



Sodbury Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council 13th July 2021 at 19:30 hrs held at Old Sodbury Village Hall

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

Cate Davidson – Town Clerk
Jackie Murley – Assistant Clerk

Residents x 6

The Chairman welcomed new councillors Alistair Gregson and Steve Tubby.

A Public Participation

An Old Sodbury resident addressed Members with regard to Agenda item 378 which related to a strip of land adjacent to his field, currently under South Gloucestershire Council responsibility for maintenance, although none had taken place for many years. He wished to take over responsibility for maintenance and preserve the area for the future and was working with SGC with regard to a planting regime. He sought the town council's support in principle for a Stopping Up Order.

A resident addressed Members with regard to Agenda item 377 and the 'Family Food for Free' initiative. He was fully supportive of the scheme but raised concerns with regard to the number of vehicles in the road and the parking problems and obstruction of driveways. In addition, he had concerns on whether the food was staying in the local community or going elsewhere.

An Old Sodbury resident addressed Members and welcomed the fact that the meeting was being held in Old Sodbury Village Hall and hoped it would continue in the future.

369 Apologies and Chairman's Remark

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs Gilpin, Spooner and Williams

The Chairman remarked it was great to be in a different venue and hoped to return in the future.

370 Declarations of Interests and Granting of Dispensations

Cllr Hays – Agenda item 379

Cllr Ball – Agenda item 379

Cllr A Rush – South Gloucestershire Council Planning

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

Cllr A Rush reported (1) he met with SGC officers on the 8th July to discuss spending of £40,000 allocated to Chipping Sodbury from a "High Street Funding" grant. He

confirmed grants had been awarded from last years fund with no consultation taking place and the Clerk read out a list of recipients. Cllr A Rush confirmed the town council and Chamber of Commerce would be invited to the next meeting. Cllr Banister questioned how the grants awarded would be audited and Cllr A Rush confirmed he would find out (2) the South Gloucestershire Bee Trail Challenge would take place from 19 July to 4 September. Two fibre glass bee sculptures had been allocated to Chipping Sodbury and £150 prize was available to a randomly chosen winner of photographs submitted to SGC. The Trail had been designed to bring new and existing customers back to the High Street and a total of 16 would be in South Gloucestershire High Streets. The Clerk confirmed she has not heard from SGC in relation to the location of the bees.

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

Cllr Bannister reported on CS Chamber of Commerce and that EAT Festival organisers had attended a recent meeting and that they appeared to have covered the important aspects, eg parking, rubbish disposal and toilets.

Cllr Ball reported attendance at a joint Mayors Award with Yate Town Council which was well received.

373 Approval of Minutes of Full Council Meeting of 8th June 2021

RESOLVED Minutes of Full Council Meeting of 8th June 2021 are approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

374 Matters Arising

With regard to agenda item 367 "Items of Report" that related to an untidy garden in Manor Way, Chipping Sodbury, Cllr A Rush confirmed it was a private landlord and residents would liaise with them.

375 Finance – Payment of Accounts

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

376 Correspondence

Invites to Council

- **Yate Town Improvement Masterplan** – engagement event via Microsoft Teams 22nd July 19.00 – 20.30 STC can send two representatives – *No volunteers were forthcoming at this time*

Requiring Response/Comments/Action

1. South Gloucestershire Council – Hatters Lane – temporary road closure to facilitate installing of fibre network cables for an expected period of one day at any time in an 18 month period from 31 August 2021 - *Noted*
2. South Gloucestershire Council – Catchpot Lane – temporary road closure to facilitate repair works for an expected period of two days at any time in an 18 month period from 27 July 2021 – *Noted*
3. South Gloucestershire Council – Broad Street – road closure for the Music in the Street festival on 28th August 18:00 – 23:15
RESOLVED – *Application approved by Members*

377 Woodmans Road, Chipping Sodbury

- The Chairman confirmed he had met with the team running Family Food for Free (FF4F) who were very concerned for the upset caused to neighbours as a result of the Community shop.
- It was confirmed that once a suitable location could be found, the community shop would relocate and the team was working with Yate Town Council to help secure this. It is hoped this will happen within weeks rather than months.
- The Clerk reported she had liaised with SGC Enforcement who confirmed that any referral to them would likely result in the shop being shut down. An anonymous report to SGC could not be accepted, although complainant details would be kept confidential.
- Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Ball liaise with FF4F and Yate TC to find new premises as soon as possible and that delegation in relation to decisions be given to the Chairman and Clerk. It was suggested that a shipping container on The Ridings would be ideal, and the Chairman is to make enquiries. This matter is to be an agenda item for September

378 Adopted Highway (section) – Old Sodbury

There was a motion to approve the proposals as tabled with some discussion taking place around actions that had already taken place.

