



Sodbury Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee 19th July 2022, held in The Old Reading Rooms, Chipping Sodbury at 19:30 hrs

Committee Members Councillors: B Allen, J Ball (Chairman), L Banister, C Hays, B Romaine, P Rumney, S Spooner, A Williams

Present:

Cllrs J Ball (Chairman), C Hays, B Romaine, P Rumney, & A Williams

Clerk: Cate Davidson

121. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Steve Spooner & Linda Banister. Cllr Allen was absent from the meeting.

122. Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared at this time.

123. Approval of Minutes of 17th May 2022

Resolved that the minutes of 17th May 2022 are approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

124. Matters Arising

The Clerk advised members that the window in the office has been repaired so it now opens. The Lime plasterer has been booked though no date has been scheduled as yet.

125. Budget Reports to 30th June 2022

Members received the income and expenditure to date in a new format following the change of financial software. It was felt that the format is slightly more complicated (and text much smaller) than previous reports. The Clerk went through the report by department and there was nothing of concern to note at this time.

It was **Resolved** that the income and expenditure to date was approved.

126. Bank Reconciliation Statement to 30th June 2022

Members viewed the bank statement and reconciliation for both accounts to date and noted that the balances on both agree. It was **Resolved** that the bank reconciliations be approved.

127. Public Conveniences Refurbishment

Members received the quote for the refurbishment of the ladies' facilities. Lengthy discussion was had about the cost of the works, but it was noted this had also been discussed at length at Full Council which approved the works in principle.

It was **Resolved** that Hill Project Management be appointed to complete the refurbishment of the ladies public conveniences. It was noted that works could take some time due to delays with obtaining material and availability of contractors.



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128. Premises Working Group

An update on this matter was given under matters arising – no other report was made.

129. Grant Applications

Grant applications were considered and awarded as per the following schedule:

Heading	£ Requested	Purpose	£ Awarded
Tourist Information Centre		To keep the TIC running for 2022/23	£1,000 awarded 19/7 as well as electricity costs. To apply if further needed.
Sodbury In Bloom	£1,500	Planting in the High Street and running of community garden	£1,500
Youth Services	£10,000.00 Not yet applied	Chipping Sodbury Youth Centre	£5,000 awarded on receipt of application
Churchyard Maintenance	£2,000 Not yet applied £2,000	C/S for Churchyard maintenance O/S for Churchyard maintenance	Due to fact the Church gives grants to other organisations felt not appropriate to award tax payers funds
The Brightwell (WofE MS Therapy Centre)	£400	Running costs of services	Members have concerns about increasing balances and have concerns about awarding taxpayers funds in this situation
Shopmobility	£750	Towards the cost of rent in Yate Library of £22k	Members have concerns about increasing balances and have concerns about awarding taxpayers funds in this situation
The Willow Tree Centre Pregnancy Advice Services	£300	£150 for advertising of services and £150 towards staff training	Members have concerns about increasing balances and have concerns about awarding taxpayers funds in this situation

Members spent some time considering the applications, specifically where balances have increased over the last few years and where applicants award grants to other organisations. It was decided that in both of these instances it would not be appropriate to award taxpayers funds especially during the current times of extreme financial concern.

130. Licence Fee Allocation

The Clerk advised that Cllr Banister had asked for this to be on the agenda at the last meeting. After discussion it was decided that there is no need to allocate licence fees as they go towards the general running of the Market Pitchings and High Street improvements.

131. Items to report

Cllr Ball advised that STC need to arrange for grass to be cut urgently as entrances to the town are dangerous and the whole area looks unsightly. The Clerk advised that due to the current heatwave and recent fires throughout the country she instructed SGC to undertake urgent cuts as soon as possible. Members advised that the E & L Committee needs to give careful thought to how it manages the grass cutting contract with SGC in the future.



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Cllr Hays reminded members that discussion had been had about allocating CIL funds towards the replacement of the bus shelters on Bowling Hill. The Clerk confirmed that she has liaised with SGC and WECA in relation to this, but no useful information had been gained. CH advised that the shelters at the new Yate Park and ride would be suitable. Members are to look at these when they next use the service and advise the Clerk of the manufacturers.

132. Date of next meeting: 27th September 2022

Meeting closed at 20.35

Signed

Dated

DRAFT