



Sodbury Town Council

## Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 19:30 hrs, Remote meeting held via Zoom

**Present:** Councillors B Allen, J Ball (Chair), L Banister, M Gilpin, S Gibson, B Romaine, P Rumney, A Rush, L Rush, P Smith, S Spooner, A Williams

Cate Davidson – Town Clerk  
Jackie Murley – Assistant Clerk

Residents x 4

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### **A Public Participation**

None took place.

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

No apologies. Cllr C Hays absent.

Cllrs A & L Rush were unable to attend February's meeting due to an A&E visit and apologised for their non-attendance.

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

Cllr Ball – Agenda item 327

Cllr Allen – Agenda item 327

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

**Cllr A Rush** reported EU funding had been used to enable new signs in the High Street. A condition of the funding was to include the euro logo on any material as £256,000 had been received in 2021 by SGC from the EU development fund. It was noted that complaints had been received from the public about the use of the EU logo.

SGC has funding in budget of £40,000 for Chipping Sodbury. A public consultation will be undertaken in due course in relation to how this funding is used.

The Local Government Association (LGA) had reported that the date for holding remote meetings would not be extended beyond the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Meetings would therefore need to be held face to face. The matter was due to be challenged with the Courts and a result expected by the end of April.

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

**Cllr Banister** reported (1) with regard to the Chamber of Commerce and that High Street businesses were preparing to re-open on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April. Saturday (17<sup>th</sup>) was a key day and Cllr Banister encouraged Councillors to be seen out and about talking to businesses and customers alike, (2) a free Tax Return Advice Session was due to be held by Phillip Dolman on 8<sup>th</sup> April at 11am and all were welcome to join the virtual meeting, (3) the Sodbury & Yate Business Association (SYBA) was due to hold a network meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> April at 17:30.

**323 Approval of Minutes of Full Council Meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 are approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

**324 Matters Arising**

None to report.

**325 Finance – Payment of Accounts**

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

The Clerk confirmed that the Sodbury Woodland & Nature (SWaN) funds annotated on accounts circulated were not “council funds” but held on behalf of SWaN.

**326 Correspondence**

The Clerk was in receipt of 3 further e-mails in relation to Agenda item 327 (to be discussed) which have been anonymised and sent to all Councillors in advance of the meeting.

**327 Licensing Application – The Bird Box, Old Sodbury**

Cllr Ball declared an interest and, following a vote, Cllr Gilpin chaired Agenda item 327.

Cllrs Allen and Ball left the meeting at 19:46 and re-joined at 20:17.

A Licensing Application had been received for a Static Hot & Cold Refreshment Trailer in Commonmead Lane, Old Sodbury. The Clerk confirmed she was in receipt of numerous e-mails and correspondence (which have been anonymised and circulated over the last few months) and, in addition, many comments had been made on social media.

Following discussion, comments summarised as follows:-

- *An Old Sodbury Councillor had received phone calls/correspondence opposing the granting of a Licence with many very upset villagers*
- *Vehicles parked in narrow one-track lanes*
- *Vehicles parked in (ex) David James & Partners car park (which is due to be blocked off by Badminton Estate)*
- *Car park being used as a toilet*
- *Intimidating comments to objectors of the Licence on social media*
- *The Licensing application states the “trailer” must be moved each night. The trailer was on private land. Was it the correct type of Licence?*
- *It's good for the community – is there a way to compromise?*
- *Rubbish a big problem with coffee cups thrown in hedges and lanes. Bins provided at site but customers walk off and drink and discard as they go*
- *The Applicant has carried out very good work in the community during lockdown*
- *Attach conditions to the Licence?*
- *A difficult time for small businesses and it should be supported*
- *Hearsay that Licence short-term (ie until May 2021) – Members must consider the Licence on a ‘permanent’ basis*
- *Customers were being irresponsible*
- *Objecting to the Licence could make business go under*

A proposal was put forward to OBJECT to the Licence on the grounds of (1) parking issues (2) excessive littering and (3) anti-social behaviour. The proposal was seconded and a vote took place – 7 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions.

Following the vote, Members wished it to be recorded that the hard work of the Bird Box business during Lockdown to support the community had been recognised and appreciated but reluctantly it could not support the Licence, after discussion the Clerk was asked to make this comment to the Licensing Officer.

The Clerk confirmed the response would be forwarded to SGC that evening to meet the deadline.

### 328 Market Pitchings

The Clerk reported receipt of an anonymous e-mail enquiry that sought the town council's authority to allow tables and chairs on the Pitchings. The Clerk had requested further information, which was not forthcoming. From 12/04/21 pubs and restaurants would be able to open outdoors and government guidance to Councils was to support businesses and make every effort to enable this to happen. For food/drink outlets with no gardens or outside space, it would be an opportunity to gain additional trade. A discussion took place and it was noted that the Pitchings were in the ownership of the Duke of Beaufort and the pavements were the responsibility of SGC. Members considered how the Pitchings could be managed and the following points made:-

- *Tables and chairs in the Street would provide a lovely atmosphere*
- *Must be regulated*
- *People live on the High Street and noise must be a consideration*
- *Important to support businesses*
- *A precedent has been set as some businesses already use the Pitchings*
- *Legal advice would need to be sought for issue of Licences by the town council which would be costly and timely*
- *Issue a Statement*
- *SGC could grant pavement licence. For Pitchings usage, refer proprietors to the Duke of Beaufort Estate*

**RESOLVED** – Clerk to draft a Statement to be circulated to Members with a request for input eg *“in line with Government Guidelines, the TC will permit the use of the Pitchings by pubs, cafes and restaurants adjacent to their property until the 30/09/21 between 08:00 and 22:00 hrs. Please show consideration to your neighbours”*.

NB Internet connection failed between 20:20 and 20:25 and no business took place.

### 329 Council Meetings

Due to the expiration of legislation permitting remote meetings on 7<sup>th</sup> May the Clerk proposed to bring meetings forward as follows:

- **RESOLVED:** Annual Parish Meeting to take place on 20/04/21 via Zoom  
Annual Meeting of Full Council to take place on 04/05/21 via Zoom
- **RESOLVED:** To enable social distancing and space for public, future Full Council meetings to be held in the Town Hall until further notice.

### 330 Old Sodbury Woodland

Matters have progressed since the last meeting but due to amendments by Network Rail further discussion had take place. The sale is now back with NWR solicitors and the Clerk will continue to chase matters.

### 331 Town Council Vacancies

- Further to advertisement of two vacancies in the South West Ward, no call for election was made.
- Co-option of two councillors to take place at June 2021 meeting and Clerk to place appropriate advertisements.

### 332 Items of Report

**Cllr A Rush** reported with regard to concerns about vehicles exiting Hounds Court. Further to a meeting with the Highways Office road markings are to be installed.

**Cllr Spooner** confirmed he would prepare a presentation for the Annual Parish Meeting on Climate Change.

**Cllr Williams** reported an area of land by The Dog PH in Old Sodbury had been unlawfully claimed and the matter referred to SGC Enforcement.

**Cllr Ball** reported a tree planting exercise had taken place recently which was good news.

**333 Next Full Council Meeting: 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 19:30 hrs via Zoom**

The meeting closed at 21:05

Dated .....

Signed .....

DRAFT