



Sodbury Town Council

## **Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council**

### **13<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 19:30 hrs, Remote meeting held via Zoom**

**Present:** Councillors B Allen, J Ball (Chair), L Banister, C Hays (Vice Chair), M Gilpin, A O'Shea, B Romaine, P Rumney, P Smith, S Spooner, A Rush, L Rush, A Williams

Cate Davidson – Town Clerk  
Jackie Murley – Assistant Clerk

Donna Ford, Clerk - Midsomer Norton & Iron Acton  
Pete Milton, Transport Yard, Old Sodbury  
Jonathan Adams & Katie Stamper, Tetlow King Planning  
Nicholas Vater, BBA Architects, Bath

Ian Campbell, Secretary of Armed Forces Committee

Public x 3

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#### **A Public Participation**

An Old Sodbury resident addressed Members to report (1) she had had a very positive visit to the mobile Post Office Van and wished to congratulate those who had pushed for the service and (2) that the whole of Chapel Lane be considered under the 20mph scheme. It fitted the "Quiet Lanes" criteria and was much used by cyclists, walkers, & horse riders.

A representative for the Old Sodbury Woodland addressed Members to confirm that a substantial grant had been awarded from the Cotswold AONB to support and enable the planting of a community orchard and associated works. The Clerk conveyed her thanks for the work in securing the grant and hoped the project could move forward. The Chairman thanked all those involved.

The Clerk for Midsomer Norton and Iron Acton Councils addressed Members to confirm her attendance as she studies towards the Community Governance Level 4 Qualification and part of the study was to review other councils and their meeting procedures.

#### **231 Apologies and Chairman's Remark**

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs Gibson and Lewis. Also, Cllr Pat Trull, Chipping Sodbury and Cotswold Edge.

The Chairman:-

- welcomed Peter, Katie and Nick in relation to Agenda item 238
- extended a warm welcome back to Cllr Banister
- welcomed Cllrs O'Shea and Romaine as they joined for their first meeting
- thanked Cate and Jackie for their continued support in the office

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

None to report

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

**Cllr A Rush** reported (1) the Local Plan Consultation document was due for release on November 23<sup>rd</sup> with requirements for new homes to have electric charging points and be carbon neutral (2) COVID-19 numbers were on the increase.

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

**Cllr Gilpin** reported (1) attendance at a Tourist Information Centre meeting. The Centre would not reopen until March 2021 when contactless payment scheme would be available and a screen erected. The windows had been resealed although there was still no movement in a change to the heating system, (2) attendance at Shopmobility meeting in Yate which was open 2 days per week and planned for 3 days which would be publicised, (3) with regard to South Glos Youth Housing, a new management team was in place and their accommodation consisted of Park View in Kingswood, a 10 bed shared house and two training flats. As there was no longer accommodation in Yate, Cllr Gilpin wondered whether Members wished to continue to receive updates and Cllr Ball confirmed he would, (4) with regard to Town Trust matters, a proposal had been put forward for a mobile food van on The Ridings during match days but the clubs had rejected the notion.

**Cllr Allen** reported attendance at a Parish Plan meeting. It was confirmed (1) a dementia bench was due to be installed on Waitrose land, (2) the 2021 calendar would be available to purchase from The Card Boutique in High Street and (3) a "Fiver Fest" scheme was due to be launched in Chipping Sodbury later in October. In addition, Cllr Allen attended a remote Community Engagement Forum meeting via Teams and the Avon Local Councils Association AGM via Zoom, this was well attended and an increase of 30% to subscriptions was approved to enable ALCA to remain viable. The Clerk confirmed that advice from ALCA had been invaluable over the COVID period.

**235 Approval of Minutes of Full Council Meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**RESOLVED** the Minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 be approved as a true and accurate copy and signed by the Chairman subject to the addition of "*as the Council cannot financially afford it at this time*" at Agenda item 228.

**236 Finance – Payment of Accounts**

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

In addition, an invoice from Tily Carpentry to be noted following works to the office doors which was not on the schedule and Members approved.

The Clerk gave Members an opportunity to ask questions but none put forward.

