



Sodbury Town Council

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Markets Committee 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021, Sodbury Town Council Offices

**Committee Members:** Cllrs. Linda Banister, Alistair Gregson, Becky Romaine, Phil Rumney, Adrian Rush, Linda Rush & Andy Williams (Chair)

**Present:** Cllrs. Linda Banister, Alistair Gregson, Becky Romaine, Phil Rumney, Adrian Rush, Linda Rush & Andy Williams (Chair)

Town Clerk – Cate Davidson

Messrs C & W Porter – W & K N Rowland Fairs

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The chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

**1. Apologies**

All members were present

**2. Declarations of Interest**

No interests were declared at this time.

**3. Approval of Minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**Resolved** the Minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

**4. Matters Arising**

No items raised at this time.

**5. Mop Fair 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Charles and William Porter were present and were asked for a copy of proposals for the Mop Fair. After some discussion a copy of the plans for the 2019 fair was produced and members were advised this was the plan for the 2021 fair. Disappointment was expressed that more specific detail hadn't been given on proposals for the next Fair.

Members asked what COVID precautions are being taken and were advised that all rides would have separate entrance and exit points with queuing in place as appropriate with each ride owner being responsible for controlling use of such. Hand sanitisers will be in place throughout the fair. It was noted by all that it may become necessary to cancel the fair at short notice if COVID restrictions are reintroduced.

The Clerk advised that SGC has not been holding Safety Advisory Group (SAG) meetings due to the cancellation of events during the pandemic. At a previous Markets meeting members resolved that the next fair could only happen if the Fairmasters had attended a SAG meeting. On the basis meetings haven't happened it was **Resolved** that such requirement can be carried forward to the March 2022 fair as it is unlikely a SAG meeting will take place before September.

It was proposed that subject to the Clerk checking the plan produced is the same as that for 2019 which worked well then the licence be approved for the holding of the fair; this was seconded and a vote took place with 5 members in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention.

Charles Porter requested that consideration be given to reducing the Mop fee for this fair due to cancellations during the pandemic. Messrs Porter left the room to enable members to discuss the fees for this fair.

Members made the following comments:

- It is very disappointing that no business plan has been provided.
- The Town Council needs the income
- We are inviting a COVID spike to the area by allowing the fair to go ahead, the demographic of fair attendees are super-spreaders
- We do need to get back to normal
- If we didn't issue a licence it would be likely that the fair would go ahead and it is preferable to work with them
- The Showmans Guild provides Risk Assessments and would get involved if there was a move to cancel the fair

After discussion it was **Resolved** that the fee remains the same as the previous fair in September 2019 (£2,500 fee and £350 towards cleaning of The Pitchings). Messrs Porter re-joined the meeting and were advised of the decision which was accepted.

Members were asked if permission could be given to set up the Waltzer the night before the fair as per previous year. It was **Resolved** to allow this.

It was arranged that Committee members will meet with Messrs Porter by the Clock Tower at 17.30 on the Friday evening of the fair to take a walk around prior to opening.

## 6. Budgets

Members noted the spend to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021. It was noted that this committee now has responsibility for the Public Conveniences which are located in the Clock Tower and the budget for such is included in the report.

The current spend to date was noted.

## 7. Public Conveniences

The Clerk reported that the public conveniences have been subject to weekly "anti-bac fogging" during the pandemic. SGC has advised this will cease on 31<sup>st</sup> July leading to a saving of £505.31 per month. Members welcomed this saving and were pleased that the cleaning of the facilities by SGC continues to be successful.

Cllr Rumney reported that he has met with Brendon Jones and the Clerk to look at re-opening the ladies facilities. Brendon has been asked to produce a specification including basic works to re-open the facility along with a "nice to have" specification should funds be available. Currently there are two fairly small cubicles in the unit, after discussion it was **Resolved** to approve that a single unit be installed which is a more suitable size.

Cllr Rumney also advised members that he has spoken to Mr Abraham about a fixing to make the clock automatic – this is being investigated but is not a Town Council responsibility.

**8. Christmas Trees and Lights**

The Clerk reported that despite concerns that trees wouldn't be available Cotswold Christmas Trees have now confirmed they can provide and install 8 x Christmas Trees of a suitable height for the main street and Old Sodbury at the same cost as last year of £2,840, this includes removal of the trees. It was **Resolved** that Cotswold Christmas Trees be appointed for the Christmas Tree works for 2021.

The Clerk advised members that she has spoken with Phil Tily in relation to upgrading the lights we have on the Christmas Trees in the main street. Phil has advised that due to the current connections coming off the festoon lighting he is not happy that any changes to the current arrangement would be safe. Members expressed disappointment at this and AG was asked to speak with PT and see if this could be overcome.

**9. Items to Report**

AG – Advised members that the Council has declared an environmental emergency yet the carbon footprint of the Mop fair is huge and we should consider asking for more environmentally power sources. Discussion was had about this and AG was asked to bring more information to the next meeting.

BR – Advised that there will be a Climate stall at the Eat Festival and it is hoped that FF4F will assist with some demonstrations.

LB – Advised that the Eat Festival will be bringing people into the town rather than engaging with local businesses. It is hoped that the additional footfall will impact positively on the permanent businesses in the Town.

**10. Date of next meeting: 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Meeting closed at 20:50

Signed: ..... Chairman

Dated .....