



## Minutes of a Meeting of the Markets Committee 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022, 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 & Andy Williams (Chair)

Town Clerk – Cate Davidson  
Messrs Porter – W & K N Rowland  
Mr Paul Whittle – Christmas Lights

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The chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

**1. Apologies**

No apologies were received. Cllrs A & L Rush were absent.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

No interests were declared at this time.

**3. Approval of Minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**Resolved** the Minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

**4. Matters Arising**

No matters were raised at this time.

**8. Mop Fair Licence – brought forward**

It was **Resolved** that the following fair dates are approved:

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> April and 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> September 2022

24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> March and 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023

It was **Resolved** that the licence is approved as circulated to all in advance of the meeting.

Cllr Gregson advised those present that the Council has declared a climate emergency and the Mop Fair has the biggest CO2 contribution that the Council makes. Now that red diesel is only available to agriculture what is the plan? CP replied that the Showmans Guild has an exemption and can still use red diesel.

Discussion was had about more environmentally friendly fuels including HVO – trials are taking place and feedback will be available in September.

A plan of the fair was circulated to members and it was **Resolved** that the plan be approved. Cllr Williams advised that there were very few problems found at the initial

walk round before the last fair opened and any problems were rectified promptly. Messrs Porter were reminded to use as many cable covers as possible and members agreed that the Waltzer can be set up the night before the fair by the Clock Tower. Members will meet at 17.30 on 1<sup>st</sup> April for an inspection prior to the opening of the next fair.

Messrs Porter left the room whilst the fee was discussed. Discussion was had about the cleaning of the Pitchings and it was noted that this is the only time the Pitchings get properly cleaned. It was **Resolved** that the Clerk liaises with SGC in regards to the cleaning of the Pitchings in March.

It was **Resolved** that the fee for 2022 will be £2,500 with an additional £350 towards the cleaning.

Messrs Porter re-joined the meeting and were advised of the fees. It was agreed that the road closure would be extended to 3am with cleaning starting at 1am.

The Clerk advised members that the owners of the old Natwest building had spoken to James Ball about the closure of the road and the fact they need 24 hour access to their building. Members responded that the road is closed and for H&S reasons access cannot be permitted whilst the fair is open. During the period the fair is closed residents and businesses are able to access their properties.

Members thanked Messrs Porter for attending who then left the meeting.

#### **7. Christmas Lights and Stars – Brought forward**

A report from Paul Whittle was circulated to all in advance of the meeting and it was noted that PW has been making and repairing the stars since 2006 when he was a Councillor. The current lights have been in place since 2016. This will be the last year that PW deals with the lighting and after discussion it was agreed that it would be handed over to AG who has experience.

The lights and stars will need to be PAT tested prior to installation. PW/AG to advise the Clerk when works completed so this can be arranged.

A report from the current tree contractor was given and concerns were raised about problems with the trees in the extreme high winds which were suffered in December. Future installation would have to include a cost for the daily inspection of the trees and remedial actions if necessary.

It was reported that the 8 trees in the street take up at least 16 parking spaces and it is now time we consider having one big tree at the centre of the town in a location to be decided, the space outside of the Spar was identified as being favourable. Some discussion took place about this and it was agreed that if we go down this route the tree would have to be spectacular at about 5 metres high and very bushy.

Discussion was had about the festoon lighting and it was suggested that this becomes predominantly white with a theme every year facilitating some additional colour to be included representing a theme and this information relayed to businesses around the town. CD expressed concerns about this when relying on volunteers to deal with the festoon lighting.

It was **Resolved** that a request be made to the Thrive fund for funding towards the set up for one large Christmas tree in the town including installation of electrics – Clerk to progress this matter and update at the next meeting.

**5. Income & Expenditure**

Members noted the budget schedules to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 and it was **Resolved** that they be approved

**6. Artisan Food & Crafts Market**

Members received a request from Grenntop Markets to hold a monthly market rather than the weekly market as per the trial. Discussion was had and it was felt this was inevitable as support hadn't been as positive as it could have been. It was reported that feedback from the Chamber of Commerce suggested it had stretched itself too thin with opening up several markets at the same time. It was **Resolved that** a monthly market be approved with the same footprint as the trial market.

**9. Public Conveniences – Refurbishment of Female Facility**

Members were advised that the Clerk and PR would be meeting with Hill Construction tomorrow morning to move this forward. The clerk will circulate an update after the meeting. The Clerk reported that she has suggested that any available Thrive funding could be used towards the re-opening and SGC is currently considering this.

**10. Items to Report**

LB advised that the Chamber of Commerce will be applying to the Thrive fund for funds to cover subs for 22/23 and well as production of local maps.

**11. Date of next meeting: 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

Meeting closed at 20:40

Signed: ..... Chairman

Dated .....