



Sodbury Town Council

**Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council
9th November 2021 at 19:30 hrs held at
Chipping Sodbury Town Hall, Charter Suite**

Present: Councillors B Allen, J Ball (Chair), L Banister, S Gibson, A Gregson, C Hays, B Romaine, P Rumney, S Spooner, A Rush, L Rush, A Williams

Cate Davidson – Town Clerk
Jackie Murley – Assistant Clerk

Residents x 14

Evacuation statement read out by the Chairman

A Public Participation

(1) An Old Sodbury resident addressed Members with regard to an ongoing matter relating to a piece of land in Old Sodbury. The resident thanked the Clerk for correspondence received regarding a Stopping Up Order but requested that, in future, her preference was to receive correspondence in advance of meetings and/or Councillors.

(2) A Chipping Sodbury resident addressed Members in relation to Agenda item 431 Parking Restriction Proposals and that the problem of inconsiderate parking by employees of local businesses was brought to SGC's attention in 2019. Since that time, the pandemic had brought about working from home and the closure of one large business. As a result, the issue of inconsiderate parking no longer existed in the area and the scheme not required or up-dated. The proposals, as stated, would be to the detriment of local people and businesses.

(3) A representative from the Baptist Church addressed Members and reported problems with inconsiderate parking by stall holders on Thursday market day. Difficulties had occurred on lunch club days at drop off and pick up times, with walkways to the church blocked creating difficulties for those with mobility issues. Action – Clerk to contact Green Tops with a request to maintain a pedestrian access to the church.

422 Apologies and Chairman's Remark

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs Gilpin, Smith, Tubby

423 Declarations of Interests and Granting of Dispensations

None

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

Cllr A Rush reported

- i. the next Council meeting would be held in December. A Cabinet Meeting took place on Monday with an Agenda item of 'Green Infrastructure Strategy' – a huge

document (370 pages) looking at all the green areas in the County. Noted no financial resources available to take forward.

- ii. The Council Tax increase looked to be 4.99% including an increase for social care provision. The Annual Council Budget 2022/23 was out for Consultation
- iii. The Local Plan Stage 2 would be out in Feb/March 2022. Areas that had no allocation of houses in the past were likely to be allocated, with land off St Johns Way a potential area. The Strategic Development Strategy (SDS) is behind schedule
- iv. The Brook Street Public Rights of Way issue raised 8 years ago had been allocated to a consultant to investigate.

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

Cllr Banister reported with regard to the Library and that it had been busy with recruitment of nine new volunteers. In addition, a Christmas event for volunteers was scheduled for the 10th December as a way to say thank you. Craft sessions were being re-introduced aiming to get the library back to normality.

426 Approval of Minutes of Full Council Meeting of 12th October 2021

RESOLVED the Minutes of Full Council Meeting of 12th October 2021 are approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

NB Correction made to location in header.

427 Matters Arising

The Clerk updated with regard to Family Food 4 Free – the matter having been referred to SGC who had appointed the Community Voluntary Service to assist with relocation.

428 Finance – Payment of Accounts

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

429 Correspondence

Requiring Response/Comments/Action

- o Horse St resident re Market Pitchings
- o Broad St resident re parking on Market Pitchings
- o High St resident re ownership of Market Pitchings
- o High St resident re parking
- o Baptist Church re concerns in relation to dropping off of lunch club members on market day
- o Local residents – various concerns in relation to parking of market vans on the Pitchings

Discussed at Agenda item 430

For Information Only (as circulated)

- Sew & Sew Options Group – Thank you for grant of £500

430 Market Pitchings

- The “ownership” issue and use of the Pitchings was discussed at length and the following comments made by Members-