**237 Correspondence**

**Invites to Council**

- SGC Strategic Transport – Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> October to consider stage 2 of the Yate cycle lane scheme. *Cllr Hays confirmed he would attend.*
- South Gloucestershire Heritage Partnership meeting 30<sup>th</sup> November 09.30-12.30 via Microsoft Teams – To consider appointing Cllr to attend. *No Members put their name forward*

**Requiring Response/Comments/Action**

1. **SGC Highways Officer** – 20mph speed limit in Chapel Lane, Old Sodbury – As circulated to all by email  
*As mentioned at 'public participation' ideally the whole of Chapel Lane needed to be included in the 20mph. From information supplied, it was unclear. SGC had*

confirmed the matter would be included in the 2020/2021 Capital Programme. Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk liaise with the SGC Engineer with regard to the Quiet Lane Scheme and that any proposal should involve Dodington Parish Council as the lane was very close to their border.

2. **Local Resident via Luke Hall MP** – Reporting of vandalism in Rounceval Street particularly on 11<sup>th</sup> September  
*The clerk reported no incidents were recorded on CCTV and no further action at this stage.*
- 3 **Local Resident via Luke Hall MP**– Request for BMX/Pump track to be installed in the local area  
*The Council advised that it does not have funds or land to enable such a project.*
- 4 **Yate Town Improvement Masterplan** – Notification of consultation (closes 16<sup>th</sup> November) – As circulated to all by email  
*Members were encouraged to respond individually – it was not felt this should be raised at the next Full Council meeting.*
- 5 **Rocco the Rockstar** – Local authors wanting to set up a stall on their property on the High St from 14.30-15.30 daily in December (have advised them to contact SGC re a licence)  
*The Clerk confirmed she has advised the resident to contact SGC in relation to licenses. Members had no objection to this proposal.*

#### **For Information Only**

- Environment Agency – Flood barrier testing 27<sup>th</sup> October
- NALC – Online events

#### **238 Transport Yard, Old Sodbury – Housing Proposal (plans circulated)**

The landowner addressed Members and confirmed that in 2004 permission had been granted to build nine houses, two of which were affordable homes. Events overtook and construction did not take place. A proposal was now put forward to build 16 affordable homes at the site and the landowner was keen to gauge local feeling and receive feedback for the proposed development.

A presentation was given by LiveWest Homes Limited, a Registered Provider and an affordable housing partner of SGC together with Nicholas Vater, Architect. LiveWest owned and managed 37,000 homes across the South West and formed through the merger of Knightstone Housing and Devon & Cornwall Housing (DCH). LiveWest was in the process of preparing a planning application for submission to SGC for 16 affordable homes - a mix of one, two and three bed of which half to be social rent and half shared ownership with gardens and landscaping, cycle store and a parking court. It was confirmed that the proposal met with the current energy efficiency requirements. The architect confirmed the footprint was similar and that vehicular trips comparable to the previous application and much less than the former transport yard. It was highlighted that there was currently a shortfall of 1000 affordable homes in SGC and it was important to consider the benefits of such housing.

Following the presentation, Members were given the opportunity to ask Questions:-

Q: *What does an affordable home cost?* A: *Unsure how much per unit but significantly less than on open market.*

Q: *Old Sodbury needs more homes. Could development be made to look more in keeping?* A: *Will have a look.*

Q: *Can the solar panels be doubled?* A: *Current calculations already exceeded requirement but comes down to cost.*

Q: *Could local people get first choice?* Cllr A Rush: *SGC held priority list*

Q: Once bought as shared ownership, can it go back in system? A: Confirmed part ownership continues.

The Chairman thanked Tetlow King and BB Architects for their presentation and an application would be awaited.

### 239 **Armed Forces Day 2021**

- Mr Brian Hewitt was not available to attend the meeting. Mr Ian Campbell addressed Members as the Secretary to the Armed Forces Committee and sought Members approval to hold Armed Forces Day in Chipping Sodbury on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2021 with the event to take place on The Ridings.
- It was a unanimous decision to permit the event to go ahead and the Chairman added that it would be an honour for Chipping Sodbury and looked forward to working with them. In addition, Mr Campbell confirmed he would liaise with the Festival Committee. Mr Campbell wished to invite a Council representative to join their committee and Cllr O'Shea put his name forward, Members agreed that Sodbury TC offices could be used to facilitate the meetings. **Action:** Clerk to e-mail Mr Campbell to formally support the event.

