



Sodbury Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

1st February 2022, held in The Charter Suite, Chipping Sodbury Town Hall at 19:30 hrs

Committee Members:

Councillors: B Allen (Chair), S Gibson, 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

137. Apologies

None to report

138. Declarations of Interest

None to report

139. Approval of Minutes of 2nd November 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of 2nd November 2021 are approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

140. Matters Arising

Nothing to report

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

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

142. Contracts – Grass Cutting Contract (Sodbury Town Council Managed Spaces)

Members received a report and **NOTED** the following:

- 5 suppliers were approached
- The opportunity was advertised on the Town Council website and Facebook page
- 2 final quotations were received from Chewton Tree and Garden Services and South Gloucestershire Council as per the report

The 2 final proposals were discussed and it was formally **RESOLVED** to appoint Chewton Tree and Garden Services with the contract at a cost of £2,280 per annum, subject to satisfactory references being obtained.



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143. Contracts – Floral Displays and Watering

Floral Display Contract

The following was discussed and **NOTED**:

- A tendering process had been undertaken by Sodbury Town Council to obtain quotations for the supply of floral displays within the town;
- In retrospect, the tender process was started too late - it needs to be started in the Autumn months going forward;
- The late tender resulted in only one quotation being received;
- Other floral displays within the town are procured and managed by Sodbury in Bloom.

A discussion took place about the colour scheme required for the Town Council managed floral displays for the year ahead and Member **RESOLVED** as follows:

- Merediths be appointed to provide floral displays for 2022 as per the contract at a cost of £3,827;
- A coordinated approach should be taken in relation to all floral displays throughout the town, but Sodbury Town Council needs to manage this process in relation to their own floral displays;
- Sodbury in Bloom be asked to share information regarding their plans and colour scheme with Sodbury Town Council, who will then use this information to inform and influence the instructions which are given to the Town Council floral displays supplier;
- Sodbury Town Council to go out to tender for the 2023 floral displays in the autumn of 2022 (if floral displays are desired for 2023).

Watering Contract

It was **NOTED** that the watering contract was currently live and open to receive quotations – closing date for quotations received is 1st March 2022.

144. S106 – Ridings Play Area Project

A verbal update was received and the following was **NOTED**:

- Initial meeting with SGC Landscape Architect, reps from Town Trust and reps from STC took place on 17th January 2022 to discuss the scope of the project;
- Play trail seems likely to be best fit – consultation with young people will be undertaken to hone specification before formal tender process is entered into;
- Ideal timescale will be for the equipment to be installed before the summer holidays – may be ambitious but is currently the aim;
- Planning permission requirements are currently being explored.

145. Sodbury Town Council Play Areas

A verbal update was received in relation to maintenance of the existing play areas and the following was **NOTED**:



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- Old Sodbury:
 - Some repair to the timber of the fort has been instructed and is expected to be completed this week;
 - The gate to the field doesn't close – likely new hinges are required so it self closes.
- Ridings Play Area:
 - Gate – not fully self-closing, needs further investigation;
 - Entrance area is very muddy when wet – consider the addition of rubber matting.

Members **RESOLVED** that all of the suggestions above be implemented and associated expenditure may be spent.

146. Trees Located in Chipping Sodbury High Street

A report exploring the feasibility of locating trees in Chipping Sodbury High Street was received. A discussion took place around the contents and the feasibility of implementing any of the suggestions took place.

A motion was made that the subject of trees in Chipping Sodbury High Street be closed with no further action.

RESOLVED - a vote was taken and 6 members agreed, with 2 abstentions.

147. Climate Working Update

No new information to receive

148. Local Nature Action Plan

Cllr Spooner advised that he had met with a local resident to explore Sodbury Town Council's LNAP and to help put some tangible actions in place for the year ahead.

It was **NOTED** that one of the focus areas will be on increasing the orchards in the area. Only 5 fruit trees are needed to constitute an orchard, and thus Members were asked to make suggestions and to talk to anyone they know who may have enough land to have a small orchard planted in the future.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Spooner will lead on this so Members to advise him of any ideas directly. In addition, Sodbury Town Council to also make a general plea for land for small orchards via online methods.

149. Old Sodbury Woodland

Cllr Spooner advised that an incredible 2,150 trees have been planted so far, with more dates planned for the next couple of months meaning that the aim to plant 4,000 trees this season should be met.

It was **NOTED** that each of the trees has a 4ft tree shelter to protect it as it grows.



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It was further **NOTED** that a meeting is being convened with Network Rail this month to explore the access and water logging on the site.

150. Items to Report

Cllr Hays reported that Cotswold Homes Phase 2 had been given planning consent meaning that CIL monies may be available in the future. Consideration to be given as to how this could be spent for the betterment of the parish.

Cllr Rumney reported that he'd spotted a planning application had been submitted with the intention of creating a number of small lakes around the River Frome. The application contains interesting information about otters and other wildlife. Sodbury Town Council staff to look up planning number and investigate whether it had been invited to review and comment on the plans.

151. Date of next meeting – 22nd March 2022

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.30pm

Signed *Brenda Allen* Dated *22-3-2022*