



Sodbury Town Council

## Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 19:30 hrs, Sodbury Town Council Offices

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

Cate Davidson – Town Clerk  
Jackie Murley – Assistant Clerk

Members of the Public: x 2

Ross Arnott – The Gazette arrived 20:15 hrs

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### **A Public Participation**

A representative from Sodbury Wildlife & Nature (SWaN) addressed Members to report that the group had met recently for the first round of tree planting – a practice run when 21 volunteers attended. The Clerk confirmed she would contact Network Rail for an update and report back.

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

Received and accepted from Cllr S Gibson.

The Chairman made mention of the recent spate of anti-social behaviour in the area and the need to step up policing in an attempt to deter the culprits.

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

None

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

**Cllr Rush** reported (1) a meeting had taken place to discuss the Local Plan timetable (2) with regard to vandalism outside the Youth Club, the Police had been contacted and individuals apprehended.

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

**Cllr Dyer** (1) confirmed that at a recent Chamber of Commerce (CoC) meeting, the concept of Chipping Sodbury signing up to become a Fairtrade Town was discussed (Agenda item at February's meeting). The Chamber was keen to know more, the Clerk advised that there were contact details on the information that was sent the CoC (2) confirmed attendance at a Tourist Information Centre (TIC) meeting when concern was expressed with regard to heating of the building and the associated high electricity usage/bills. The Clerk confirmed the TIC received money from the Council and that they could apply to the Council for a grant. Cllr Gilpin added that a heating specialist had been contacted and an assessment of the building was due to be carried looking at various types of heating including solar. It was the TIC's 25th year anniversary and due to lack of funds, consideration was being given to cancelling the celebration.

**Cllr Banister** reported attendance at a Sodbury & Yate Business Association (SYBA) meeting when discussion was had about the 'purpose' of the group and where it was heading. The AGM had been pushed back and further update would follow.

**Cllr Gilpin** reported with regard to Shopmobility. Improved publicity was planned as there were concerns that the general public were unaware of the service.

**Cllr Allen** reported attendance at a Parish Plan meeting and discussion was had with regard to revamping the PP and to give consideration to recreating the questionnaire. The Clerk advised that funding was available from the Arts Section 106 fund in relation to the Barnhill Development and contact would be made with them regarding a bespoke Dementia Bench. Cllr Banister added that it was a good time to refresh the Plan although funding would be required to do that.

**Cllr Rush** reported that at a recent meeting, SGC Officers highlighted the importance of a Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk emphasised that Councillors had been invited to a presentation by a NHP specialist in February to discuss the pros and cons of such a Plan to which only 7 Councillors attended and that at last month's meeting, it was Resolved not to proceed.

**Cllr Ball** confirmed the 'Sodbury Together' event was due to place on 24<sup>th</sup> March in the Town Hall and all Councillors were invited.

**167 Approval of Minutes of Full Council Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**Resolved** the Minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020 were approved as a true and accurate copy and signed by the Chairman.

**168 Matters Arising**

With regard to office security, the Clerk confirmed a Planning application (LB) had been submitted to SGC but returned as scaled drawings were required. After much discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the works proceed due to the urgency of them in relation to staff security. There was one abstention and Cllr Rush declared an interest and did not vote

**169 Finance – Payment of Accounts**

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

**170 Correspondence/Communication with the Council**

Discussion by Council shown in italics

**Invites to Council**

- **Community Engagement Forum** – 11<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm – Yate Parish Hall, Station Rd

**Requiring Response/Comments/Action**

- **Cotswold Homes** – Request to attend meeting in relation to a development of circa 90 homes on land to the west of Trinity Lane. To note there will be a public consultation in advance of the next meeting – information awaited

