



# Sodbury Town Council

## Minutes of the meeting of Full Council

### 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018, Sodbury Council Offices

**Present:** Councillor B Allen, J Ball, L Boon, R Creer, S Gibson, J Gough, C Hays, P O'Rourke, P Smith, P Rumney, P Whittle, W Whittle, A Williams

Cate Davidson – Town Clerk  
Jackie Stallard – Assistant Clerk

Members of the Public x 4  
Sodbury in Bloom representatives x 2  
Network Rail – Mike Franklin (left at 20:04)

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#### **A. Public Participation**

A representative of Sodbury in Bloom thanked Members and staff for their continued support of SiB and handed over a Portfolio displaying the work carried out in the Town and community garden. It was confirmed that Hanson supported the community garden and would be providing manpower on a Thursday afternoon. It was hoped the garden would be up and running by Spring 2019.

A representative of Sodbury in Bloom addressed Members and confirmed that to date had received 3000 knitted poppies for Remembrance Day which would be displayed around the town. In addition clay poppies would be on display in the churchyards.

An Old Sodbury resident addressed Members and confirmed that a meeting had taken place on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018 to discuss the Network Rail land at Chapel Lane. A great deal of support and interest had been generated and 50 villagers attended the meeting. A number of questions had arisen from that meeting which had been passed to the Network Rail representative (Agenda item 0557).

#### **0549 Apologies and Chairman's Report**

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Sue Hope. Cllrs Matt Lewis & Juan Nuevo absent.

The Chairman conveyed congratulations to Sodbury in Bloom for being awarded Gold in the Champion of Champions category.

#### **0550 Declarations of Interests and Granting of Dispensations**

The Chairman read out the statement as per the Agenda.

**Cllr L Boon** - Youth Club (Accounts)

**Cllr R Creer** - Chamber of Commerce (Cashpoint)

#### **0551 Reports from South Gloucestershire Councillors on matters relating to the Parish and not included on the Agenda**

**Cllr Boon** reported that with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> November changes to the planning system would take place. Information awaited on role structure within the Planning Committee. Cllr Creer added pressure was on to disseminate the changes.

Applications referred to the Circulated Schedule could be 'called in' to committee if three agreed that it should be referred.

**Cllr Creer** (1) attended the first full Council meeting since Summer. (2) At a Chamber of Commerce meeting, cashpoint in the town would be followed up, and (3) the Sodbury and Yate Business Association (SYBA) would be organising the annual breakfast networking session.

The Chairman read out a written report prepared by **Cllr S Hope** in relation to Old Sodbury matters, summarised as follows:

- *Seeking the TC's support for a crossing in Old Sodbury*
- *The Play Area was in need of maintenance and it was understood that funding had been set aside*
- *Unfortunately had been unable to attend the Network Rail meeting but understood a local group supported by the TC would be formed to manage the woodland*
- *Hawkesbury Community Shop was investigating the possibility of starting a mobile shop for more remote area and would the TC give this some consideration.*
- *SGC Consultation on Cuts to School Budgets which proposes to support Special Needs Budget by implementing cuts to Schools Budgets*
- *The Cabinet received reports from Task & Finish Groups on Scrutiny of the budget process, tackling multiple deprivation, establishing a housing company and alternative plans for emergency housing*
- *Mental Health Day on 10<sup>th</sup> October – SGC launching an award for Mental Health & Awareness in schools. Further support available on website*

**0552 Reports from representatives from other bodies on matters relating to the Parish and not included on the Agenda**

None to report.

**0553 Approval of Minutes of Full Council Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**Resolved** the Minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018 are approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

**0554 Matters Arising**

None

**0555 Finance – Payment of Accounts**

The Clerk reported with regard to the schedule of payments and it was **Resolved** that the schedule and Bank Reconciliation are approved.

One abstention recorded.

**0556 Correspondence/Communication with the Council**

Discussion by Council shown in italics

**Invites to Council**

- *800<sup>th</sup> Time Capsule – Invitation to the burying of the Capsule on 11<sup>th</sup> October at 15.30 in the Millenium Garden and refreshments after*
- *C/S Library – Invitation to 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday celebrations 16<sup>th</sup> October 19.00-2100 Charter Suite, C/S Town Hall*
- *CEF Meeting – 6<sup>th</sup> November 19.00-21.00 Tyndale School, Yate*

**Requiring Response/Comments/Action**

- *SGC – Road Closure – Dodington Lane and associated diversion.  
Noted*
- *SGC – Request for Street name suggestions for the Trinity Lane development*

Following discussion, it was **Resolved** the following road names be submitted to SGC:- Trinity Meadows, Horton View, Sodbury View, Church View & Fairway.

