



Sodbury Town Council

## Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 19:30 hrs, Remote meeting held via Zoom

**Present:** Councillors B Allen, J Ball (Chair), L Banister, C Hays (Vice Chair), S. Gibson, 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

Residents x 3

### **A Public Participation**

An Old Sodbury resident addressed Members with regard to Agenda item 301 – proposed development of 36 dwellings. Confirmation was given by the Clerk that an e-mail dated 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021, sent to her by the resident, had been circulated to Members. The resident summarised his concerns of the proposed development:-

**Density** – The previous Transport Yard application could bring about an additional 20 people and the application in question a potential further 80 and thus considered too many people in a small area with only 2 access points.

**Noise** – With additional residents, noise levels would increase in a relatively quiet village.

The resident concluded that the application be rejected in its current form and requested a lower density resubmission.

Cllr Spooner added he was not against development but against the application in its current form.

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

Cllr Matt Lewis absent

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

Cllr C Hays – Agenda item 302 Local Plan

Cllr A Rush - Agenda item 302 Local Plan

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

**Cllr A Rush** reported with regard to (1) potential traffic calming/speed humps at St Johns Way/Trinity Lane and that a traffic survey had been carried out 2 or 3 years previously which concluded that 85% travelled at 33mph which in a 30mph zone was deemed satisfactory and traffic calming unnecessary. Consideration could be given to a scheme further along St Johns Way and Cllr A Rush confirmed he would explore the funding situation, (2) the SGC Budget meeting was due to be held the following day. £130,000 remained from a Brexit contingency fund and three towns ie Kingswood, Downend and Chipping Sodbury were to benefit from the funds. The Clerk made comment that the town council should be consulted on use of the funds.

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

**Cllr Gilpin** reported as a Chipping Sodbury Town Trust Trustee and that consideration was being given to upgrade the football and rugby buildings. A questionnaire would be made available on their website with regard to provision of indoor sports.

**297 Approval of Minutes of Full Council Meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021 are approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

Due to WIFI problems at the meeting on 12/01/21, the Clerk sought clarification on some points which were **RESOLVED** as follows:-

- £15000 earmarked for a MUGA
- Bus shelters – money for refurbishment to remain in place

The Clerk confirmed SGC had been approached with regard to the town council taking over management of the play area by Waitrose. SGC responded that the land had yet to be transferred to them but were keen to negotiate once transference had taken place.

**298 Matters Arising**

None

**299 Finance – Payment of Accounts**

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

**300 Correspondence**

1. SGC Highways – request for Councillors to meet with TH and a local resident on 19<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm regarding access to the Hounds Court development  
*Cllrs J Ball and A Rush confirmed they would attend*

**Requiring Response/Comments/Action**

1. Local resident – letter in relation to the setting up of a GoFundMe page to raise funds for people suffering with symptoms of long-COVID (circulated)  
*Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that this was not a town council matter and the Clerk confirmed details of the town council's grant scheme had been forwarded to the resident. Cllr A Rush added it could be considered for a MAF grant and Clerk to forward resident's e-mail address to him. In addition, Cllr Spooner to re-send a MAF application to Cllr A Rush SGC e-mail address.*
2. Local Residents x 5 – Concerns re pop up Vintage Birdcage café and problems with parked vehicles and groups of people gathering in the area  
*The following comments were made during discussion:-*
  - *It's a small business and should be supported*
  - *Any concerns should be referred to SGC and/or Police*
  - *Cars parked up even when pop up not open*
  - *Parking in Commonmead Lane would be a problem***RESOLVED** the Chairman to contact owner with a message to encourage customers to social distance and park sensibly.
3. Old Sodbury Village Hall Committee – Request for funding of £5000 towards the cost of an extension to the hall for a new kitchen totalling £150,000 (e-mail circulated)

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to take the matter to March Agenda. Clerk to forward e-mail to Cllr A Rush.

- 301 Proposed Development of 36 dwellings in Old Sodbury (off Badminton Road)**  
The Clerk confirmed Grassroots held a virtual presentation on 03/02/21 together with a Q&A session to which residents and stakeholders were invited.

A full discussion took place and comments were as follows:-

- *Considered a balanced presentation but number of houses excessive with current proposal increasing village by 30%*
- *A dangerous road with development on the wrong side – crossings would be needed*
- *We should expect development. Houses required for locals to downsize to free up big family homes*
- *Too close to current neighbours*
- *Consideration must be given to first time buyers*
- *Cannot keep saying “no” to development*
- *An increase in traffic*
- *The proposal was not in the current Local Plan*

Cllr A Rush added the new Local Plan would allocate extra housing in all villages and that the current proposal for 36 dwellings would not be included in its allocation.

**RESOLVED** - object to the proposal for 36 dwellings based on:- (1) lack of infrastructure (2) overdevelopment of site (3) highway concerns (4) overlooking/loss of privacy (5) support sustainable development

2 abstentions recorded

- 302 South Gloucestershire Council – Local Plan Consultation**  
The Clerk reported that Cllr Spooner along with input from Cllrs Banister and Rumney had given thought to the town council’s response and compiled a draft questionnaire for return to SGC. The Clerk read out the information and together with additional input from Members, it was **RESOLVED** to send the completed questionnaire Phase 1 Issues and Approaches Consultation to SGC. Action: Clerk.  
Cllr Spooner was thanked for time spent and valuable contribution.

- 303 South Gloucestershire Council – Data Access Profiles (DAP’s)**  
Members had had an opportunity to view the DAP’s on-line. Discrepancies were noted and these would be reported to SGC by the Clerk.

- 304 Internal Audit 2020/2021**  
**RESOLVED** Mr I A Selkirk be appointed as Internal Auditor at a cost of £210.00 for the 2020/21 Financial Year.

- 305 Constitution for Election of Mayor (circulated)**  
The Clerk clarified the reason for the proposed amendment to “Term of Office” was to enable extension of time for the Mayor in office in extraordinary circumstances should it be required, eg pandemic/natural disaster.

It was a **unanimous** decision to accept the revised wording and the Clerk to make the relevant amendment to the Constitution.

With regard to how meetings were held going forward, the current legal arrangement which allows for meetings to be held via Zoom was due to end in May 2021. The Clerk reported she had written to Luke Hall MP and suggested that hybrid meetings become an accepted practice in future and a response was awaited.

**306 Items of Report**

**Cllr O’Shea** reported with regard to Armed Forces Day and that a meeting was due to be held shortly. He would then be in a position to update. A request for funding from the town council was a possibility.

**Cllr Spooner** reported with regard to Network Rail land at Old Sodbury and that he was in receipt of a draft transfer of land document from solicitors although a plan was awaited. He also reported that University of West of England had made an approach to SWaN with regard to students getting involved with planting etc. and Sodbury TC raised no objection to it.

**Cllr Allen** reported the 2021 Census was due to be launched on 21/03/21 and would be the first digital census.

**Cllr Banister** confirmed (1) the Chamber of Commerce had received contact with regard to the Armed Forces Day, and (2) “well done” to those involved with pulling together the Newsletter.

**The Clerk** reported a Markets Committee meeting was due to be held on 16/2/21 with the main agenda item being the Mop Fair in March. Due to COVID it was unlikely to go ahead and the Clerk sought Members’ agreement to postpone the meeting.

**307 Next Full Council Meeting: 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 19:30 hrs via Zoom**

The meeting closed at 20:52

Dated .....

Signed .....