*Noted*

**For Information Only**

- **SGC - A432 Badminton Road Works** – Overnight closure from 20.00 – 06.00 daily between 16<sup>th</sup> March and 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020
- **SGC – Biodiversity Officer** – advising that 380 trees were planted in 2019/20 which will capture 0.25 – 2 tonnes of CO2 per annum and in addition have a number of biodiversity gains.
- **SGC – Culverhill Road Area** – Waiting Restriction Consultation Report (emailed to all 10/3)
- **Friends of the Earth** – T & P C Climate Emergency Action Sheet (circulated to all by SS)

- 171 **Lease Renewal – The Old Reading Room**  
Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to renew the lease with Luke Hall MP for a period of 4 years with an annual break clause. The Clerk was authorised to sign the lease on behalf of the Council.
- 172 **Staffing**  
The Chairman confirmed annual reviews had been conducted at the Staffing and F&GP meetings and there are some changes to staff working hours. The Committee recommends that the annual pay increases are approved and it was **RESOLVED** that increases to staff pay are awarded as recommended but the Staffing Committee.
- 173 **Recycling Bins**  
Members were advised that SGC has asked if the Council wants to be involved of a trial of public recycling bins in the High Street. During discussion, the following was noted:-
- o *Bins were purchased by Sodbury in Bloom which has been working with SGC to repurpose the use of them*
  - o *As it's a trial, the bins should not be fixed and are weighted to prevent misuse*
  - o *To be positioned on Pitchings*
  - o *If the trial proved successful, consider future purchase of bins to be more in keeping with the Town*
- RESOLVED** – Sodbury TC to take part in the trial as requested by SGC and be located by The Spar.
- 174 **Adult Social Care Fees and Charges Consultation**  
A Member considered the Consultation was more a matter for individuals to complete rather than the Council as a whole. Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** not to complete the Consultation and Members were encouraged to complete on an individual basis.
- 175 **Neighbourhood Policing – Electric Bikes**  
The Clerk confirmed she had yet to receive a response from National Association of Local Councils (NALC) with regard to the taxation query. Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to await a response from NALC prior to a decision being made and refer to April's meeting.
- The Clerk highlighted that there is no specific budget for this expense.
- 176 **Market Pitchings**  
Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to proceed with works to install ten bollards on the footpath alongside the Pitchings as proposed by SGC at a total cost of £3,627.07. To be noted, SGC had agreed to pay half. It was not felt necessary to hold a residents meeting at this time.
- 177 **Public Conveniences**  
Further to continued mis-use, the Chairman confirmed the facility was now closed from 16:00 hrs. **RESOLVED** to remain at 16:00 hrs closure and refer to Environment & Leisure Committee to review.
- 178 **Items of Report**  
**Cllr Spooner** (1) confirmed he had met recently with a Climate Change representative who was realistic about what actions the Council could take but positive that a Working Group had been set up. **Action** – Agenda item for April. (2) confirmed a link for town website was in place and any comments/advice welcome.  
**Cllr Lewis** raised the matter of Police attendance at meetings and the Clerk confirmed they had been invited to the Annual Parish Meeting in April.  
**Cllr Jeal** reported cigarette butts were a problem outside of some of the public houses in the town. The Clerk confirmed cigarette ashtrays were on order. Cllrs Banister and Williams to revisit pubs.

  
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**Cllr Banister** enquired of Post Office update? Nothing to report – matter gone quiet.  
**Cllr Rumney** reported abandoned car in the public car park. Details to be forwarded to Clerk.

**Linda Boon** advised that many people sit in cars with engine running. AR said SGC have the power to enforce fines in relation to this but SGC chose not to take this up.

Ross Arnott of The Gazette thanked Members for their support and confirmed he would be moving to a new employer shortly.

**179 Date of next meeting:**

7<sup>th</sup> April 2020 – Annual Parish Meeting, 19:00 hrs Charter Suite, Chipping Sodbury Town Hall  
14<sup>th</sup> April 2020 – Full Council, 19:30 hrs, Council Chamber

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Dated .....

Closed at 20:35