



Sodbury Town Council

**Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council
8th February 2022 at 19:30 hrs, held at
Old Sodbury Village Hall**

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

Cate Davidson – Town Clerk
Jackie Murley – Assistant Clerk

PC Ken Hill, Avon & Somerset Constabulary

Residents x 6

A Public Participation

An Old Sodbury resident addressed Members as a Community Speedwatch representative in Old Sodbury. Speeding in the area continued to be a problem with little support from South Gloucestershire Council and the situation became worse at night with 40/50 tonne trucks speeding through the village. He went on to say that Kingswood Parish Council in Gloucestershire had recently purchased 3 cameras. He made a request that Sodbury TC make application to Avon & Somerset Constabulary for funding of cameras on Badminton Road, Old Sodbury. The following comments were also made:-

- *A request for a crossing was lodged with SGC but not on the "priority" list*
- *'30mph' flashing signs were ineffective*
- *The overtaking lane should be removed*
- *A recent planning app for 35 houses was refused with an objection from SGC identifying speeding traffic as an issue on Badminton Rd, indicating SGC recognised it to be a problem*

The Clerk confirmed (1) she was waiting to hear back from Kingswood Parish Council with regard to costs of the cameras and (2) would contact Cllr Toby Savage and the CEO of South Glos Council.

A Chipping Sodbury resident addressed Members with regard to increased ASB, particularly between 19:00 – 21:00 and that Police presence could be more prominent. PC Hill confirmed more officers were in the area and that a group of youths had recently been identified with one person being placed on an Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC) and two pending. In addition, the resident raised concerns with regard to crossing the road from Horseshoe Lane to Brook Street. Vision was poor together with speeding traffic making it a dangerous area to cross. The Clerk added a crossing had been suggested at the time of the Waitrose development but declined on Conservation grounds. Action – (1) Clerk to liaise with SGC Highways for reason for refusal (2) "High Street Road Safety" to be an Agenda item for March (3) request to SGC Highways for repainting of roundels – it was decided that all Highways matters to be referred to the next meeting including speeding in Old Sodbury – Clerk to make contact with leaders of SGC after the next meeting.

Use of e-scooters was also identified as a problem with inconsiderate and dangerous riding on pavements. PC Hill confirmed privately owned e-scooters could only be used on private land. The only legal e-scooters were those used as part of a council-sanctioned scheme, eg Voi.

452 Apologies and Chairman's Remark

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs. S Tubby, S Gibson, B Romaine

453 Declarations of Interests and Granting of Dispensations

None to report

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

Cllr A Rush reported (1) the planning application for new homes in Old Sodbury had been refused (2) the planning application for Trinity Lane had been approved but the site currently underwent an archaeological investigation as Roman remains discovered (3) the Elms Estate Consultation would not be proceeding as the parking issue no longer existed (4) a property in Horse Street was the subject of a Planning Appeal (4) attendance at an energy briefing that related to UK's prototype fusion energy plant – STEP project (Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production). Five UK sites being considered with one being Oldbury

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

Cllr Spooner reported attendance at a Tourist Information Centre (TIC) meeting. The finances were presented with a 2 year projection with a projected loss for 2022 of £7,500 based on current forecast which indicated the TIC was not viable. £9000 was required to operate. Much of the loss was attributed to lack of income from tickets sales as on-line booking took over. **Action** Clerk – F&GP Agenda item.

Cllr Banister reported for Chamber of Trade and that (1) a new town map had been launched with copies distributed to service stations, hotels and tourist locations in the area (2) Fiver Fest would return for March with £5 offers from retailers (3) a Summer Search planned for 2022 (4) AGM scheduled for 15 May with no subscription for 2022 (5) Thrive funding available to help businesses recover from pandemic. Suggestions put forward to SGC, eg ladies toilets, Christmas lights, Sodbury in Bloom. Outcome awaited. (6) Attendance at Library Partnership meeting and reported Christmas event and Childrens' Activities successful and looking forward to 2022

456 Approval of Minutes of Full Council Meeting on 14th December 2021

RESOLVED the Minutes of Full Council Meeting of 14th December 2021 are approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

457 Matter Arising

None to report at this time.

458 Finance – Payment of Accounts

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

Noted item for back-dated business rates. Cllr Spooner confirmed he had referred to the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) where there is a breakdown of charges as the Snuggery is now charged about £1,700 a year in business rates.

It was reported the Clock Tower Clock was illuminated throughout the night and whether this was necessary. **Action** : Clerk to liaise with Chipping Sodbury Town Trust

The Clerk reported a contractor had just carried out a building survey of The Old Reading Rooms, specifically with regard to the damp issue and a report awaited.

