



Sodbury Town Council

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee
26th July 2022, held in The Old Reading Rooms, 26 High Street, Chipping Sodbury 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:

Councillors: B Allen (Chair), S Gibson, P Rumney, S Spooner

Admin Assistant: Lucy Shilcock

197. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors B Romaine, P Smith and A Williams.

198. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Spooner - Item 205 as a member of his family is involved in staffing the Summer Activities.

199. Approval of Minutes of 24th May 2022

RESOLVED that the minutes of 24th May 2022 are approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

200. Matters Arising

Nothing to report.

201. Budget 2022/23 – Spend to date

Members received and approved the current spend to date to 30th June 2022.

A request was received for Sodbury Town Council to sponsor 6 x mature trees in an avenue on Old Sodbury Woodland and provide a board showing the names of all sponsors.

RESOLVED that expenditure up to £300 approved for the sponsorship of 6 x mature trees and to purchase board showing the names of the sponsors as outlined above.

202. Grass Cutting

A request from the F & GP Committee was received to re-consider Sodbury Town Council's grass cutting position for this year and next year.

It was further **NOTED** that due to the exceptionally hot weather and potential risk of wild fire arising from long dry grass, the Town Clerk had obtained a quotation from SGC to undertake an emergency grass cut at a cost of £799.50. This was authorised by the Chair of Sodbury Town Council.

RESOLVED:

- E&L Committee approve expenditure of £799.50 to undertake the emergency cut required as outlined above
- To convene a meeting with Cllrs Allen, Rumney and Spooner and reps from SGC to discuss a strategy for Sodbury in relation to grass cutting which balances cutting the grass appropriately whilst maximising biodiversity and minimises cost to the Sodbury precept payer.

203. Hedgehog Garden

A proposal from South Gloucestershire Council to build a Hedgehog Garden Area was received and discussed.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the proposal subject to the following stipulations:

- SGC be asked to engage neighbours who live in the properties around the project before commencing to ensure they support the project and would like to support the ongoing maintenance of the area
- If neighbours are supportive of the idea, Sodbury Town Council will also support it and are happy to share the maintenance responsibility with local residents.

204. Bench on The Pitchings

It was **NOTED** that The Rotary Club are planning to install a bench on The Pitchings (located by the Spar).

Members **RESOLVED** that Sodbury Town Council would be happy to formally adopt the bench for insurance and formal maintenance purposes.

205. Summer Activities

To **NOTE** the following regarding summer activities:

- Athletics on The Ridings during week of 1st August 2022
- Playscheme in The Old Grammar School during the week of 8th August 2022
- Bookings have been received and the places are currently being allocated
- A thorough breakdown of attendance etc. will be provided to the next E&L meeting in October following the successful delivery of the sessions

206. S106 – Ridings Play Area Project

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

- Following the formal planning application submission, objections were received from Chipping Sodbury Football Club
- These have been considered and work has been undertaken to address and mitigate their concerns as much as possible
- Only one of the proposals received can be amended to address the concerns raised by the football club so this has been selected as the preferred proposal

- A change to the plan has been suggested whereby the play equipment which was designated to go behind the goal at the football pitch be divided up and split into two sections, one to go at the edge of the area behind the football pitch and the other to go in the existing play area located in The Ridings.

The committee **RESOLVED** to grant delegated authority to Councillors Allen and Spooner in conjunction with the Town Clerk to progress this project as long as it remains within budget.

207. Sodbury Town Council Play Areas

The following updates were received and **NOTED**:

- Repairs had been carried out to the Galaxy play unit located at The Ridings
- The spring on the gate at The Old Sodbury play area has been replaced
- The safety surfacing under the basket swing at the play area in The Ridings is beginning to break up and will need to be replaced at some point in the future

208. Climate Working Group and Local Nature Action Plan

CLlr Spooner provided an update as followed:

- Further to the walk round the parish, an update is awaited from the Biodiversity Officer at SGC
- The Allotment Committee had met and were exploring how to move things forward at the allotment field

209. Old Sodbury Woodland

CLlr Spooner provided an update as follows:

- The orchard is doing very well, most trees have taken and are thriving
- The woodland is also doing well although there are a few trees which haven't taken (which is to be expected) – these will be reviewed next spring and will be replaced as needed
- Focus in the coming weeks will be on maintenance – a number of work days have been arranged to tackle tasks such as removing weeds and identifying trees which have failed

210. Items to Report

CLlr Rumney reported that the grass in Chapel Lane is overgrown and is restricting visibility. Officers to report to South Gloucestershire Council Streetcare department to investigate.

CLlr Allen reported that she had a report from a member of the public disturbed by noise in the evening from the Horseshoe Public House. It was suggested that any future disturbances should be reported to South Gloucestershire Council to investigate.

211. Date of next meeting – 25th October 2022

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm

Signed  Dated 15/11/22