- Some residents' Deeds state they owned the Pitchings outside of their properties but lack of clarity
 - The land (Pitchings) was not registered. An application to Land Registry by the Beaufort Estate was made 15 years ago but turned down
 - Sodbury TC had a rolling lease with the Beaufort Estate
 - Land grabbing in Broad Street continued to be a problem with some businesses and residents blocking off areas of the Pitchings for their own use
 - The town looked untidy
 - The old Natwest building was undergoing refurbishment with a large area outside fenced off and taking up parking spaces on the Pitchings
- Despite e-mails to the Badminton Estate requesting a meeting, no response had been received. Action: Cllr Williams to pass on a letter to Beaufort Estate
 - An Artisan Market was currently under trial and the following comments made:
 - The Baptist Church reported a problem with dropping off lunch club members due to vans blocking an area in front of the Church. They requested a gap be left to allow access to the Church
 - Although no complaints received, a noisy generator was situated on the Pitchings
 - Clerk to contact Green Top (market organiser) to address above issues and refer to Markets Committee
 - Further to consideration of the above points, Clerk to action as follows:-
 - Write to Fannon Estates re Natwest refurb and ask to remove fencing prior to Remembrance Parade now that works complete. Thank Fannon Estates for cleaning of the War Memorial
 - Organise a walk-around and encourage businesses not to block off Pitchings. Cllrs Banister, Romaine, A & L Rush volunteered. Staff to arrange a Doodle poll to set a date and time.
 - Follow-up the walk-around with a letter to businesses

It was noted that some residents felt the Council minutes were incorrect to state they do not own the Pitchings outside of their properties. As this is an unclear area, the minutes are to remain as approved previously.

431 **Parking Restriction Proposals**

South Gloucestershire Council had put forward a proposal for parking restrictions in the following streets:- *Bowling Hill, Chestnut Drive, Culverhill Road, Elm Close, Highfield Rd, Leaman Close, Rounceval St, The Parade*

The matter was discussed at length and it was noted the proposals were put forward due to inconsiderate parking in the area. Since COVID and more people working from home, the problem had disappeared. It was reported Highfield Road continued to be an issue with parking on a bend and lack of visibility. In addition, yellow lines were worn and needed repainting. Horse Street did not form part of the proposals but it was reported parking issues continued in that area.

RESOLVED : Clerk refer to SGC and request a full 12 week Consultation period as it was unclear for residents and more time required. In addition, Members to walk the area to fully understand the scheme as proposed.

Handwritten signature and initials, possibly 'S. Banister'.

432 Town Council Property (quotes circulated)

At a Finance & General Purposes meeting, it was resolved to seek quotes for

1. Refurbishment and reopening of the ladies public conveniences
2. Undertaking of a report to assess the town council office, The Old Reading Rooms (ORR) specifically in relation to damp and lack of ventilation in the office

The clerk confirmed she contacted Hill Construction who were familiar with the buildings and town. Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to appoint Hill Construction to (1) prepare documents in relation to the refurbishment of the ladies public conveniences, and (2) undertake and prepare a report for TORR, specifically on ventilation in the office and damp in the hallway, capped to 5 hours work.

433 Trees in the Street

Cllr L Rush reported on the value of trees in a High Street and the benefits they would bring to Chipping Sodbury. Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED** to refer the matter to Environment & Leisure Committee for further consideration. One Member against the proposal.

434 Items of Report

Cllr Gregson reported with regard to the town car park and a problem with leaves and who was responsible for cleaning/raking up? The Clerk confirmed she would liaise with Waitrose who were responsible for that area.

Cllr Banister reported an incident of ASB in the area with reported forced entry to a garden and a door kicked down which had been reported to the Police.

Cllr Spooner reported (1) As discussed at E&L Committee, the Local Nature Action Plan (LNAP) had been adopted – a 5 year plan. SGC would give 3 mature trees for planting within the town and a decision needed on where to position (2) planting at Old Sodbury Woodland would take place on 27/11/21 with 4000 trees planned for the season, provided by Woodland Trust.

Cllr Romaine reported contact with the Commons Clerk with regard to planting of trees but was advised that the Common would not be appropriate location.

Cllr Allen reported an attempted break-in at her property. **Action:** Clerk to contact PC Ken Hill to attend next meeting.

Cllr Ball advised a small Service would take place at the War Memorial on 11th November.

Cllr Ball passed thanks to David Shipp and Jim Fannon for cleaning of the War Memorial

435 Next Full Council Meeting: 14th December 2021 at 19:30 hrs – Chipping Sodbury Town Hall, Charter Suite

Dated

Signed

The meeting closed at 21:00 hrs