



Sodbury Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council
7th June 2022 at 19:30 hrs, held at
Old Sodbury Village Hall

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

Cate Davidson – Town Clerk
Jackie Murley – Assistant Clerk

Public x 12

A Public Participation

A High Street resident addressed Members in relation to the Community Garden. As an immediate neighbour to the Community Garden, concern was raised with regard to lack of privacy and security worries with increasing groups visiting the garden. The resident requested Members give consideration to installing willow fencing as originally agreed 5 years ago. At that time, the neighbour had not felt the need for the whole length of the garden to be fenced and only a third completed but with increased visitors to the garden, retaining privacy was fundamental. The Chairman confirmed the matter would be discussed at Agenda item 529.

A representative from Sodbury in Bloom addressed members to confirm that she was present at the meeting to answer any questions in relation to the Community Garden.

The owner of Amigos restaurant, Broad Street addressed Members and referred to Agenda item 528 that related to a Licence for Tables & Chairs and seeking Members support. She reported at the previous Bank Holiday weekend, the restaurant closed at 8.45pm due to lack of customers as people preferred to sit outside during the good weather.

The owner of The Old Bank Hotel addressed Members to highlight that having tables and chairs outside of his business over the BH weekend, trade had increased, no complaints received and an application would be submitted for a Licence in due course.

A High Street resident addressed Members with regard to Agenda item 526 "Parking Matters" and that he had concerns with the proposed plan and that he considered there had been a lack of consultation by the town council. He agreed a problem existed with parked cars but the scheme proposed was unsatisfactory. The Chairman added the proposal was a starting point.

Further comments made by residents as follows:-

- *The Post Office van visited two days per week. Where would it be situated & how many spaces did it take up? The Clerk confirmed an area was currently barriered off outside the Clock Tower for filling up a water tank for watering baskets and that area would be used for the PO van going forward until an update received on when and if the PO would relocate to a property in the High Street*

- *Suggestion to form a small working party with residents, businesses and councillors in order to discuss further. The Chairman reported a committee was set up previously and residents invited but none turned up.*
- *People park and leave their cars all day from 8am to 5pm and the situation was getting worse.*
- *The Chamber of Commerce publicised/promoted parking at The Ridings but few took up the offer*
- *To make pavements safe was the main point*

517 Apologies and Chairman's Remark

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs. Linda Banister and Scott Gibson

The Chairman reported there had been huge support for the Big Lunch and lighting of the Beacon to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee and that Chipping Sodbury did her Majesty proud.

518 Declarations of Interests and Granting of Dispensations

None to report

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

Cllr A Rush reported (1) with regard to West of England Combined Authority (WECA), the Local Plan and Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) which had been reported on in local press recently. WECA was responsible for producing the SDS which was overdue and long awaited and until that document was in place, the Local Plan could not proceed. The initial version of the SDS indicated SGC stood to take 37,000 new homes which was 9,000 more than Government guidelines with the additional 9,000 coming from Bristol, as it was unable to provide them. WECA and SGC were in dispute, (2) six subsidised bus routes in Yate and Chipping Sodbury could be cut as talks with WECA collapsed over how much should be paid for loss making buses. Routes likely to be affected were 41, 84, 85, 202, 680 & 967 (3) Roman remains found at the Trinity Lane II development – a report to follow.

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

Cllr Allen attended a Parish Plan meeting when questions raised on allotments. Cllr A Rush added the field on Sodbury Common was not registered with Land Registry. A recent town council newsletter asked for those interested in allotments to e-mail the town council and a mailing group would be created. It was noted Trinity Lane had allotments which were cared for by a management company.

521 Approval of Minutes of Full Council Meeting on 3rd May 2022

RESOLVED the Minutes of Full Council Meeting held on 3rd May 2022 are approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair subject to amendment at 499 that Cllr Romaine seconded the nomination (not Cllr Allen).

522 Matter Arising

No matters raised at this time.

523 Finance – Payment of Accounts

RESOLVED that the schedule of payments were approved and signed by the Chairman.

524 Correspondence

Requiring Response/Comments/Action

- Bristol Orienteering Klub – event on 6th July as per email circulated to all 30/5/22
*Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to approve this request*

