



Sodbury Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council 8th June 2021 at 19:30 hrs held at Chipping Sodbury Town Hall

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

Cate Davidson – Town Clerk
Jackie Murley – Assistant Clerk

Members of the public x 16

The Chairman read out housekeeping and fire muster point regulations.

A Public Participation

A resident who had lived in Old Sodbury for 21 years and Chipping Sodbury prior to that addressed Members regarding an inaccurate statement in Full Council minutes dated April 2021 that “*land had been unlawfully claimed*”. He said it was not an accurate reflection and wanted to tell his side of the story. The matter related to a small strip of land adjacent to his field which was not registered with Land Registry but is adopted highway. On approach to SGC and the Badminton Estate, both declined ownership and thus uncertain who owned the land and he subsequently sought legal advice. Trees on the land were infected with Ash Die Back and were cut down at his cost – a saving to SGC. The area was currently fenced off to protect cables, stop cars parking and illegal travellers with the intention to improve the area for the community. He sought the town council’s support for a Stopping up Order and asked that the Town Council minutes that it supports his action and will assist with the stopping-up process once it is under way.

The Clerk advised that the Town Council cannot consider this request as it is not on the agenda but confirmed she would liaise further with the resident and the matter would be an Agenda item for July’s Full Council meeting.

With regard to Agenda item 362 – P21/03344/F – Erection of 35 dwellings, three residents addressed Members with their concerns - all objecting to the application. The following comments were made:-

- In favour of additional homes and bringing in more residents, but the number of homes proposed would have a detrimental effect on community life and the dynamics of the village
- The village was already under-served, ie no shop, no cycle path, limited bus service, small school (currently full until 2022). More residents would affect the resources of an already under-resourced village
- Object to the application on similar grounds to the Transport Yard application, ie highways concerns, infrastructure, over-development
- Parking at old Post Office lay-by already an issue as cars park to use play area/field opposite. Photos to be forwarded to Clerk of illegal parking.

- The speeding problem on A432 had been well documented in the past. The Transport document attached to the application was incorrect.

Cllr A Rush encouraged residents to add their comments to the planning portal.

A resident addressed Members with regard to the SGC Consultation for a 20mph limit on Chapel Lane, Old Sodbury. The Clerk confirmed the matter would be discussed at “Correspondence”.

353 Apologies and Chairman’s Remark

The Chairman thanked all those for attending and that it was good to be back to meeting in person.

354 Declarations of Interests and Granting of Dispensations

Cllr A Rush – SGC Planning

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

Cllr A Rush reported (1) with regard to Brook Street and the right of way issue – a longstanding matter. He confirmed Cllr P Trull was dealing with the matter and the Clerk would liaise direct with her, (2) the first ‘*in person*’ Council meeting had taken place in Thornbury. It was reported the number of new houses SGC had to build had gone down marginally from 1473 to 1390.

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

Cllr Banister reported on CS Chamber of Commerce and events coming up, ie “Fiver Fest” from 12th to 26th June, launch of the Summer Search and a food festival in August which needed more work with regard to engagement with local businesses

Cllr Gilpin updated with regard to (1) the Tourist Information Centre. It would re-open on the 5th July after being closed for a year with old and new volunteers (2) Shopmobility in Yate was gradually re-opening and scooters were now available, (3) Sodbury in Bloom’s Summer planting was now in place and thanks passed to the town council for the watering contract. Further work was continuing in the community garden with the installation of a pond, (4) South Glos Youth Housing – although no premises in the immediate area, operation was from Kingswood which provided ten flats and four training rooms for 16-25 year olds (5) it was still the Chipping Sodbury Town Trust’s intention to build a sports centre and new accommodation for the football and rugby teams. A survey had been carried and the results would be considered in the new design.

Cllr Spooner confirmed he had received a warm welcome at his first meeting with the Town Lands Charity and noted some matters confidential, but work the charity did to help local parishioners with eg financial assistance and studies was heart-warming.

Cllr A Rush advised that on July 8 he will be meeting with SGC officers and the Chamber of Commerce in relation to the High Street Funding of £40k that is available for Sodbury. The Clerk queried if SGC will be engaging with the Town Council and AR will feed this back

357 Approval of Minutes of Full Council Meeting of 4th May 2021

RESOLVED Minutes of Full Council Meeting of 4th May 2021 are approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting subject to the amendment at agenda item 343 to read “£120,000 budget for High Streets”. (Chipping Sodbury to receive £40,000)

358 Matters Arising

None to report.

