



Sodbury Town Council

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee
27th July 2021, held at Town Council offices at 19:30 hrs**

Committee Members:

Councillors: B Allen (Chair), S Gibson, M Gilpin, C Hays, B Romaine, P Rumney, P Smith, S Spooner, A Williams

Present:

Cllrs B Allen (Chair), B Romaine, P Rumney, P Smith & S Spooner

Clerk: Cate Davidson

111. Apologies

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs Gibson and Gilpin. Cllrs Hays and Williams were absent.

112. Declarations of Interest

Cllr S Spooner in relation to item 119 – Summer Activities

113. Approval of Minutes of 1st June 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of 1st June 2021 are approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

114. Matters Arising

The Clerk advised the litter bin has now been installed in Two Stones Lane.

115. Budget 2020/21 – Spend to date (circulated)

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

The Clerk advised that expenditure is as expected and there will be a considerable saving with the playscheme due to the activities being provided this year.

Members were reminded that responsibility for the Public Conveniences has been transferred over to the Markets Committee. This Committee is now responsible for Old Sodbury Woodland and the Climate Emergency Working Group.

116. S106 – Play Area Funding – The Ridings Play Area

Cllr Spooner reported that a positive meeting had been held with representatives from STC and the Town Trust. Trustees support the proposals for teenage play equipment in principal, to be installed in the location by the large tree to the side of the football pitch. It has been agreed that once the works to the tree have taken place suppliers are invited to submit proposals and quotes for the area available. The Clerk advised that Trustees



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have arranged for the tree to be cut back and the ivy removed which will take place at the beginning of September.

Members noted this is a great opportunity to work collaboratively with the Town Trust and members **Resolved** that the Chair, Vice and Clerk continue to take this matter forward with Trustees.

117. Grass Cutting Contract

The Clerk had circulated the current specification and maps in relation to this contract in advance of the meeting. The Clerk explained to members about the “buy back” contract on areas that SGC have responsibility for which was introduced under the Localism agenda some years ago. In addition there are a number of areas that STC are solely responsible for which SGC currently has the contract for cutting.

Discussion was had about the positive environmental impact reduced cutting could have but that this must be managed alongside highways safety and public access to amenity areas.

After some discussion it was **Resolved** that the following alterations be made to the contract which is due to be re-tendered at the end of this year:

- Areas 3, 5, 6 & 9 to require a medium cut Six times a year (reduced from the current ten times a year) between 1st April and 30th September annually.
- Areas 7, 8 & 10 to remain the same – a medium cut six times a year between 1st April and 30th September annually.
- Map 11 – SGC “Buy Back” areas (noting that SGC will continue to cut these twice a year) – STC to fund an additional two cuts a year (reduced from the current eight additional cuts).

The Clerk advised that the Floral Watering Contract is also due to be renewed for next year. Discussion was had about the watering that Bob Janes does in addition to the STC contract and the concerns about how this is managed. Members advised that specification for the STC contract should not include any other watering – SiB can be advised of the contractor once they are appointed but additional requirements would not be considered during the tendering process.

118. The Ridings Play Area

Members noted that the entrance gate in the play area is broken and no longer meets safety standards. Several companies have been contacted in relation to repairing/replacing the gate but after site visits have not progressed the works further.

A quote has been received from GB Sports for replacement of the single gate alongside the single one next to it. It was decided that the double gate does not need replacing and quotes should be sought for replacement of the single gate only.



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In addition members were advised the grass area by the gate inside the play area gets extremely muddy during wet weather. The Clerk was asked to investigate the installation of "grasscrete".

119. Summer Activities

The Clerk circulated a report in advance of the meeting. The following points were noted:

- A week of athletics taking place on The Ridings week of 2nd August. 2 sessions; 10-12 and 13-15.
- 15 children in each group
- Total cost of athletics £1,060
- 25 Sodbury and 10 non-Sodbury children are booked in
- A week of crafts taking place in the Old Grammar School week of 23rd August. 1 session 9.30-12.30 with up to 20 children per sessions.
- Total cost of crafts sessions £1,460
- So far 13 Sodbury and 13 non-Sodbury children are booked in.
- The Town Lands Charity has given a grant of £2,000 towards the activities.

The Clerk advised she will report further at the next meeting once the activities have taken place.

120. Climate Working Group

Cllr Spooner advised that the group is arranging a Climate Action Event in the Town Hall on 18th September which links in with the Big Green Week- a national event. A number of organisations will be exhibiting to cover a wide range of topics.

Members were informed that Cllr Spooner and the Clerk are hoping to meet with Cllr A Rush to discuss the matter of the field allotment. There is uncertainty about the Terms of Reference for the Allotment Committee and very few people seem to know much about it. The Clerk advised that she often receives request for allotments which are primarily forward to the Badminton Estate. Contact with all allotment providers in Sodbury was made in October – two reported that they have waiting lists but the Badminton Estate has yet to report back despite numerous reminders. It was agreed that SS and CD continue to move this forward.

121. Old Sodbury Woodland

Cllr Spooner advised that the Cotswold AONB granted £7,500 towards the costs of the orchard. The grant is paid in 3 stages in arrears, members confirmed that upfront costs can be met by the Council once written confirmation of the award has been received.

Work that has already taken place includes the installation of land marker posts as required in the deed of sale by Network Rail; planting of wildflower area; fencing to stop livestock accessing the woodland area.



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A meeting was held with the Woodland Trust last week, they have agreed the planting of 4,000 trees is possible and this will be done at no cost to the Council. The Woodland Trust can arrange for the woodland to be used to provide carbon offsetting which can bring an income. SS will arrange for the paperwork to be sent to the Clerk.

Cllr Rumney advised members that it would be beneficial if there was path running down alongside the NWR vehicular path for walkers. Members asked PR to discuss this matter with landowners and report back at the next meeting.

122. Items to Report

Cllr Spooner is to arrange for the second toddler swing seat to be re-instated in the O/S play area having been removed for social distancing purposes. Concerns were raised about inadequate fixing of the bee springer in the play area which has resulted in it having to be removed until it can be repaired. The Clerk is to chase this up with GB Sports.

Cllr Romaine advised that she is organising a stall at the EAT festival on behalf of the Climate Group. Several ideas for this were discussed. SS offered to complete the Risk Assessment for the stall and investigate public liability insurance. The stall is free but there will be a charge for PL insurance – members agreed this can be purchased as long as it is a minimum cost

123. Date of next meeting – 26th October 2021

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.20

Signed *Brenda Allen*

Dated *2 - 11 - 2021*