



Sodbury Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council 9th March 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, B Romaine, P Rumney, P Smith, S Spooner, A Williams

Cate Davidson – Town Clerk
Jackie Murley – Assistant Clerk

Residents x 2

A Public Participation

An Old Sodbury resident and Chairman of Sodbury Woodland and Nature (SWaN) addressed Members with regard to the ongoing matter of the transfer of land from Network Rail to Sodbury TC to enable Old Sodbury Woodland to progress. He expressed frustration at the length of time it was taking, almost two years, for the sale to be completed and concerned that NR could potentially change their mind. The project had been awarded £20,000 in grant funding and he was unable to update the contributors on spending of the funds as no works, eg planting had taken place. The transfer was in the hands of Solicitors and the Clerk confirmed stern e-mails had been sent chasing the matter but told it was not at the top of their priority list. Following discussion, Members agreed to send a letter from the Chairman to the Solicitors giving a deadline for completion of the matter with the hope of resolving the matter very soon.

308 Apologies and Chairman's Remark

Apologies received from Cllrs Scott Gibson & M Lewis. Cllrs A & L Rush absent.

309 Declarations of Interests and Granting of Dispensations

None to report.

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

No representatives present at the meeting.

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

None to report

312 Approval of Minutes of Full Council Meeting of 9th February 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the 9th February 2021 are approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

313 Matters Arising

None to report.

314 Finance – Payment of Accounts

RESOLVED that the schedule of payments was approved.

315 Correspondence

1. Aaron O’Shea – Resignation as Councillor due to house move
Noted – vacancy to be advertised.

The Clerk reported that Cllr M Lewis had failed to attend a meeting for six consecutive months and would therefore be disqualified as a Councillor, the Clerk had informed him earlier that day of the situation.

The Clerk reported two vacancies existed within the South West Ward of the Town Council which would be advertised. Should there be no call for an election then Co-option will take place later in the year.

2. Armed Forces Day – Change of date to 21st August 2021 and appointment of replacement Council representative
RESOLVED – *Cllr B Allen be appointed and Clerk to pass on relevant information.*

3. Vintage Birdcage café – two complaint letters received from residents (the Clerk advised these are in addition to the 5 received last month)

Summarised as follows:-

- *Groups of people/cyclists congregating*
- *No respect for horse-riders*
- *Damage to fences*
- *Empty coffee cups thrown in hedges*
- *Parking problem*

The Chairman confirmed the pop-up café was currently closed as the owner awaited a Licence from SGC and DBS certification. The matter would be held in abeyance pending receipt of documents.

316 Grant Applications – Old Sodbury Village Hall

- The Town Council was in receipt of an application for a grant of £5,000 towards an extension/upgrade of the kitchen facility at the Village Hall
- The Finance & General Purposes Committee considered the matter at a meeting on 2nd March 2021 with recommendation that the grant be awarded from Community Infrastructure (CIL) funds
- Following discussion, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to award £5,000 to the Village Hall Committee for the kitchen refurbishment from CIL funds.

317 Items of Report

Cllr S Spooner sought an up-date on the Waitrose play area. The Clerk confirmed the matter was with SGC who awaited the play area’s transference from Deeley Freed. Action: Clerk to liaise with SGC.

Cllr J Ball confirmed that one of the new electric bikes paid for by STC had been presented to the Police the previous day.

Cllr B Allen confirmed the next Community Engagement Forum would be held on 11th March 2021 at 7pm.

318 Next Full Council Meeting: 13th April 2021 at 19:30 hrs via Zoom

The meeting closed at 8pm

Dated

Signed