



Sodbury Town Council

## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 19:30 hrs, Remote meeting held via Zoom**

**Present:** Councillors B Allen, J Ball (Chair), L Banister, C Hays (Vice Chair), M Gilpin, B Romaine, P Rumney, P Smith, S Spooner, A Rush, L Rush, A Williams

Cate Davidson – Town Clerk  
Jackie Murley – Assistant Clerk

Residents x 4

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The Chairman welcomed all to the Annual Parish Meeting 2021.

### **Approval of the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019**

RESOLVED the Minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

### **Reports from the Town Council**

Chairmen of the Town Council's Standing Committees presented their reports, summarised as follows:-

#### **Markets Committee – Chairman: Cllr Andy Williams**

Due to the COVID pandemic no events and /or use of the Pitchings had arisen and thus very little to report. It was hoped the Autumn Mop fair would return as well as a Remembrance Parade in November. In addition, a food festival was booked for August which would hopefully bring additional people to the town. With regard to Christmas Trees, the current contractor had indicated difficulty in sourcing trees for the town because of the height requirement and the Committee would consider alternative suppliers if necessary. Cate and Jackie were thanked for their support.

#### **Environment & Leisure Committee – Chairman: Cllr Brenda Allen**

The public conveniences continued to be open, closed and cleaned by SGC and although a successful exercise was at great expense to the town council. The 2020 playscheme was tailored to fit COVID regulations and outdoor athletics was organised on The Ridings. Sodbury in Bloom scaled down floral displays but continued to work hard to keep the High Street looking great and they were thanked for their hard work in the town. With regard to play areas, the swings at Old Sodbury were updated and it was noted that Old Sodbury and The Ridings were being used much more. Cate and Jackie were thanked for their support.

#### **Planning & Consultation Committee – Chairman: Cllr C Hays**

There was not a great deal of major activity with regard to planning applications with most being for regular house extensions. The Dyson Art Gallery application had been approved and the Transport Yard, Old Sodbury application for 16 dwellings had been withdrawn (Sodbury TC objected). The outcome of the application by Cotswold Homes for 95 dwellings at Trinity Lane was awaited. SGC continued to work on the Local Plan and various

consultations had taken place with the next phase providing greater clarity on development. Cate and Jackie were thanked for their support.

**Chairman: Cllr J Ball**

In a difficult year, Councillors were thanked for their hard work, support & patience, notably Chairs of Committees and Cllr A Rush (SGC Councillor). In addition, Cllr Spooner and Cate were thanked for their hard work and negotiation with regard to the purchase of land from Network Rail in conjunction with Sodbury Woodland & Nature (SWaN) and the formation of Old Sodbury Woodland. A few groups brought about specific mention ie Yate & Sodbury Clean up, Sodbury in Bloom, Family Food 4 Free and Vintage Birdcage who had all worked extra hard during the pandemic. Parishioners were thanked for sticking to the government guidelines with a high percentage now vaccinated thanks to the stellar job of the NHS. Cllr Ball looked forward to resuming Full Council meetings in the town hall in June. Cate and Jackie were thanked for keeping everything together during a difficult time.

**Climate Emergency – Cllr Spooner**

A Climate Group was set up at the end of 2020 to look at ways of addressing the carbon footprint. Ideas had been generated within the group and ways of implementing them would be the next step. The up and coming EAT festival could be an opportunity to get the message across. Presentation to be forwarded to the Clerk. The Chairman thanked Cllr Spooner for his efforts.

**Outdoor Play Provision**

The Clerk reported that S106 funding had been allocated from the Trinity Lane development for play provision at The Ridings, ie £53,000 capital and £56,000 revenue. Ideas were discussed on what facilities or upgrade could be implemented and consideration given to a multi-use games area (MUGA). Cllr Spooner confirmed he had walked the Ridings recently and given thought to appropriate areas to site a MUGA although this would need to be discussed with The Town Trust. In addition, the *maintenance* of a MUGA would need to be considered and the Clerk confirmed the £56K revenue could be capitalised if the town council took on responsibility for the maintenance. Further talks with SGC and the Town Trust to be continued and Cllr A Rush confirmed he would look into Cotswold Homes providing a parcel of land for outdoor play.

**Any Other Parish Business**

With regard to the website “*sodburyinfo.com*”, Cllr Spooner said as the country came out of lockdown, it would be an opportunity to promote the town and attract visitors and to advise him of any articles/items of interest that could be added to the website.

The Chairman thanked all those for attending and added that he hoped some normality would return soon. The meeting closed at 20:15 hrs.

Signed .....Chairman

Dated .....