



Sodbury Town Council

**Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting
Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 19:30 hrs, Remote meeting held via Zoom**

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

Cate Davidson – Town Clerk
Jackie Murley – Assistant Clerk

A Public Participation

None to report.

334 Election of Chairman

Cllr J Ball was nominated by Cllr Rumney and seconded by Cllr Hays
Cllr C Hays was nominated by Cllr M Gilpin – Cllr Hays declined the nomination.

The vote was unanimous and Cllr J Ball was duly elected as Chairman of Sodbury Town Council.

335 Election of Mayor

Cllr J Ball was nominated by Cllr Rumney and seconded by Cllr Hays
Cllr C Hays was nominated by Cllr M Gilpin – Cllr Hays declined the nomination.

The vote was unanimous and Cllr J Ball was duly elected as Mayor of Sodbury Town Council.

336 To receive Declaration of Acceptance of Office by newly elected Chairman

The Acceptance of Office was signed by Cllr J Ball and witnessed by the Clerk.

337 Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr B Allen was nominated by Cllr P Rumney and seconded by Cllr S Gibson

No other nominations were put forward and Cllr B Allen was duly elected Vice Chair of Sodbury Town Council.

338 Apologies and Chairman's Remarks

No apologies. Cllr A Williams absent.

Cllr Ball thanked Members for re-election as Chair and Mayor and looked forward to working with Cllr Allen.

339 Declarations of Interests and Granting of Dispensations

None to report.

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

[Handwritten signature]
8/6/21

Cllr A Rush reported a quiet time at SGC due to elections. He reported a possible six month delay with the Local Plan, specifically with the Strategic Development Strategy (SDS) which involved West of England Combined Authority (WECA). Cllr Banister added the news was disappointing and that peoples' interest would diminish as time went on.

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

Cllr Banister reported virtual attendance at a Sodbury & Yate Business Association (SYBA) meeting when mention was made of South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) grants available to local businesses impacted by Covid-19 eg training. Details were available on SGC website or via Cllr Banister. The Clerk added such information should be added to the town council's Facebook page but keeping it up-to-date was time consuming and consideration needed to be given to appointing Members to administer it going forward. Action – Agenda item for June.

342 Minutes of Full Council Meeting on 6th April 2021

RESOLVED Minutes of 6th April 2021 are approved as a true and accurate record subject to the addition of an "r" to read Officer not Office at Agenda item 332.

343 Matters Arising

The Clerk reported:-

- 1) Receipt of one application for use of the Market Pitchings, ie tables & chairs and no problems to report
- 2) As of Thursday 6th May, Councillors would need to attend meetings in person, ie no more virtual meetings. Full Council meetings would be held at the Town Hall and committee meetings kept to a minimum.
- 3) With regard to the two town council vacancies, to date, no applications had been received and encouraged Members to "spread the word".

Cllr Gilpin referred to Agenda item 321 and the ~~£40,000~~ ^{£120,000} budget for High Streets. Cllr A Rush confirmed Chipping Sodbury would receive a third of it.

344 Finance – Payment of Accounts

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

345 Correspondence

South Gloucestershire Council – No Mow May – Information about leaving some areas of grass uncut during May to enhance biodiversity. To receive a suggestion from Cllr Spooner that STC leaves area 3 uncut as per the attached map for the month of May.

*A discussion took place and the following was **RESOLVED**:-*

- o *As detailed on the map circulated, Area 3 to be left uncut during May*
- o *Clerk to identify wildflower areas*
- o *For discussion at E&L and Climate Group*
- o *Parishioners needed good notice of areas to be uncut*

Cllr Gilpin mentioned Smarts Green roundabout could be a good wildflower area. The Clerk confirmed Smarts Green was the responsibility of SGC.

346 To Appoint Members to serve on Standing Committees and Outside Bodies The Clerk read out the Committees and Members were appointed. A revised document would be distributed.

347 Chipping Sodbury Town Lands Charity

- Following the co-option of Mrs Wendy Whittle to the TLC, a vacancy arose.
RESOLVED Cllr Banister be appointed
- Cllr Gibson's term had expired and following a vote Cllr Spooner was appointed

The Clerk confirmed she would liaise with the Clerk of TLC with regard to the new appointments.

Cllr Banister added that very little was reported back to the Council from the Committees that Members represented and that it would be useful to have updates a few times a year. Cllr Ball agreed and encouraged Members to report back at Full Council meetings going forward.

348 Annual Return – Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 (circulated)

- The Clerk read through the Statement, responses were recorded and Members were given an opportunity to ask questions.
- **RESOLVED** that the Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 be approved for submission to the external auditor and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

349 Annual Return – Accounting Statements 2020/21 (circulated)

RESOLVED that the Accounting Statements 2020/21 are approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk for submission to the external auditor.

350 Old Sodbury Woodland

The Clerk provided an up-date with regard to the woodland area and key persons involved with the transfer of land were due to meet with Network Rail representatives the following day for an official handover. The Chairman thanked the Clerk, Cllr Spooner and Richard Wilson for all their hard work and the Clerk confirmed she would advise further once a completion date was received. The Clerk suggested the Council allocations a fund of £1,000 for the management of the woodland by Sodbury Woodland & Nature (SWaN) as grants were awaited, this was unanimously agreed by Members.

351 Items of Report

Cllr Banister reported a wall fallen down in Culverhill Road and it was confirmed the matter was being dealt with by SGC.

Cllr Spooner reported with regard to traffic calming in Old Sodbury

Cllr Ball reported the wildflowers at the quarry development were looking lovely

Cllr L Rush requested an update with regard to the Mayor's Award. Cllr Ball reported he was liaising with the Mayor of Yate Town Council with regard to joint awards to particular groups who had gone above and beyond during the pandemic and had served Yate and Sodbury. It was agreed that STC staff could nominate members of the community for an award if they felt it appropriate.

352 Next Full Council Meeting – 8th June 2021 – Chipping Sodbury Town Hall

The meeting closed at 20:44 hrs

Signed

Dated