- SGC – consultation in relation to request from Rotary Club for licences for benches outside of Shabby Chic and Bluebird Care
*Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to approve Licences subject to consultation with property owners/landlords. Clerk to advise SGC.*
- SGC – Funding available for cleaning/sprucing up of High Street
Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to suggest to SGC :
 - Jet wash the flagstones on the pavement
 - Clean signage on the main roads into the town and within the town
 - Repair the cobbled areas in the centre of the highway
 Clerk to submit requests to SGC.
- Filton Concert Brass Band – Festival of Remembrance Concert – 16:30 on 13 November in the Town Hall. Request for attendance of Mayor, Councillors and other Remembrance Parade attendees.
RESOLVED that the town council would support the event. *It was noted that notification had been received from the marching band (Blenheim Scouts) that it was no longer able to take part in the Parade this year due to loss of members.*
- PC Ken Hill – Update in relation to ASB
The Clerk was in receipt of an e-mail from PC Ken Hill, summarised as follows:- Apologies for not being able to attend meeting. As of 30/5/22, local neighbourhood officers had been tasked to “Summer Demand” for next 17 weeks due to police services anticipating an increasing demand over the summer months. In addition, also seeing post pandemic effects on their partners and other blue light services with increased pressures on mental health services & ambulance service. In respect of ASB/intimidation and arson, 2 reports of arson over 2 separate occasions and last reported incident on 20/4/22. In respect of ASB, calls low with 11 reports for the area in an 8-week period. All incidents should be reported through 101 or 999.
- 3 x emails from residents in relation to item 526 – parking matters – emailed to all and attached to this schedule
The Clerk reported she was in receipt of an additional e-mail received just prior to the meeting which had been circulated to Members.

For Information Only

- David Shipp on behalf of CSTT thanking STC for the grant for beacon event
- Road Closure notices:
 - Trinity Lane 11 days for water main renewal works to take place during the period from 1st August 2022 for 18 months
 - Commonmead Lane 8th June for (estimated) 2 week period for resurfacing
 - Hounds Rd, Cotswold Rd, Horse St & Broad St for 4 weeks during the period from 1st August for 18 months

525 Proposals – East of Chipping Sodbury

Members considered the public consultation in relation to proposals by Persimmon Homes for circa 650 homes. During discussion, comments were made that flooding was an issue with a recent report suggesting river flow was forecast to increase by 70 per cent from the Frome.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that Members e-mail their objections to the proposals to the Clerk who would amalgamate and circulate for approval prior to submission to SGC with Persimmon copied in. One abstention recorded (Cllr C Hays).

526 Parking Matters – Chipping Sodbury

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- Concerns had been raised with regard to cars mounting the pavement to double park to the west of the Clock Tower which was validated by comments made at “Public Participation”
- The matter was raised in May 2018 but a proposed scheme put on hold
- The map/plan as circulated to residents and businesses in High Street raised more questions and not considered appropriate by residents
- Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to re-establish a parking working group (Cllrs. Ball, Gregson, Hays & Williams) and invite and involve residents. Action: Clerk to set up a meeting in the Town Hall and invite residents and businesses of High Street and Broad Street
- With regard to posts/bollards in High Street – Clerk to chase SGC.

527 The Old Reading Rooms

- Feedback was received following a Premises Working Group meeting with regard to the future of the Tourist Information Centre (TIC) and possible creation of a joint TIC/Heritage Centre in The Old Reading Rooms (TORR). During discussion, the following comments were made:-
 - *The TIC was currently in a prominent location and taking it inside TORR would be detrimental to its success*
 - *A lot of information now available on-line*
 - *How many people visit the Heritage Centre in Yate?*
 - *TIC was under financial pressure*
 - *Important to explore alternative options for the TIC*
 - *Clerk to plan a visit to Tetbury and Wotton TIC's to see how they operate*
- **RESOLVED** to bring back to table in September once information gathered on visitor numbers to TIC.
- Following a meeting with Luke Hall MP, confirmation was received that there were no plans to relocate office and that they are satisfied with the security of the building.

528 Tables and Chairs Licence - Amigos

- Members considered an application for a Licence on the pitching's for 9 x tables and 20 chairs/benches plus parasol with immediate effect until 15/10/22. The full licence application was circulated to all members in advance of the meeting.
- Discussion was had with AG advising that no furniture should be left out permanently and AR advising that any decision made would apply to all businesses in the town. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Licence as per the application with the the matter to be reviewed in October 2022. Action: Clerk to advise SGC Licensing. One abstention recorded.

529 Community Garden

- Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to allow Chipping Sodbury Rotary to use the garden on Fridays 10.30-12.30 during 3 months of the Summer to support older men with gardening activities and table game.
- It was NOTED the initiative was supported by Sodbury in Bloom which remains as co-ordinators for activities in the garden in liaison with the Clerk as necessary.
- At 'Public Participation' an immediate neighbour expressed concern with regard to increased visitors/groups to the garden which brought about lack of privacy and intrusion. Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to erect fencing to meet neighbour's requirement.

530 Items of Report

Cllr Seb Gibson reported he had been approached by a resident of Woodmans Close with regard to Queengrove, a previous Wardens House and ex Bromford social hub which had gone into disrepair and not currently in use and residents would like to see resurrected. Bromford had indicated in the past that residents stopped using it.

Cllr B Allen reported a full-size billiard table was available and whether the Youth Club would be interested?

531 Next Full Council Meeting: 12th July 2022 – Charter Suite, Chipping Sodbury Town Hall

The meeting closed at 21:03 hrs

Dated

Signed

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