



Sodbury Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council

9th July 2019, Sodbury Town Council Offices

Present: Councillors B Allen, L Banister, G Dyer, S Gibson, C Hays (Vice Chair), M Lewis, D Jeal, A Rumney, P Smith, S Spooner, A Williams

Cate Davidson – Town Clerk
Jackie Stallard – Assistant Clerk

Members of the Public : x 2

PC Ken Hill, Avon & Somerset Police

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chair Cllr Hays chaired the meeting

A Public Participation

An Old Sodbury resident addressed Members and requested an update on the Network Rail/Woodland area. The Clerk reported NR had made contact and that a meeting would take place in due course to discuss a 'Heads of Term' contract and added that it was currently confidential and no further information could be divulged. The resident expressed keenness to formulate a "Friends" group and the Clerk confirmed an update would be provided as soon as practically possible. Matter to go forward to September Agenda.

042 Apologies and Chairman's Report

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs Ball, Boon, Gilpin and Rush

The Vice Chair reported that Cllr J Ball had a health issue that required surgery and would be unavailable for duties for a significant period. Councillors sent their best wishes and wished him well.

The Vice Chair made comment on the fantastic work that Sodbury in Bloom carried out in the town, particularly leading up to judging which took place on the 9th July.

043 Declarations of Interests and Granting of Dispensations

None

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

No SGC Councillors present

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

Cllr Banister reported with regard to Sodbury & Yate Business Association and that a Summer networking party would take place on 9th August at 2pm on The Ridings. In addition a Business Breakfast at The Buthay, Wickwar on the 18th July at 7am. Cllr Banister also attended a Library meeting which was well attended and lots of suggestions put forward.

046 Approval of Minutes of Full Council Meeting on 11th June 2019

Resolved the minutes of the 11th June 2019 were approved as a true and accurate copy and signed by the Chairman.

047 Matters Arising

None to report

048 Police Representation

PC Ken Hill attended the meeting to update on local matters, summarised as follows:-

- The area had a dedicated response team of 2 Officers, although Officers could get called elsewhere as incidents dictated
 - Schools engaged well and early Police involvement/intervention was advocated to discourage problems at a later stage
 - Encouraged the use of calling 101 in order that matters got logged as there appeared to be **massive under-reporting**
 - In the last 3 months in Chipping Sodbury and Cotswold Edge:
 - 97 recorded crimes
 - 61 ASB reports
 - 12 arrests
 - 10 missing persons
- compared to Yate:*
- 371 recorded crimes
 - 177 ASB reports
 - 36 arrests
 - 17 missing persons

Breakdown of crime in 3 months:

- Burglary x 1
- Attempted burglary x 1
- Fire Damage at Ridings x 1
- Criminal damage to motor vehicle x 4
- Theft from motor vehicles x 2
- Damage at Hatheralls Yard
- Criminal damage to fence x 1

Breakdown of ASB in 3 months:

- Climbing on quarry walls at Quarry Bank x 2
- Motorbikes in Liliput Park x 2
- Vehicles causing nuisance at Waitrose x 2
- ASB/noise on High Street x 4
- Drug taking at Brandash Park
- Nuisance car at Portway Lane & drug taking
- Youths on church roof at Old Sodbury

Licensing issues

- None to report

Councillors were given the opportunity to ask questions and PC Hill left the meeting at 20:00 hrs and once again highlighted the importance of calling 101 in order that all incidents were logged which, in turn, would provide vital data on police resources going forward.

049 Finance – Payment of Accounts

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

The Clerk explained the Playscheme was provided by Youth in Sodbury and that payment was made in advance of the event which took place in August.

050 Correspondence/Communication with the Council

Discussion by Council shown in italics

Invites to Council

- Yate, Sodbury & Dodington CEF – 11th July, 19.00, St Nicholas Church, Yate
- Sodbury & District Twinning Association – Request for a member to attend the AGM on 12th July at 7.30pm in The Old Grammar School

Sodbury Town Council – Minutes of Full Council Meeting 9th July 2019

Cllr B Allen confirmed she would attend the AGM on this occasion and that the matter be taken to September Full Council.