### 240 **Hounds Road – Traffic Management** (papers circulated)

The Clerk reported that numerous emails have been received and these had been amalgamated and sent to Councillors in advance of this meeting. It was clear that there is some confusion as to what the Council has been asked to consider and there were many comments suggesting that access around school drop off/pick up times is a problem.

A detailed discussion took place and the following comments made:-

- *Not possible to remove bollards*
- *Carriageway only wide enough for one car*
- *Make it one way*
- *Consider priority arrows*
- *No accidents recorded*
- *Consider widening of pavement*
- *Unable to install speed bumps because of drainage issues*
- *Work with schools and police*
- *An accident waiting to happen*
- *Hounds Road has been a problem for many years*
- *Parents from school angry and would like road closed*
- *Notices sent to parents re. clogging up the road*
- *Could Hounds Road be closed off at school times?*
- *School could use Old Grammar School access?*

Following discussion, to enable a clear picture of residents' views and a full understanding of the situation, it was **RESOLVED** that the matter be referred for a Public Consultation. One objection recorded. Action: Clerk to liaise with SGC Highways and District Councillors to take this matter forward.

### 241 **A432 – Badminton Road Safety**

Following compilation of a Highways Investigation Scheme Request Form by Cllr Spooner (circulated), Members discussed the matter in detail with the following comments made:-

- *The crawler lane should be deleted*
- *It's a racetrack*
- *No safe crossing point for school children*
- *Flashing speed light signs not working – enforcement required*
- *Unclear it's 30mph*
- *Some crawling lorries still use lane*

Following discussion and support from Members, it was **RESOLVED** to submit the Highways Investigation Scheme Request Form to SGC as proposed. In addition, Clerk to liaise with Police/Safety Camera Partnership to enforce the 40mph section.

Cllr Spooner was thanked for his hard work on the matter.

**242 Highway Marking – Cotswold Road**

To be taken to the November meeting due to the access of SG who had raised the matter.

**243 Public Space Protection Orders**

The Clerk confirmed that reports from SGC and the Police did not support a problem in Chipping Sodbury and Street Marshals had not highlighted any problems with the 10pm pub closure time, although SGC is monitoring the situation throughout the County. It was **RESOLVED** that no further action would follow.

**244 Old Sodbury Woodland**

The Clerk reported that she was in receipt of the Heads of Terms from Network Rail which are being checked by herself and Cllr Spooner and that hopefully a Transfer document would be available next month. The Clerk provided an explanation of the project for the benefit of new councillors. It was noted that due to workload there has been a considerable delay in getting advice from the Councils Solicitor in relation to this matter.

**245 Meeting Dates 2021**

**RESOLVED:** Meeting Dates approved as tabled.

**246 Items of Report**

**Cllr Rumney** sought clarification on Remembrance Day and the Clerk confirmed a small wreath laying event would take place of 6 or 7 people. Other organisation would be welcome to lay wreaths over the weekend and this would be included in the press release.

**Cllr Smith** reported the Waitrose play area was untidy and in need of grass cutting. Clerk confirmed that play area was now in the hands of SGC and would liaise with them.

**Cllr Williams** reported he had heard rumours of an “alternative” Victorian Evening!

**Cllr Rush** reported the youth club was open 2 nights pw but numbers limited to 15.

**Cllr Spooner** reported that a “Focus” team via Facebook had reported that the cemetery in Chipping Sodbury was in bad maintenance and who was responsible? The Clerk confirmed that the Town Council provided a grant for maintenance. It was noted that the Focus page is a Liberal Democrat page and members were concerned this is not obvious on the site.

**247 Next Full Council Meeting : 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 19:30 hrs via Zoom**

The meeting closed at 21:30 hrs

Dated .....

Signed .....