



Sodbury Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council 12th January 2021 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

Bev & Sarah Milner Simonds – Eat Festivals

Residents x 2

A Public Participation

A Parish Plan representative addressed Members and referred to the Parish Plan survey which identified a lack of play area facilities for children over 8 years. With an increased population, a request was put forward to Members to give consideration to assist financially with providing such facilities, possibly in association with the developers of Trinity Lane. On another matter, the resident referred to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and whether funding could be made available to assist with 'making good' an area in Old Sodbury where a pavement was incomplete and often very muddy. In the current COVID restrictions, walking had been a lifeline for many parishioners and enhancing the area would join up the village loop walk. The Clerk confirmed she would report the matter to SGC and requested photos from the resident.

Agenda item 289 brought forward – Eat Festival (proposal circulated via e-mail)

Bev and Sarah introduced themselves, thanked Members for the opportunity to speak and gave an overview of what they proposed, ie

- *A community focused one day food and drink festival to take place on 28/08/21*
- *The purpose to increase interest and footfall in the town where families could spend the whole day*
- *They would book, vet and manage local food and drink producers, ideally within 30m radius*
- *A free event with workshops, cook school, talks on local food and drink*
- *Confirmed contact with Sodbury Chamber of Commerce, Town Lands Charity, Town Hall and SGC Licensing.*

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions, eg:-

Q: How does it differ from a Farmers Market. A: A one-off event where families could spend the whole day

Q: Will businesses of Chipping Sodbury be invited? A: Yes. The Chamber had confirmed their support and would work with them

Q: How would it affect trade in Hatherell's Yard? A: It would be increased

Q: How will you get your income? A: Not seeking funding from STC – sponsorship and grant funding

Q: How does a potential producer apply? A: Apply online via their website

Q: How will you advertise? A: Promotion via social media, press, radio, flyers and poster distribution

A discussion took place and Members considered the event a good idea and, in addition, it would support the Climate Group's ethos of shopping and buying locally.

The meeting was declared open by the Chairman and a vote took place.

RESOLVED - Members in favour of the proposal and Eat Festival representatives were thanked and left the meeting.

Cllr Williams declared an interest and took no part in the vote.

278 Apologies and Chairman's Remark

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr S Gibson. Cllr M Lewis absent.

The Chair wished everybody a Happy New Year. He sadly reported that Jim Elsworth, a local parishioner who had done much for the town, had passed away over the New Year period and would be greatly missed. The Clerk added that a previous Councillor of Sodbury TC, Melody Gall, had also passed away.

279 Declarations of Interests and Granting of Dispensations

Cllr A Williams – Local food producer/Farmers Market

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

Cllr A Rush reported SGC had declared an Ecological Emergency.

With regard to the Local Plan 2020 Phase 1, the Consultation was open until the 1st March. Councillors had had the opportunity to attend on-line presentations and the Clerk confirmed the matter would be an Agenda item in February and encouraged Councillors to do their homework on the subject.

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

Cllr Bannister reported with regard to a current SGC Consultation on Family Group Conference proposals and that contact had been made with SGC to seek clarification on the matter. The Consultation related to Social Services and family network meetings which aimed to limit children being taken into care. In the past, the service had been outsourced and the Consultation was to consider bringing it in-house rather than commissioning an external provider. Appropriate training for staff would be in place. The Consultation would run until 1st March 2021 and Councillors were encouraged to complete online.

Cllr Spooner reported attendance at a Yate and District Transport Forum. He reported First Bus were rolling out a "book my bus ride" system for the Y1 Chipping Sodbury to Bristol service. It had already been piloted in other areas of South Gloucestershire and allowed bookings up to 7 days in advance with a guaranteed seat and no charge.

282 Approval of Minutes of Full Council Meeting of 8th December 2020

RESOLVED the Minutes of 8th December 2020 were approved as a true and accurate copy and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

Cllr A Rush updated with regard to Smarts Green roundabout and confirmed he had spoken with SGC. Traffic was particularly light due to pandemic restrictions and the matter would be reassessed when traffic flow back to normal.

The Clerk confirmed she had spoken to solicitors with regard to Old Sodbury Woodland who confirmed receipt of a letter from Network Rail. An update would follow from solicitors and the Clerk confirmed decision-making had been delegated to the Chair, Vice Chair and herself.