The Clerk interrupted in advance of a vote and advised members that due to concerns about the town council getting involved in this matter, she had sought advice from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). Members were reminded that whilst they needed to be very clear on this advice, they were not obliged to follow it. The Clerk read out the advice as follows: -

- I. In relation to the first item (The Town Council states in its minutes that it agrees with the action that has been taken by the owner of adjoining land to date) – *It would not be appropriate for STC to get involved in a legal matter between landowners particularly when it involved a local authority.*
- II. In relation to the second item (The Town Council agrees with the stopping-up order on the land which is currently adopted highway and assists with the process once it is underway) - *STC should not support any proposal for a stopping-up order of adopted highway in advance of a consultation and would consider the matter if and when a formal stopping-up order process was initiated.*

The Owners of the land adjacent to the site in question joined in the discussion and added:-

- *Tree replanting would take place*
- *SGC had confirmed they did not own the land*
- *The land had not been touched for 60 years and looked a disgrace*
- *This is a win win situation for both Sodbury and South Glos Councils*
- *Support in relation to the stopping-up order is sought prior to making a financial commitment to the process*
- *An SGC tree officer was due to attend site the following day*

A proposal was made that the Town Council supports the residents on both matters, this was seconded. A vote of hands took place and it was **RESOLVED** that the motion

was carried. Cllr A Rush added he would consult with SGC Legal Dept. and report back.

Two abstentions recorded.

379 Planning Application – P20/12395/F: Land West of Trinity Lane

Cllr Ball left the room whilst discussion took place, Cllr Allen took the Chair.

It was noted the application was a “revision” to a previous application to which the town council had objected. Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to object to the application for the reasons stated previously: -

*(1) Loss of visual amenity on local Green Spaces, ie the Common and the Ridings
(2) Increased traffic on Trinity Lane, St Johns Way and surrounding area (3) Not in the Core Strategy - a speculative development (4) Flooding concerns (5) Transport Assessment out of date as it states a Post Office and Natwest Bank exist. This needs to be revised.*

3 abstentions recorded.

380 Councillors Leave of Absence

A request had been received from Cllr Marian Gilpin for a leave of absence for six months and following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the request. members offered Cllr Gilpin best wishes.

381 Market Pitchings Licence – Marshfield ice-cream

The Clerk reported receipt of an application for use of the Pitchings for a Marshfield ice cream pod which is in receipt of a “help to thrive” grant from SGC. Objections had been received from two local businesses (circulated to Members)

Following discussion, as the business was out of the area and considered of no benefit to the High Street, it was **RESOLVED** to object to the application and the Clerk to advise the applicant accordingly. In addition, the Clerk to refer back to SGC and raise concern on the allocation of grants to outside businesses when there was already provision within the Town.

382 Risk Assessments

It was **RESOLVED** that the following Risk Assessment be approved:-

- General Property
- COVID Property
- Financial
- COVID Meeting

383 South Gloucestershire Council Consultations

Greener Places Strategy Consultation

It was noted SGC Consultations were not designed for town and parish councils and not easy to respond to as such.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk complete the online Consultation positively.

A432 Kennedy Way/Heron Way Signalised Junction Consultation

Members **RESOLVED** to support the proposals. The following comments were made:-

- Many accidents over the years, often cyclists
- A more direct route to Sodbury
- Motorists already unlawfully turn right
- Traffic taken away from the busy Scott Way roundabout

384 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration

Cllr Rumney confirmed the Rotary Club and Lions were organising Beacon lighting on The Ridings and Old Sodbury. On Thursday 2nd June 2022 – music and food was planned for The Ridings. The Chairman confirmed he would liaise with Nick Cragg and report back in September. It was noted the Big Lunch Committee would be organising an event to take place on the 5th June 2022.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to support events within the town but the town council would not lead on a specific event. The Clerk confirmed Sodbury TC could offer a grant if necessary.

385 Town Council Committees

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (1) public conveniences be moved from Environment & Leisure (E&L) to Markets Committee and
- (2) E&L take responsibility for Climate Emergency and Old Sodbury Woodland

RESOLVED:

Cllr Gregson be appointed to Markets Committee
Cllr Tubby be appointed to Planning Committee

386 Climate Change Action Plan

- It was **RESOLVED** to receive Councillors pledges in October
- Members discussed how residents and visitors could access information on what was already available to help reduce the carbon footprint and what would be 'nice to have', eg refillable cleaning products, recycling bins, electric charging points. Information to be added to website.
- A Climate Change Event was due to be held on 18th September in the Town Hall and all were encouraged to attend.

387 Personnel Matters

*In terms of schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972 it is likely that discussion around this item will disclose exempt information in relation to Council contracts and personal information and it will, therefore, be **Resolved** that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies Act 1960 the public and press be excluded*

[see confidential minutes]

388 Items of Report

Cllr Banister brought Members attention to an SGC Consultation which related to Chipping Sodbury High Street and expressed the importance of encouraging residents to complete. Hard copies would become available in the library and the closing date was 18th August. The Clerk confirmed that she has put this on the STC Facebook page.

Cllr Allen reported that Hounds Road was the only road off the High Street that had no 20mph signage.

Cllr Gibson reported that the grass on Smarts Green roundabout was long and causing hazard to traffic. The cut strip needed to be an extra few feet wide to improve visibility. Clerk to report. **Cllr A Rush** added that the Smarts Green “lane” situation previously reported was with SGC and would be looked at post-Covid restrictions.

Cllr Smith reported the zebra crossing on Wickwar Road needed re-painting, the Clerk reminded members that such matters should be reported direct to Streetcare by individuals.

389 Next Full Council Meeting: 14th September 2021 at 19:30 hrs – the Chairman advised it is likely the meeting would be held in Old Sodbury Village Hall again.

The meeting closed at 21:31 hrs

Dated

Signed

DRAFT