



Sodbury Town Council

**Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council
14th September 2021 at 19:30 hrs held at
Chipping Sodbury Town Hall, Charter Suite**

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

Cate Davidson – Town Clerk
Jackie Murley – Assistant Clerk

Residents x 4

Evacuation procedure announced by Vice Chairman

A Public Participation

An Old Sodbury resident addressed Members and requested an update in relation to a strip of land at Old Sodbury which was the subject of a potential Stopping Up Order. The Clerk responded and referred to July's Full Council meeting that documented the current situation and confirmed the motion was approved, ie (i) the Town Council agreed with the action taken by the owner adjoining the land and (ii) the Town Council supported a stopping up order and would assist with the process. Cllr Spooner responded and queried whether the Town Council should revisit its decision. The Clerk responded the subject was in "Correspondence" for further discussion. Cllr A Rush confirmed the matter had been referred to South Gloucestershire Council Legal Department who would consult with the Town Council in due course.

An Old Sodbury resident addressed Members with regard to the zebra crossing on Wickwar Road, Chipping Sodbury which he felt was in need of repainting. The Clerk confirmed the matter had been reported to South Gloucestershire Council Streetcare (SGC) and encouraged the resident to also report to SGC.

An Old Sodbury resident addressed Members and (1) expressed gratitude for the dropped kerbs in Old Sodbury and (2) requested an update on the ramp for the bus stop in Chipping Sodbury. The Clerk responded with regard to the bus stop ramp (i) it was not on the SGC priority list, (ii) there had been a change in personnel at SGC and Badminton Estate and (iii) the next stage would be a public consultation.

390 Apologies and Chairman's Remark

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs Ball, Gregson and Gilpin

391 Declarations of Interests and Granting of Dispensations

Cllr A Williams – Agenda item 400 (Old Sodbury Lamb)

*J. Allen
12/10/2021*

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

Cllr A Rush reported (1) the July Council meeting had been cancelled and rescheduled for September and (2) £50,000 grant funding was available to support organisations planning events to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Clerk confirmed it would be added to the Council's Facebook page although the Council was not planning to hold an event.

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

Cllr Allen reported attendance at a remote meeting with regard to "Thrive" funding which was available to community groups and businesses in South Gloucestershire to help high streets recover post pandemic. It was noted there had been a lack of engagement with Chipping Sodbury businesses with only a few aware of the funding.

Cllr A Rush reported that SGC continues to believe that SiB provides all of the floral arrangements in Chipping Sodbury despite the fact they have been advised that STC is responsible and pays for the bulk of them.

Cllr Banister reported attendance at a Library Partnership meeting. Publicity was out to recruit more volunteers and to contact her or the Clerk for further details. An AGM was due in October/Nov and it was hoped the Head of Library Services, SGC would be available to attend as well as invitation to all volunteers.

394 Approval of Minutes of Full Council Meeting of 13th July 2021

RESOLVED the Minutes of Full Council Meeting of 13th July 2021 are approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Vice Chair. The Confidential Minutes were also approved and signed by the Vice Chair.

395 Matters Arising

None to report

396 Finance – Payment of Accounts

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

The Clerk confirmed she was in receipt of grant money in respect of Sodbury Woodland & Nature (SW&N) which would be reimbursed to Cllr Spooner.

397 Correspondence

Requiring Response/Comments/Action

- 1) **Local Resident** – Concerns in relation to removal of trees on Badminton Road and support for a Stopping Up Order
- 2) **Local Resident** – Complaint regarding the removal of trees on Badminton Road and questions to the Town Council:
 - a) Will the new trees be in keeping with the village and existing trees?
 - b) The land did not look a disgrace, but it does now
 - c) How is this a win-win situation for STC and SGC?
 - d) What are the plans for the land and after acting in an unlawful manner why should they have support?

3) **Local Resident** – Concerns in relation to removal of trees on Badminton Road and asking for clarification on the following:-

- a) Clerk to seek clarification from SGC regarding outcomes of the meetings between Tree Officers and “landowner” including timescales for replacement of trees and how the land will be managed if the Stopping Up Order is granted
- b) Clerk to see clarification in regard to the process for a Stopping Up Order and how this can be viewed and commented on by individuals in the future

A full discussion followed:-

- Cllr A Rush confirmed as a South Gloucestershire Council Councillor, he would not join the discussion. In addition, whilst not declaring an interest, Cllr A Williams would also not make comment.
- Cllr Spooner added he was not at the meeting when the motion was carried but considered uncertainty arose at that time about what was agreed and Councillors’ understanding of the subject and the item should be re-tabled? The Clerk reminded Members that Standing Orders stated to re-table an item “written notice by at least seven Councillors to be given to the Clerk”. A show of hands indicated six Members in favour of re-tabling the matter and Cllr Spooner confirmed he would contact absent Councillors and see if there is support for re-tabling the matter.
- Some Councillors sought clarification on the meaning of a Stopping Up order with the following explanation “*a piece of land put back into the private sector, ie no longer SGC Highways responsibility*”.
- A Member added he fully understood the situation and the land was of no value from a development perspective and focus should be how the land was managed going forward.
- The concerns from “local resident 3” were addressed by Members and following discussion it was **RESOLVED** to ask South Gloucestershire Council to give Sodbury Woodland & Nature (SWaN) permission to plant the land appropriately. Two abstentions recorded.
- Prior to any Stopping Up order being granted, SGC would put the matter to public Consultation.
- The Clerk reminded Members that it was their responsibility to understand terminology, eg Stopping Up order and if in any doubt to seek clarification prior to meetings/voting.