283 Finance – Payment of Accounts

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

Requiring Response/Comments/Action

1. **Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)** – Request for financial support from T & PCs. Suggested annual donation of £100
*Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to donate £100 to CPRE.*
2. **Chipping Sodbury Town Lands Charity (CSTLC)** – Request for the Council to consider naming a road after Jim Elsworth in memory of the work he did for and in the Town
*A discussion took place and the Clerk made mention that there were no new roads currently being considered and that naming a building could be a more appropriate way to commemorate Jim. Road naming was a decision for SGC. **RESOLVED** that if, and when, a situation arose for road naming, the matter would be given due consideration.*

For Information Only (as circulated to all)

1. **South Gloucestershire Council** – National Family Group Conference Services – Consultation in relation to decommissioning of service (Cllrs encouraged to respond individually as emailed 5/1/2021)
The Clerk confirmed this to be the matter Cllr Banister referred to at Agenda item 281.

285 Planning Application P20/21142/F – Transport Yard, Old Sodbury

The Clerk informed Members the application had been withdrawn for 16 dwellings. Cllr Rumney added the landowner had expressed concern the application had caused much upset in the village. Cllr Smith commented it was down to “snobbery” of Old Sodbury residents that had caused the application to be withdrawn. The Clerk reminded members that it was a public meeting and comments of that kind may not be appropriate.

286 Old Sodbury – Proposal for development of 36 dwellings off Badminton Road

The Clerk reported no response had been received from Grass Roots Planning Limited.

287 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funds

The Clerk confirmed there was £37,014 of unallocated CIL monies. Currently an allocation of £3,100 had been set aside to refurbish bus shelters on Bowling Hill. At September 2020 Full Council meeting the funding of two electric bikes for the Police was discussed and objected to on the basis of Councils’ lack of funds. Following a further request from the Police in early January 2021 to reconsider the matter, the Clerk sought and received permission from Members to re-table the matter. The Clerk has also received confirmation from SGC that CIL funds could be used for this purpose. The Clerk confirmed the bike costs were £4423.99 exclusive of VAT.

After a full debate, Members **RESOLVED** to purchase the bikes and associated kit. The Clerk confirmed the town council would make the purchase in order to claim back VAT and a ‘handing over ceremony’ arranged. Clerk to report back to the Police accordingly. Two Members against the proposal.

Members continued to debate funding of potential projects and an improvement to play provision for over 8’s was identified with ideas put forward as follows:- take over and improve the Waitrose play area (currently SGC responsibility); liaise with Chipping Sodbury Town Trust and share costs for additional/up-grade of play area; consider MUGA (multi-use gym area) – a costly option starting at £38,000 and a large area required.

RESOLVED the town council approach SGC to take over management and upgrade of the Waitrose play area. It was a well-used site and in poor condition.

RESOLVED Cllrs O’Shea and Spooner investigate potential sites for installation of a MUGA and earmark £15,000 from the CIL funds.

(Due to the failure of the WIFI in the staff office throughout the meeting these resolutions are to be checked at the Full Council meeting in February. Was any decision made in relation to the allocation for bus shelters?)

- 288 Request for “Aires” style motor home facilities in Chipping Sodbury** (e-mail circulated)
Members discussed possible sites for motorhome ‘stopover’ and following discussion it was **RESOLVED** to take the matter to March Full Council meeting once information had been collated on potential area(s). Action: Cllr Ball
- 289 Eat Festival**
(see “Public Participation”)
- 290 Bus Stop – Clock Tower**
The Clerk confirmed the Badminton Estate had responded to a request to carry out works on the pitchings. They had no objection to alterations that were in the public interest. Revised plans were awaited from SGC.
- 291 Items of Report**
Cllr Spooner updated on actions of the Climate Group and potential ideas for engaging with the community eg encourage replacement of all bulbs with LED, find new sites for trees and consider a stall at the Eat Festival. Cllr A Rush added to consider an approach to Waitrose re electric charging points.
Cllr Hays reported a damaged barrier on Wickwar Road. Photo to be forwarded and report to SGC.
Cllr O’Shea reported some uncertainty with the Armed Forces Day and hoped to report back with more clarity soon.
- 292 Next Full Council Meeting: 9th February 2021 at 19:30 hrs via Zoom**

Dated

Signed

The meeting closed at 21.15 hrs