



Sodbury Town Council

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee
22nd March 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), C Hays, B Romaine, P Rumney, P Smith

Admin Assistant: Lucy Shilcock

152. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors S Gibson, S Spooner and A Williams.

153. Declarations of Interest

None to report

154. Approval of Minutes of 1st February 2022

RESOLVED that the minutes of 1st February 2022 are approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

155. Matters Arising

Nothing to report

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

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

157. Contracts – Grass Cutting Contract

The following update was **NOTED**:

The Town Clerk emailed all Members of the E&L Committee (14.02.22) outlining the details of the Grass Cutting Buy-Back Localism Contract currently provided by South Gloucestershire Council.

To summarise, SGC own and grass cut this land twice per annum. Sodbury Town Council has been buying back an additional 6 cuts per annum. The price quoted to continue this contract for the next financial year was £5,223.78 per annum.

Members were asked to consider whether to renew or cancel this contract for the year ahead, however it was noted that cancellation will have a positive ecological benefit and also will result in a significant cost saving.

5 Members of the E&L Committee replied saying that the contract should be cancelled, with no responses to the contrary. 5 being a majority, so the contract was duly cancelled on 15.02.22



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RESOLVED: This Environment and Leisure Committee formalise the decision to cancel the SGC localism contract.

158. Contracts – Watering

The following information was **NOTED:**

- The Floral Displays Watering Contract Tender closed on 1st March 2022;
- One quotation was received – RD Janes at a cost of £7,800.

Members **RESOLVED** to award the contract to RD Janes at a total cost of £7,800.

159. High Street Bins

The following was **NOTED:**

- Proposals from South Gloucestershire Council to install larger bins in Chipping Sodbury High Street were received;
- Photos of the proposed bins had been circulated to all Councillors by the Clerk;
- An example of the proposed larger bin has been temporarily located outside of the Sodbury Town Council Offices.

After an in-depth discussion, members **RESOLVED** not to support the installation of these suggested bins on the High Street in principal, primarily for the following reasons:

- They are unattractive and visually jarring, extremely out of keeping with the environs of the historic and heritage High Street of Chipping Sodbury;
- The opening for depositing litter is much higher than the existing bins, meaning children or people in wheelchairs or mobility scooters will struggle to use the new bins.

Members further agreed that when communicating this refusal to the proposal in principal, SGC be asked what alternatives are possible as they are keen to find a workable solution which will be agreeable to everyone.

160. S106 – Ridings Play Area Project

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

- Draft tender documents have been prepared (final approval from all parties is currently being agreed);
- It is anticipated the tender process will begin before the end of March and be open for 4 weeks;
- In addition to inviting a number of contractors to tender directly, the opportunity will be posted on the Town Council website, social media and the Government Contract Finder website;
- Following receipt and opening of the tenders, a shortlist will be prepared and those proposals will form the basis of a public consultation process;
- At this point, planning permission will be sought.



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161. Sodbury Town Council Play Areas

A verbal update was received and it was **NOTED** that the large rocker at The Ridings requires a repair. 2 contractors have been approached and asked to provide a quotation for the works.

162. Climate Working Group and Local Nature Action Plan

Cllr Spooner, although absent, had provided an update for the meeting.

The following updates were **NOTED**:

- Climate Working Group are in the process of setting up a meeting with the Rotary Club to explore ways of working together;
- A meeting had taken place with reps from Sodbury and Yate Town Councils and Dodington Parish Council to explore respective LNAP's, common approaches and potential joint working on aspects of LNAP's;
- Following this meeting, Cllr Spooner had attended a meeting alongside Cllr Chris Willmore (Yate Town Council) with Hanson to discuss their approach towards biodiversity. They are willing to work with the respective Town Councils to improve the green corridors, starting with the hedgerow from Peg Hill along to the top of The Ridings.

176. Old Sodbury Woodland

Cllr Spooner, although absent, had provided an update for the meeting.

The following updates were **NOTED**:

- Almost 20 sponsored trees have been pledged and will be planted by the end of March;
- The final rootrainer trees (600 trees) are also expected to be delivered and planted by the end of March.

179. Items to Report

No items to report received.

180. Date of next meeting – 24th May 2022

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.55pm

Signed Brenda Allen Dated 24 May 2022

