



# Sodbury Town Council

## Minutes of the meeting of Environment & Leisure Committee

### 21st January 2020, Sodbury Council Offices

**Committee Members:** Councillors B Allen, S Gibson, M Gilpin, C Hays, P Rumney, S Spooner & A Williams

**Present:** Councillors B Allen, M Gilpin, C Hays, P Rumney, S Spooner & A Williams

Cate Davidson – Town Clerk

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**45. Apologies**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Gibson.

**46. Declarations of Interest**

No interested were declared at this time.

**47. Approval of Minutes of 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

**Resolved** the Minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019 were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

**48. Matters Arising**

No matters were raised at this time.

**49. Budgets**

Members received and noted the current spend to date for this committee as circulated.

The Clerk advised that the committee is on track and is likely to come in at a slight underspend at the end of the year.

The Clerk informed members that following concerns about the bills for Clock Tower electricity she has done some calculations for usage over the last year. Although the main meter is in the public conveniences and is used for billing, the TIC does have a sub-meter which registers the usage by the TIC only. Many years ago, the Council re-billed the TIC for usage but this stopped as there was such little being used. Over the years this has increased substantially and over the last year the TIC has used £1,296.90 out of a total bill of £1,566.05. The Clerk asked members to consider this matter going forward and suggested that it may be unfair to backdate a charge to the TIC when they have not been advised this would happen.

Following discussion, it was **Resolved** to take the following proposal to Full Council: "From the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 the Tourist Information Centre is charged for the electricity consumed in the TIC, quarterly in arrears."

**50. Public Conveniences**

The Clerk advised that there has been a delay in the night closure of the conveniences but she has reminded the caretaker about this matter. Members were informed that there have been no incidents of note since the last meeting.

**51. Play Areas**

Members were advised that the toddler swing seats are due to be installed today so they will be up and running.

In relation to the safety surface members were reminded that Full Council had agreed the additional CIL expenditure for the installation of Type 1 hardcore prior to the wetpour being laid. This will happen in the Spring, once then weather is drier.

**52. Bus Shelters**

The Clerk informed members that a local resident has requested a bus shelter at the stop near Smarts Green. Members discussed the usage of the stop and that we should be encouraging use of public transport. It was **Resolved** that the Clerk is to obtain quotes for the installation of a 3-sided shelter and bring them to the next meeting for a decision.

**53. Water Refill Stations**

The Clerk has met with/contacted several people who have been involved in the installation of water refill stations and members noted the following matters:

- A suitable location needs to be found for a station. Discussion was had about whether it could be installed within one of the walls of the Clock Tower building.
- Ongoing costs include daily cleaning, weekly legionella testing and monthly sanitation works. The Council would need to appoint a suitable person to carry out the daily cleaning, was noted the liability this could be if it wasn't carried out properly.
- CH noted that several of the standalone stations in Bristol centre had been vandalised and members were concerned about this happening in Sodbury, particularly when the conveniences are subjected to frequent vandalism.

After discussion it was **Resolved** not to take this matter further at the current time but to support the Chamber of Commerce with its efforts in this regard.

**54. Grass Cutting**

Members noted the following decisions made by Full Council:

- Reduction of additional cuts from 5/6 to 3/4 pa saving £1,267
- Return Kennedy Way verges to SGC for a cut and collect trial saving £306
- Colts Green –returned to Commons Conservators for a saving of £1,967 to the local taxpayer. AW advised that the Hayward had contact him to discuss future maintenance.

**55. Dementia Bench**

Members received a request from the Parish Plan to adopt the dementia bench in the walkway between Waitrose and Hatheralls Yard once it has been installed. Members were informed that it has taken a number of years to get permission from Waitrose for this bench. It was **Resolved** that the Council will adopt the maintenance and insurance of the bench once it is installed.

**56. Items to report**

- There is a bench in Church Lane which is broken on the green bank up the hill – Clerk was asked to arrange repair
- The Clerk was reminded about 2 benches in need of attention on the main road through Old Sodbury. The Clerk advised that she asked for these to be repaired some time ago and was surprised it hasn't happened. – Clerk to chase
- Concern was raised about the maintenance issues other than routine jobs which were falling behind. Discussion was had about appointing a separate contractor to carry out these jobs. The Clerk is to have a discussion with the current contractor.

**57. Date of next meeting:** To be confirmed – 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020

The meeting closed at 20.14

Signed ..... *Brenda Allen* ..... Dated ..... *10-2-2021* .....