



Sodbury Town Council

**Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council
8th November 2022 at 19:30 hrs, held at
Old Sodbury Village Hall**

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

Cate Davidson – Town Clerk
Jackie Murley – Assistant Clerk

Members of the public x 4

A Public Participation
No public participation

566 Apologies and Chairman's Remark

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs. Scott Gibson, Seb Gibson, Steve Spooner, Steve Tubby

567 Declarations of Interests and Granting of Dispensations

None

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

Cllr Rush thanked Members for their good wishes.

Cllr Rush reported as follows (1) attendance at a Cabinet Meeting when it was stated the budget gap was set to reach £26.8m next year due to a rise in inflation. In addition, a negotiated pay award for staff required SGC to find an additional £6.4m pa, (2) Streetcare had changed its name to "Places", (3) At October's Cabinet meeting, it was reported a set back with the Local Plan, (4) SGC had been put in a difficult situation recently when local press reported a Social Worker had been convicted of child porn offences. Unfortunately, the matter had not been shared with other groups and completely unaware until reported in the press, (5) As reported previously, a cut in some bus services was imminent due to lack of funding and under-use. SGC and WECA continued in negotiation with First Bus.

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

Cllr Banister reported (1) attendance at a Shopmobility meeting. The charity was looking at ways to promote the organisation with a big advertising push before Christmas and a photoshoot scheduled with Dan Norris, WECA Mayor, (2) the 'Help Us Thrive' initiative to boost High Streets had received funding which had helped with refurbishment of ladies public convenience, Christmas Trees and watering of floral displays by Sodbury in Bloom in Chipping Sodbury, (3) a recent Town Lands Charity meeting had discussed advertising of Winter and education grants, (4) a drop-in session was in place on two afternoons per week called "*Winter Warmer*" at Chipping Sodbury Library for anyone to call in for free tea/coffee and a warm up. The initiative was supported by the town council, Town Lands Charity and Chipping Sodbury Library Partnership. It was noted library services would not be available. A poster would be circulated to publicise the event.

Cllr Rush confirmed he had agreed Members Awarded Funding (MAF) for watering of floral displays. The Clerk confirmed floral displays/watering would be an agenda item for Environment & Leisure Committee meeting the following week. **Cllr Banister** continued that at a recent Sodbury in Bloom meeting there was concern regarding finances and consideration was being given to a Justgiving page for next year. Mention was made that businesses and residents should help with the costs incurred.

Cllr Allen attended a Hansons Quarry meeting, an assessment is taking place in relation to the crossing of Wickwar Road and whether it should be underground. (2) attendance at an on-line 'Yate Mini Holland meeting', ie to make Yate a town that was as walking and cycle friendly as Holland.

570 Approval of Minutes of Full Council Meeting on 11th October 2022

RESOLVED Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 11th October 2022 are approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

571 Matter Arising

None to report.

572 Finance – Payment of Accounts

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

The Clerk reported the ladies and disabled toilets were open following refurbishment.

573 Correspondence

Requiring Response/Comments/Action

- SGC – response to request to remove overtaking lane
The Clerk was in receipt of a response from SGC Mark King dated 24/10/22 and it was understood the matter was being investigated. Pedestrian counts were awaited and it was noted the possibility of implementing a cycle lane were unlikely due to new guidelines for segregation of cyclists
- Chipping Sodbury Baptist Church – The Oasis Centre: A warm space is made available daily with set up costs of £2,635 contributions are welcome
*Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to grant £600 to the Baptist Church.*
- Big Lunch Committee – Big Christmas Lunch will be taking place on 9th December (Masonic Hall) at a cost of £12 per head. Request for a grant towards costs 65 people
*Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to grant £600 to the Big Lunch.*
- AONB – Consultation on proposals to amend the AONB Management Plan
*Emailed.
No comments.*
- SGC Community Spaces – S106 in respect of Hillside Court Planning Proposals
Discussed at Agenda item 575.
- Local resident – raising concerns over maintenance of the path leading into St John's Church C/S – *Clerk is currently investigating who is responsible for this. The Churchyard was closed 1st October 1864 but neither SGC or STC have record of having responsibility – it may be that the PCC serves notice on STC to take this over in which case we would have to raise a precept as appropriate
An on-going matter and the Clerk confirmed she had carried out substantial investigation and, to date, no party was accepting responsibility. Cllr Rush confirmed he would liaise with an SGC Officer.*

