the gent's toilet

065 Finance – Payment of Accounts

Resolved that the schedule of payments and Bank Reconciliation were approved.

066 Correspondence/Communication with the Council

Discussion by Council shown in italics

Requiring Response/Comments/Action

- CS Town Trust – To request the Council introduces a Bye-Law in relation to "dog on Leads" on The Ridings
*The Clerk read out an e-mail received from the Trust and following discussion, it was **Resolved** that the Clerk, Chairman and Chair of E & L meet with Town trust members to discuss this matter further.*
- Yate & District Transport Forum – To appoint a representative
*Following discussion, it was **Resolved** Cllrs Rush and Spooner be appointed.*
- Environment Agency – To advise of a Flood Protection project on St Johns Way – Henry Quinney will attend the next Full Council meeting – *Noted*

For Information Only

- Old Sodbury Times – Circulated to all by email
- Cotswold Running – 21st September running the Cotswold Way raising money for the Cotswolds Conservation Board

067 Annual External Audit Report

- Section 4 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) was noted by Members and no items of concern had been raised by P K F Littlejohn LLP with regard to the audit.
- An item to be noted for the future was that the Annual Risk Assessment required Full Council approval. This was currently done by F&GP Committee and, going forward, it was **Resolved** that F&GP would consider the Risk Assessment in detail and then submit to Full Council for approval.

068 The Old Reading Rooms – Garden (plan circulated)

Following discussion, approval was given for Sodbury in Bloom to install a pond in the garden at the rear of 26 High Street. A Sodbury in Bloom representative present at the meeting confirmed that a risk assessment had been carried out and that she would liaise with SGC.

069 Old Sodbury Woodland

An update was provided by Mr Wilson as follows:-

- A successful meeting had been held with the Woodland Trust who offered 5000 trees free of charge (not fruit trees) with planting phased over 3 years.

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- No cutting of the area had taken place for 2 years and consideration to be given to cut and remove by local farmer prior to handover, service provided free of charge. Action: Clerk to liaise with Network Rail to seek permission
- Points to be considered:-
 - *Community orchard to be put in Agreement*
 - *Fencing required to prevent access to a driveway*
 - *A derelict building on the land required attention. Establish responsibility?*
 - *Hedging required*
- Give consideration to a meeting at the end of September and a "Friends Group". All welcome to attend. Cllr Gilpin reported the Rotary were keen to help and an invitation would be extended to them.

The Clerk confirmed that it was hoped a Heads of Term document would be available by October. Following discussion it was **Resolved** to appoint Star Legal to advise on the contract once received. Legal costs to be in the region of £1500/£2000. To be an Agenda item for October Full Council.

070 Social Media

It was reported the Facebook page was up and running. For community related matters only and items to be e-mailed to Clerk or Cllr Lewis. Items to be added:-

- *"Friends Group"/Old Sodbury Woodland Area*
- *Library link page*

071 Items of Report

Cllr Banister reported (1) attendance at a "Good Councillor" training session which was beneficial and (2) it was agreed at a recent Markets meeting to visit pubs re. the litter/cigarette butt problem in the town and Cllrs Lewis and Williams confirmed they would also attend and liaise jointly with regard to dates.

Cllr Hays reported with regard to the 'no parking' signs in the middle of the road which didn't appear to stop people parking and were bent and considered there to be too much highways clutter. Clerk to action and report back at October's meeting.

Cllr Gibson reported with regard to overflowing bins at Waitrose. It was confirmed that they had now been emptied.

Cllr Spooner updated with regard to the Old Sodbury Play Area. A springer was on order and a quote awaited for removal of concrete plinth.

072 Date of next meeting : 8th October 2019: 19.30 hrs – STC Offices

Signed  (Chairman)

Dated 

Closed at 20:45 hrs