#### **0557 Old Sodbury – Network Rail Land** (brought forward)

Mike Franklin was welcomed to the meeting and gave a presentation on proposals for a piece of land in Chapel Lane. He confirmed he was an Environment Specialist and worked within the Environmental Team on the Electrification Project. The following points were noted:-

- *Network Rail (NR) is a Government owned organisation with no shareholders. It is funded by access charges and money from the Government. If projects are not delivered, monies are returned to the Government.*
- *The land in question is worth approximately £150,000.*
- *Due to the river diversion, the Environment Agency and Local Authority had become involved*
- *Environmental benefits need to be considered and justified and the land at Chapel Lane (owned by NR) had been identified as an area for biodiversity. It was confirmed talks had taken place with Network Rail Property, NR Commercial Team and Environmental Team and an Offset Budget agreed with a requirement to justify why it is a good idea?*
  - *Giving back to the local community following disruption*
  - *A biodiversity benefit*
- *Could NR design a proposal where the TC became the landowner? The access road would be owned by NR.*

A Q&A session followed and the following comments raised-

- *No money available from STC*
- *Access cannot be restricted as footpaths are in place*
- *Vehicular access needed*
- *Carbon sequestration would be a benefit*
- *Residents requested hedging to obscure gantry [A: funding not certain]*
- *There is currently a locked gate on the land for vehicular access. How would vehicle access occur?*

Cllr Creer confirmed he had attended a meeting in Old Village Hall on 5<sup>th</sup> October which was well attended and a clear passion to progress with the project. An SGC Biodiversity Officer attended who confirmed SGC had turned down the offer of ownership. Cllr Creer to take up with SGC Officers.

It was **Resolved** that the Clerk would take the matter forward to investigate with Network Rail.

#### **0558 Pedestrian Crossing – Old Sodbury**

Now that the speed limit had been reduced to 30mph on Badminton Road, requests had been received from Councillors and villagers for a pedestrian crossing in the area of The Dog PH. It was considered to be a dangerous spot with the school on one side (Church Lane) and many children crossed from the opposite side. Cllr Creer outlined that the area was due to be considered for removal of the "crawler" lane and a zebra crossing could be considered as part of those works. Cllr O'Rourke added more traffic calming measures should be in place as motorists were unaware of speed limit. It was **Resolved** Clerk write to SGC with a request that a crossing be considered as part of their investigation.

#### **0559 Cash Point**

Following September's FC meeting, discussions had taken place with Parish Plan members and Chamber of Commerce and it had come to light that a cashpoint

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facility would become available in The Post Office. Following discussion, it was **Resolved** Clerk contact LINK with regard to installing a cashpoint in the Clock Tower and liaise with the Town Trust.

The matter of the spare noticeboard by the toilets had arisen at a Chamber of Commerce meeting and Cllr Creer queried whether it could be used for advertising, eg cash point facilities in the town to aid trade. Following discussion, it was **Resolved** to allow CofC use of the noticeboard and Cllr P Whittle to hand over key.

**0560 The Pitchings**

An e-mail and photographs had been received (circulated) from a trader who reported an adjacent trader continuously 'blocked off' areas of the Pitchings for staff parking. After discussion, it was **Resolved** the Clerk write to the trader and state that blocking off spaces minimizes parking for shoppers which had serious consequences to traders and sets a precedent for other traders to do the same. The matter to be referred to Markets Committee.

**0561 Civic Awards**

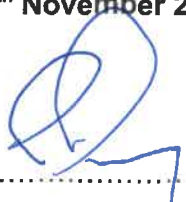
A discussion took place with regard to implementing a Civic Awards Scheme for individuals or groups in recognition of service to the community. The Mayor proposed the 'Mayor allowance' of £250 be used for the Awards Scheme. **Resolved** the Mayor allowance be accepted and an Awards Ceremony to take place at the Annual Parish meeting.

**0562 Items of Report**

Cllr Creer reported waste bins along the Cotswold Way in Old Sodbury required emptying. Refer to Streetcare.

The Clerk made mention of a Sodbury TC Newsletter and an idea to restart it (last one in 2008). Members supported the notion.

**0563 Date of next meeting : 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018 Full Council Meeting – STC Offices**

Signed  ..... (Chairman)

Dated 13-11-18 .....

Closed at 20:43