



Sodbury Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council 10th December 2019, Sodbury Town Council Offices

Present: Councillors B Allen, J Ball (Chair), L Banister, G Dyer, S Gibson, D Jeal, M Lewis, P Rumney, A Rush, P Smith, A Williams

Cate Davidson – Town Clerk
Jackie Stallard – Assistant Clerk

Members of the Public: x 1

A Public Participation

A Chipping Sodbury resident addressed Members and the following matters were raised: -
(1) that parking in the High Street continued to be a big, on-going problem, notably parking in the middle of the High Street. In addition, a “clamping” notice had appeared in the window of the old NatWest Bank building currently under renovation and what action was being taken by the Council. Mention was made of the ‘Parking Committee’. Was it still active and what was being done to address the parking problems? The Clerk confirmed the Natwest Bank matter was an Agenda item (119) and that a response was awaited from SGC with regard to a scheme to ease the parking problem in Chipping Sodbury – a delay had occurred due to staff changes at SGC. The Chairman agreed that parking in the middle of the road was dangerous and Cllr Rush added that the Police were unable to issue parking tickets unless obstruction caused and that SGC had been requested to visit the area in the evening (2) drains in Horseshoe Lane were blocked which had caused flooding (3) he had been approached by residents who said there was a lack of Councillor visibility at events in the town.

108 Apologies and Chairman’s Report

Received and accepted from Cllr Chris Hays, Linda Rush, Steve Spooner. Cllr Gilpin absent.

109 Declarations of Interests and Granting of Dispensations

None

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

Cllr A Rush reported with regard to the Community Engagement Forum changes (CEF) and confirmed that a Consultation had taken place in 2017. It was confirmed SGC would not change the decision and with effect from January 2020, the new boundary change meant that Chipping Sodbury would become part of the Charfield, Cromhall, Tortworth, Falfield, Rangeworthy and Wickwar forum to align with Ward and Police Beat Boundaries.

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

Cllr Allen reported attendance at a Parish Plan (PP) meeting. It was confirmed agreement had been reached with Waitrose for a dementia bench to be sited between Hatheralls Yard and the store. PP sought the town council’s authorisation to adopt the bench and the Clerk confirmed the matter would be taken to the Environment & Leisure Committee. Cllr A Rush confirmed an application for Members Awarded Funding (MAF) had been submitted for the bench.

JB
14/11/2020



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112 Approval of Minutes of Full Council Meeting on 12th November 2019

Resolved the Minutes of the 12th November 2019 were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

113 Matters Arising

The Clerk reported:

- o Following a meeting with Sodbury in Bloom, the Rotary had withdrawn an agenda item with regard to plaques in the town
- o With regard to a Sodbury Town website, an account had been set up with "WordPress" and the Chamber supports this initiative
- o The Rural/Market Towns Group had confirmed no fee would apply for two years

The Chairman confirmed he had spoken with the Town Trust with regard to the air raid siren/alarm on the Police Station and that its whereabouts was unknown.

114 Finance – Payment of Accounts

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

The Clerk advised that work had been completed on the Christmas lights in the town to bring them within current regulations and this had been approved as an urgent matter.

115 Correspondence/Communication with the Council

Discussion by Council shown in italics

Requiring Response/Comments/Action

- SGC – Cigarette Ballot Boxes – To choose a colour and suggest locations (e-mail circulated)
*The Clerk confirmed she had met with an SGC Officer to look at locations in the Town. SGC had confirmed they would fund the boxes. A discussion took place and it was **Resolved** to opt for black boxes to be located near to the pubs. The Clerk also confirmed that SGC would be upgrading some of the current litter bins to include ashtrays.*
- Dodington Parish Council – is STC interested in joining Dodington Parish Council (DPC) in creating local walking routes as per information circulated by email?
*The e-mail was read out by the Clerk. Following discussion members felt that there are a number of walks already available and these could be revisited. It was **Resolved** to report back to DPC to this effect.*
- Member of the Public – Complaint about the "No Parking" signage in the window of the old Natwest Bank building – to be considered as an agenda item - *See Agenda item 119*
- 2 x members of the public – concerns re. removal of public seat in Hounds Road - *See Agenda item 118*

For Information Only

- CEF Minutes from 31st October 2019
- Sodbury Woodland & Nature Committee – Minutes of 3rd December 2019

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116 Public Conveniences

The Chairman reported witnessing an incident on 02/12/19 outside of the toilets when six youths were fighting and kicking the toilet door. Following a heated discussion, the youths moved on. The matter was reported to the Police and, following discussion, it was **Resolved** to close the toilets at night at an additional cost to the town council. The Clerk confirmed she would liaise with B. Janes with regard to closing them and the matter would be reviewed in April with the E&L Committee.

117 The Snuggery

The Clerk updated with regard to The Snuggery and reported that the tenant had been unable to find appropriate alternative accommodation in the area since being given notice in October 2019. Following discussion, it was **Resolved** to extend the deadline to 18th January 2020 and the Clerk to liaise with tenant to that effect.

118 Public Seating

The Clerk reported a resident had complained to South Glos Council about anti-social behaviour/youths gathering at the site of a bench in Hounds Road. Following miscommunication between two SGC departments, the bench was removed and destroyed by SGC. Members discussed the matter and it was **Resolved** to request that SGC reinstate the bench, particularly as it was very well used by members of the public. Clerk to liaise with SGC.

The Chairman reported the bench situated outside of Hamptons Deli in High Street had disappeared.

119 Parking on the Pitchings outside of the old Natwest Bank Building

The Clerk updated following complaints received of a parking notice in the window of the old Natwest Bank which stated that 'clamping was in operation'. The Clerk confirmed a discussion had taken place with the owner who stated that, on buying the property, he believed he had also purchased the Pitchings outside of the building. He confirmed the notices had been removed from the window and he was invited to attend the next Markets Committee meeting to discuss parking restrictions in the town. Clerk to advise him of date.

120 Neighbourhood Planning

Following circulation of a guide on Neighbourhood Planning and discussion, Members were of the opinion that specialist guidance was required to establish how to progress the matter further. It was **Resolved** – to appoint Lemon Gazelle, a Community Interest Company to talk to Councillors at a cost of £300. Action – Clerk to contact Lemon Gazelle and set a date for New Year.

121 Old Sodbury Woodland

The Clerk reported a community meeting was held on the 3rd December. Following discussion with Network Rail it is likely that the sale will complete in the Spring. It is noted that this will miss the planting season but matters have taken longer than initially hoped due to the necessary consultation process.

122 Items of Report

Cllr Lewis reported seeing some excellent pictures of Victorian Day which were unfortunately spoilt by the bent signposts in Broad Street. Could anything be done? Clerk to liaise with SGC.

Cllr Rumney reported (1) with regard to Old Sodbury 'smiley face' speed signs which were misleading as situated in wrong zones. Clerk to liaise with SGC, and (2) it appeared Country Cars, Badminton Road was using residential property as a showroom.

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123 **Date of next meeting:** 14th January 2020: 19.30 hrs – STC Offices

Signed (Chairman)

Dated

Closed at 20:45

53/14/1/2020