459 Correspondence

Requiring Response/Comments/Action

Local resident – Concerns regarding speeding in Old Sodbury and the lack of action by SGC (e-mailed)

RESOLVED: *Discussed at Public Participation. Agenda for March 2022.*

Local resident – concerns regarding the approval of the Trinity Lane II Planning Application (e-mailed)

RESOLVED: *Clerk to write to resident noting comments*

The Clerk stressed the importance of Members engaging with the current Local Plan Consultation & attendance at pop up events in various locations as this is an agenda item next month. Cllr A Rush added there was currently no planning application for Land East of St Johns Way. Following discussion, the Clerk confirmed 'Neighbourhood Plan' would be added to April Agenda.

ICO – Notification that the matter is being referred to a case officer and the Town Council will have one opportunity to defend its rejection of the FOI enquiry

Noted

For Information Only

Request to review the FOI decision made by the Clerk and ratified at the December Full Council meeting. To note that the Clerk met with the Chairman to review the decision that was made. The decision was upheld and in addition the Clerk wrote to all correspondents asking if they would give permission for their names to be made public – all objected to this and concerns were raised. The Clerk has advised the applicant of the decision and advised of the complaints procedure.

460 Police Update

PC Ken Hill attended the meeting following concerns from residents on anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the town. He reported as follows:-

- *During Oct-Dec a spate of domestic burglaries – a vehicle identified but no arrests to date*
- *An increase in school break-ins*
- *ASB in Chipping Sodbury High Street ie broken glass, knocking on doors. One person placed on ABC (Acceptable Behaviour Contract)*
- *Working with Pub Watch – increase in aggressive behaviour by young people. Potential 2 year ban and those 'egging-on' could receive 3 month ban. Education required.*
- *Increased ASB patrols*
- *E-scooter action days - schools*
- *Drug awareness classes at schools for Year 9*
- *Speed Enforcement active in 4-6 hotspot sites per month. Speedwatch volunteers needed – apply through Police website*
- *Drug Awareness Week – 7-11 March*
- *Beat Surgery – Gaunts Road Community Hub 24 and 25 Feb*

Members addressed PC Ken Hill:-

- *Cllr L Rush referred to speeding lorries at Old Sodbury and contacting lorry companies to report incidents. Speedwatch to action.*
- *Cllr Rumney reported parking opposite The Boot PH caused obstruction. The matter had been referred to SGC several times. Action – Agenda item for March.*

PC Hill was thanked for attending the meeting.

461 Old Sodbury Ward - Vacancy

The Clerk reported no call had been made for an election. The following was **RESOLVED**:

- Advertisement of Co-option to commence on 9/2/22
- Closing date 28/2/22
- Co-option to take place at Full Council on 8/3/22

462 Street Lighting – Horseshoe Lane

The Clerk reported she met with a South Gloucestershire Council officer and local residents in relation to the removal of power line columns. An alternative location had been identified but it was noted a large area would remain unlit which raised concerns of safety and increased ASB. A discussion took place and it was **RESOLVED** to refer to SGC to investigate ground lighting.

463 Internal Audit 2022/2023

RESOLVED: Mr Iain Selkirk be appointed as Internal Auditor for 2022/2023 at a cost of £230.00.

464 Committee Appointments

Following the resignation of Cllr M Gilpin, the following was **RESOLVED**:-

- Shopmobility – Cllr Banister
- Sodbury Common Allotments – Cllr Spooner
- South Glos Youth Housing – representative not required as no houses currently in our locality and Clerk to advise SGYH
- Environmental Link Group – Refer to Clerk
- E&L, Climate Working Group, Sodbury in Bloom – to be decided on appointment of new Councillor

465 Items of Report

Cllr Rumney reported plans were afoot for the Platinum Jubilee, eg beacon lighting and bag piper and the Clerk confirmed she had made contact with a Town Trust representative. Cllr A Rush confirmed a further tranche of funding would become available soon.

Cllr A Rush sought details for a Festival Committee contact. Cllr Banister to supply.

Cllr Banister referred to a “banking hub” in Southville whereby various banks utilise one location and share costs. She would carry out further investigation and report back.

Cllr Spooner reported (1) a meeting was due to take place with the Rotary Club to look at the Local Nature Action Plan (LNAP) and how to work together (2) Network Rail was due to visit Old Sodbury Woodland site next week and plant more trees (3) Commons Conservators meeting on 23/2/22.

Cllr Allen encouraged Members to use and promote Green Community Travel

Cllr A Rush reported increased activity at Family Food 4 Free and contact with SGC Enforcement for an update on the situation.

466 Next Full Council Meeting: 8th March 2022 – Charter Suite, Chipping Sodbury Town Hall

The meeting closed at 21:10 hrs

Dated

Signed