For Information Only

- Planning Appeal for P21/03344/F – erection of 35 dwellings and associated works – Land South of Badminton Road, Old Sodbury – public enquiry commences 15th November
The Clerk confirmed she intended to attend sections of the Appeal
- SGC – Notification of casual vacancy – closure date for election request – 10th November 2022.
*Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** not to co-opt. It was noted the Council was not obliged to fill the vacancy as it had occurred within six months of election.*
- ICO – Notification of appeal to decision in relation to releasing if personal information
Decision awaited.

574 Chipping Sodbury Town Lands Charity – Trustee Appointment

Cllr Scott Gibson had expressed an interest to the Clerk. In his absence it was **RESOLVED** Cllr Scott Gibson be appointed as a Trustee for a period of 4 years and Clerk to advise the Charity.

575 Planning Application P22/06158/F – Hillside Court, Bowling Hill. Demolition of building and erection of 56 no. retirement apartments and associated works

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** Members raised NO OBJECTION to the application and Clerk to advise SGC. A discussion followed with regard to the S106 Agreement and Members backed the following comments to be taken into consideration:-

- *Two bus shelters directly outside of the development site were in need of replacement to show real-time information. For residents, the stops would be the main stops for travel to Yate, Bristol, Bath and beyond*
- *A pedestrian crossing at Rounceval Street was required. The area was already considered a dangerous crossing point, particularly for school children. The additional population from retirement apartments would add to the concern the town council has had for years.*
- *The proposed development backs onto the Elms Estate and would be used by to access Yate and the wider community and consideration should be given to upgrading footpaths and street lighting in River and Cherry Roads*
- *There was concern that limited on site parking could lead to overspill parking in the surrounding area and Bowling Hill had already been identified as an accident blackspot. Parking restrictions in the locality required review.*

Member considered a consultation from SGC in relation to S106 allocation. Included were allotments/raised planters and a boules court. Members discussed the boules court and felt this would be unsustainable as other local ones had shut down. Clerk to respond that the boules court is not needed.

576 Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Garden

Following discussion, Members considered the area proposed by SGC for a Memorial Garden was inappropriate. It was **RESOLVED** that a planter would be more appropriate, and this is to be considered at the Parking Working Group meeting due to be held on 29th December 2022.

577 Litter Bins – Replacement by South Gloucestershire Council

SGC's proposal of a compulsory change of bins in the High Street was noted and pictures circulated via e-mail. Members considered the two options available and following discussion it was **RESOLVED** to opt for the Wybone bin as it was more in keeping with the area but

noted that option required a contribution from the town council towards installation and Clerk to offer £2000 with delegated authority up to £4000. Members asked the Clerk to obtain comments from the Conservation Officer in relation to proposals.

578 Meeting Dates 2023

RESOLVED : meeting dates approved for 2023 as circulated.

579 Upgrade to Existing Radio Base Station – Kingrove Lane, BS37 9DT

Members noted the pre-application proposals and had no objection, it was noted the capability was up to 4G and the Clerk would ask the company why not 5G.

580 Chipping Sodbury Library

Confidential session entered – see Confidential Notes.

581 Items of Report

Cllr Rumney reported footpaths in Old Sodbury required cleaning and confirmed he would take photos and submit to SGC.

Cllr Gregson sought clarification on CCTV in the High Street and how it all worked with monitoring etc. following incidents of ASB. The Clerk provided an explanation.

Cllr Banister confirmed there would be a district summer trail with the theme “unicorns” and the cost of sponsoring a unicorn was £6000. Cllr Allen suggested contact with Hansons.

582 Next Full Council Meeting: 13th December 2022 – Charter Suite, Chipping Sodbury Town Hall

Dated

Signed

The meeting closed at 21:18