



Sodbury Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

2nd November 2021, held in The Charter Suite, Chipping Sodbury Town Hall 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), S Gibson, C Hays, B Romaine, P Rumney, P Smith, S Spooner, A Williams

Clerk: Cate Davidson

Admin Assistant: Lucy Shilcock

124. Apologies

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Gilpin.

125. Declarations of Interest

None to report

126. Approval of Minutes of 27th July 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of 27th July 2021 are approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

127. Matters Arising

Cllr Spooner advised the committee that the second toddler swing has been reinstalled and the bee springer has now been fixed in the O/S play area.

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

Members received and approved the current spend to date for this committee as circulated. It was **NOTED** that:

- Grass cutting (SGC) had overspent but this could be covered by an underspend in grass cutting (additional)
- Floral watering had slightly overspent due to extra watering required during the very dry period
- Play scheme has underspent – to be further discussed under Item 132 of this meeting

129. Budget 2022/2023 – Draft (circulated)

Members received and discussed the draft budget.

It was **NOTED** that that all grass cutting services will be re-tendered for 2022/2023 but no budgetary proposals had yet been received from SGC in relation to their grass cutting costs



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so the figures included for this in the draft budget are indicative only and may be subject to change.

RESOLVED the draft E&L budget for 2022/2023 as circulated be adopted.

130. Ridings Play Area

Further to email correspondence sent to Members, it was formally **RESOLVED** to appoint Greenfields to supply and install replacement self-closing gate at a cost of £1728.

Cllr Spooner provided a verbal update in relation to the proposed new equipment. The following points were **NOTED**:

- Three suppliers had visited site and initial indicative plans have been received from two suppliers to date
- The general project brief will be to create an exciting and challenging area for older children aged 8 to 15
- A formal tender process will need to be undertaken due to the value of the project
- STC Council staff have begun the S106 application process by completing a draft Expression of Interest form for submission to SGC in due course.

131. Hanging Basket Contract

Members discussed going out to tender for the supply of floral displays within the town. A draft tender document (circulated) was received and reviewed.

The following discussion points were **NOTED**:

- The Town Council floral displays are separate to those purchased and maintained by Sodbury in Bloom
- The Clerk has been investigating whether grant funding may be available to support the purchase of 'self-watering' baskets, and also whether the weight of these would make them prohibitive located on the existing fixings. An update will be provided regarding both points once this information becomes available.

Members **RESOLVED** to go out to tender using the draft tender document as circulated.

132. Summer Activities

The Clerk circulated a report in advance of the meeting. Members discussed the content and the following points were **NOTED**:

- The athletics sessions had a higher number of attendees than the craft sessions
- Currently there is budgetary provision to allow for both types of sessions to be run again in 2022
- A discussion took place regarding the variance between numbers booked and numbers who actually attended. The Clerk mentioned that in previous years, a £10 booking fee was payable. This may be something to be consider reinstating in 2022



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- Anecdotally, lots of parents seem unaware of the summer activities offered, so more advertisement of the scheme could be considered for 2022

Members commented that they liked having the two sessions, athletics and crafts as they attract both different age groups and also possibly, different interests which children may have and it was **RESOLVED** that the budget be retained and that 2 types of session, athletics and crafts, will be run again in 2022.

133. Climate Working Group

Cllr Spooner and Cllr Romaine advised that following the success of the Climate Fair held in September, a meeting of the Climate Working Group would be convened ASAP to discuss the fair and way forward.

Cllr Spooner further advised that he had met with the Clerk and an energy consultant to review the Town Council energy consumption and supplier and to ensure we are as efficient and green as is practicable.

The Local Nature Action Plan (LNAP)(circulated before the meeting) was received and discussed. Members **RESOLVED** to formally adopt The Local Nature Action Plan, and it was subsequently noted that upon adoption, SGC will gift STC three mature trees. The location for these will need to be considered in due course.

134. Old Sodbury Woodland

Cllr Spooner advised that the initial planting programme has been scheduled and will begin with orchard planting (late November). This will be followed by Woodland planting (beginning in December and continuing into 2022). The overall aim is to plant 4,000 trees this season.

Cllr Rumney advised members that it would be beneficial if there was a stile entrance onto the woodland from Chapel Lane with low level fencing. Cllr Spooner offered to mark out this suggestion on a map and circulate for discussion at a future meeting.

135. Items to Report

Cllr Williams reported that feedback he has received so far in relation to the Thursday market has been very positive, with some small issues still in the process of being ironed out (church access, noise from a generator and traders parking in the spaces by The Clocktower). The Clerk advised that all items will be discussed as required at a future 'Markets Meeting' (date to be confirmed).

Cllr Allen reported that the fashion boutique 'Sassy and Boo' located in Chipping Sodbury High Street is closing down. They had said one of the trading challenges they faced was an absence of a permanent Post Office in the town.

136. Date of next meeting – 25th January 2022

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.15pm

Signed *Sue Allen* Dated *1-2-22*