Action - Clerk to raise questions with SGC

4) **Local Resident** – Woodmans Road – Concerns about how STC has dealt with FF4F complaints. Requesting that STC supports local residents in relation to this matter and makes a decision on how this matter is resolved.

5) **Local Resident** – Woodmans Road – Letter to SGC Planning which resident asks STC to send to SGC Planning Dept.

To be dealt with under Agenda item 399



12.10.2021

398 Personnel Matters

RESOLVED appointment of Administration Assistant as approved by the Personnel Committee.

399 Woodmans Road, Chipping Sodbury

- In his absence, a report was received from the Chairman (circulated by e-mail) that provided an update following discussions had with FF4F.
- Members considered additional correspondence from local residents and the following comments were made:-
 - *The Clerk confirmed no formal correspondence had been sent from Sodbury TC to FF4F, the Chairman was working directly with the volunteers, as resolved in June Full Council meeting to explore alternative premises. To date, all avenues to relocate had been exhausted*
 - *Three months on from when residents first raised concerns and no resolution to date. The Council has a duty to take action*
 - *The council must recognise the impact on local residents*
 - *Consider a notice period to stop FF4F*
 - *If reported to SGC, Enforcement would most likely shut down the shop*
 - *The shop should close when furlough ends, ie 30th September 2021*
 - *It was noted the FF4F Facebook page continued to advertise for volunteers*
- Members considered their response, and it was **RESOLVED** to refer the matter to SGC Enforcement. Two abstentions recorded. The Clerk to draft a letter to FF4F and a statement be prepared should enquiries arise – to be circulated to Members for approval. In addition, a letter received from a local resident addressed to SGC to be forwarded to the Planning Dept.

It was noted that is not asking SGC to take enforcement we're asking to investigate because of residential amenity.

400 Chipping Sodbury – Market Proposals

- The Markets Committee met on the 7th September 2021 to consider a proposal from Green Top Events Ltd for a market to be held on the Pitchings for a trial period. In addition, a meeting was scheduled for the following day with the Chamber of Commerce and the Markets Committee to discuss further. It was noted that the recent Chipping Sodbury High Street Consultation had highlighted residents were in favour of a market in the town.
- Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to agree in principle a trial market every Thursday and that the Markets Committee take over overall responsibility.

401 Sodbury Town Council – Climate Emergency Actions

Members noted a report prepared by Cllr Spooner "Carbon Footprint" circulated by e-mail which focused on:-

- (1) Fuel consumption in The Old Reading Rooms office. Recommend "Good Energy" based in Chippenham. STC needed to focus on reducing gas consumption. (2) Energy purchased by STC. An initiative by SGC and West of England Combined Authority (WECA) to bulk buy solar panels was currently available. Give thought to solar panels on the Snuggery?
- A Climate Action Fair was due to be held on 18th September in the Town Hall. Fuel suppliers, electric bike demo and more from 10am. The event was being run by Climate Action Yate & Sodbury (CAYACS) and hosted by STC.

- The clerk added Members 'personal pledges' would be an agenda item for October

402 Chipping Sodbury High Street – Consultation Feedback (e-mailed)

A Consultation carried out by SGC was available for comment. During discussion the following points were raised:-

- Methodology and engagement unsatisfactory
- Hard copies of the Consultation available on request only
- Publicity of Consultation limited to those who look on SGC website
- Did respondents live in Chipping Sodbury?

The Clerk advised she would raise these matters with SGC.

One section of the Consultation related to “improving features” with high importance placed on more trees in the town and it was **RESOLVED** to make this an Agenda item.

403 The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee – Tree Planting (details e-mailed)

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to make application for two Oak trees from The Honourable Company of Gloucestershire to be located (1) Old Sodbury at Football Club – Clerk to make contact, and (2) Chipping Sodbury, The Ridings – Clerk to contact Town Trust.

AR – advised the Beaufort Estate getting rid of 60 oak trees.

404 Items of Report

Cllr Spooner confirmed he had met with two playground contractors to look at equipment for The Ridings together with the Clerk and Town Trust. An appropriate location had been identified and proposals awaited.

Cllr A Rush requested an update on the EAT Festival that took place recently? A very successful event, excellent footfall and traders happy and the organisers had applied for next year.

405 Next Full Council Meeting: 12th October 2021 at Charter Suite, Chipping Sodbury Town Hall at 19:30 hrs

Dated

Signed

The meeting closed at 21:02 hrs