Requiring Response/Comments/Action

- **The Arts Society Severn Valley** – Letter from the Chairman in relation to parking in the Town (distributed)
*Following discussion, it was **Resolved** the Clerk respond with a recommendation they liaise with the Town Hall for use of their spaces as STC had no jurisdiction on parking in the town.*
- **Sodbury & District Twinning Association** – Letter and Booklet in relation to the 40th Anniversary
Noted
- **Avon Pension Fund** – 2019 Valuation Draft – Consultation (received 9/7, response required by 22/8)
Following discussion, Members considered they had insufficient knowledge to make a formal response.
- **CSCOC** – Park & Walk Scheme starting 15th July from The Ridings
Noted
- **SGC Highways** – Temporary closure of (parts of) Commonmead Lane and Portway Lane to facilitate resurfacing for a maximum period of 10 days which may take place at any time within 18 months of 22nd July 2019. Local advertising will be done in advance of works.
Noted
- **SGC – ASB** team are unaware of ASB problems in Chipping Sodbury – To encourage reporting of ASB
Following contact with SGC, the Clerk reported that SGC were unaware of an ASB problem in the area with a message to encourage reporting of such matters.

For information Only

- Old Sodbury Times – July 2019
- JPCC – Minutes of a meeting on 20/6 to discuss One Public Estate

051 Bank Accounts

- The Clerk reported that the Chairman had met with Natwest but was unable to negotiate waiving of charges. In addition, Lloyds Bank was unable to confirm account costs until the account was open.
- Following discussion, it was **Resolved** to remain with Natwest and implement Bankline.
- **Resolved** Cllrs Rumney, Smith and Williams continue as signatories and Cllrs Hays and Spooner be appointed for on-line banking. The Clerk confirmed forms would be forwarded to them.

052 Public Conveniences

Quotations x 4 were circulated by the Clerk and following discussion, it was **Resolved** that J W Cox and R D Janes be appointed to carry out the works jointly as detailed.

053 7.5T Weight Limit on Various Roads – Dodington (& Chipping Sodbury)

Following discussion, it was **Resolved** that members support the Consultation but that signage should be kept to a minimum. Additionally, comment should be made of whether there would be exception to the limit in the event of blocked roads due to accident or other emergencies. The Clerk to report back to SGC accordingly.

054 Policy Reviews

Members considered and approved the following policies:-

- Financial Regulations (subject to a few minor amendments)
- Committee Terms of Reference

Sodbury Town Council – Minutes of Full Council Meeting 9th July 2019



- Social Media Policy
- Social Media Guide

055 Social Media

Following discussion, it was **Resolved** a Facebook page be set up and Cllr Lewis confirmed he would manage it and pass any questionable or controversial data to the Clerk prior to publication. The subject would become an Agenda item each month when the analytics could be shared and discussed.

057 Items of Report

Cllr Spooner reported with regard to Old Sodbury Play Area and that it required 'TLC'. The Clerk confirmed the matter would be raised and reviewed at next week's E&L Committee meeting and Cllr Spooner confirmed he would attend and become a Committee member.

Cllr Lewis reported with regard to the success of SodFest event and how it brought lots of people to the area. The organisers were congratulated.

Cllr Allen handed out a leaflet advertising the Community Engagement Forum due to take place on 11th July.

Cllr Rumney reported he had witnessed Sodbury in Bloom representatives picking out cigarette butts from pavements (in preparation for impending judging) and how we could help, possibly with the aid of a vacuum. The Clerk confirmed a vacuum had been trialled a while back without success. Matter to be referred to Markets Committee and consideration be given to a "litter picking group".

058 Staff Matters

(see Confidential file)

058 Date of next meeting : 10th September 2019: 19.30 hrs – STC Offices

Signed (Chairman)

Dated

Closed at 20:50 hrs