359 Finance – Payment of Accounts

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

360 Correspondence

Requiring Response/Comments/Action

- South Gloucestershire Council – Licensing Renewal for Sodbury Kebabs – no changes to current application
*The Clerk reported no complaints had been received and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the application.*
- South Gloucestershire Council – Consultation for a 20mph limit along Chapel Lane, Old Sodbury (circulated)
*The Clerk reported the Consultation was only available to respond ‘on-line’ and had contacted SGC in that regard as a paper option should be available. A response from SGC was awaited. Members discussed the proposal for 20mph although it was not clear where the scheme began and ended and Cllr A Rush confirmed he would find out. **RESOLVED** the matter taken to a Planning & Consultation Committee meeting scheduled for 21st June 2012.*

361 Co-option of two Councillors to the South West Ward of Sodbury Town Council

- The Clerk reported she had been in receipt of three applications, but one had withdrawn.
- The two applicants made representation to Members and each provided brief resumes
- **Cllr Gibson** proposed Steve Tubby and **Cllr Gilpin** seconded the proposal
Cllr Rumney proposed Alistair Gregson and **Cllr Spooner** seconded the proposal
- **RESOLVED** Steve Tubby be appointed to Sodbury Town Council
RESOLVED Alistair Gregson be appointed to Sodbury Town Council
- The Clerk confirmed signing of paperwork would take place in the office and contact would be made via e-mail to arrange a time and date

362 Planning Application P21/03344/F – 35no. dwellings on land South of Badminton Road, Old Sodbury

Members considered the application and following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to submit a response to SGC parallel to the Transport Yard, Old Sodbury application discussed in December 2020 Full Council meeting.

OBJECT based on:-

- Highways concerns - South Gloucestershire Council had been advised for years of concerns over safety on the A432 Badminton Road. Until action is taken to address the concern the Town Council could not support any residential application
- Infrastructure - the facilities available in the village and the public transport system are insufficient to support the development

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- Overdevelopment of site - there are numerous problems with the current proposal for 35 dwellings including (but not limited to) insufficient parking and overflow parking, infringement of the privacy of existing local residents and visual impact not in keeping with the character of the village. It is too large a development for the village and will lead to a complete change of dynamics and character.
- The development is not in the Core Strategy or Strategic Planning Document
- Pre-application advice dated 22/3/19 made recommendation not to proceed with the application as it would result in a recommendation of refusal stating many reasons, one being highway concerns/high speeds.

Cllr A Rush abstained from voting on this matter.

363 Woodmans Road, Chipping Sodbury (correspondence circulated)

The Clerk reported she was in receipt of anonymous correspondence that related to a community shop in Woodmans Road and the resulting impact on the neighbourhood, eg increased traffic, parking issues, noise. Equally the anonymous correspondent recognised the hard work of the shop & supported it, but unfortunately felt it had outgrown the site in question. Members noted this is a difficult situation. Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** the Chairman would speak to the volunteers who ran the shop and report back at the next Full Council meeting. The Clerk confirmed she would respond to the correspondence.

364 Climate Emergency Plan (circulated)

- Members were in receipt of the Climate Emergency Plan and Cllr Spooner highlighted the importance and relevance of Members making personal pledges to lead by example.
- **RESOLVED** : Climate Emergency Plan including action points approved and Members to submit personal pledges.

365 Old Sodbury Woodland

- The Clerk confirmed the purchase of land from Network Rail was now complete and an official handover from Network Rail to Sodbury TC held in May 2021.
- **RESOLVED**: The management of the land to be handed to Sodbury Woodland & Nature (SW&N). Cllr A Rush confirmed MAF funding was still available.

The Clerk thanked Cllr Spooner, Richard Wilson and the SWaN team for their work in relation to this matter.

366 Social Media

A discussion took place with regard to appropriate information for the town council's Facebook page with a general feeling that it should be limited to town council information only. Cllr Spooner confirmed he would be willing to assist with management of the page. On further discussion, it was **RESOLVED** the Clerk would review the Social Media Policy and refer the matter to a future meeting.

367 Items of Report

Cllr Gibson reported potholes in Station Close. The Clerk responded and encouraged Members to report all streetcare issues directly to SGC with photos.

Cllr Spooner reported a speed issue on A432, there being no effective speed enforcement.

Cllr Gilpin reported a biodiversity survey took place at the churchyard with over 40 species of wildflower identified. Less grass cutting had encouraged wildflowers. The Clerk added complaints had been received with regard to the uncut grass at the cemetery and suggested that signage is put in place to advise what is happening.

Cllr Allen reported ASB in car park ie revving engines. Cllr Ball encouraged reporting matters to the Police

Cllr Smith reported broken paving outside of the Oak PH and Franklins. Refer to SGC.

Cllr Romaine reported a bench at The Ridings play area was burnt. Photo to be forwarded.

Cllr Rumney reported potholes in Chapel Lane by Landcare.

Complaints have been received by some members in relation to an untidy garden in Manor Way – AR to liaise with Bromford or the resident if it is a private rental.

368 Next Full Council Meeting: 13th July 2021 at 19:30 hrs – Chipping Sodbury Town Hall (subject to COVID restrictions)

Dated

Signed

The meeting closed at 20:58