



Sodbury Town Council

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee  
15<sup>th</sup> November 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:** S Gibson, B Romaine, P Rumney, P Smith, S Spooner (Deputy Chair)

Admin Assistant: Lucy Shilcock

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**212. Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors B Allen, C Hays and A Williams.

**213. Declarations of Interest**

None received.

**214. Approval of Minutes of 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022 are approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Deputy Chair.

**215. Matters Arising**

Nothing to report.

**216. Budget 2022/23 – Spend to date**

Members received and approved the current spend to date to date, November 2022.

**217. Budget 2023/24**

The 2023/24 proposed budget was received.

The following budgetary items were discussed:

- Grass cutting – whether to purchase any additional cuts alongside the 2 core cuts (either 2 extra at a cost of £2029.58 or 8 additional cuts £7417.77
- Floral displays
- Floral watering
- SWaN – increased budget requested

**RESOLVED:**

- An extra 2 cuts be purchased (in addition to the 2x core cuts provided by South Gloucestershire Council at a cost of £2029.58). Request that South Gloucestershire Council do the 4 cuts as follows: late April, Mid-June, Early July/Early August/ Late September;

- Floral displays – draft tender documents were received and accepted subjected to the addition of a line requesting that a water retaining liner or some sort of water retention feature be included in the provision;
- Floral Watering – draft tender documents were received and approved. It was discussed whether any measures could be implemented which might make the floral watering more efficient. Some ideas included asking the quarry if the watering container could be filled up there, and whether any of the remote floral displays could be taken off the schedule. All of these things to be investigated and reported back to the next meeting;
- SWaN budget increase to £3,000 was approved.

#### **218. Summer Activities – Review of 2022 and Provision for 2023**

A synopsis report was received reviewing the 2022 provision and costings.

A discussion took place regarding how the provision could be improved for next year. It was suggested that it might be better to try to combine the two elements – the athletics and crafting into one bigger sessions which had scope for both activities.

**RESOLVED:** Council staff to draft a report outlining a few suggestions of how this might work and present to a future meeting for consideration.

#### **219. Floral Displays and Watering Contracts 2023**

As mentioned above in item 217 the draft tender documents for the Floral Displays and Watering Contracts 2023 were received and approved subject to the following additions:

- Floral displays – include the addition of a line in the tender documents requesting that a water retaining liner or some sort of water retention feature be included in the provision;
- Floral Watering - It was discussed whether any measures could be implemented which might make the floral watering more efficient. Some ideas included asking the quarry if the watering container could be filled up there, and whether any of the remote floral displays could be taken off the schedule. All of these things to be investigated and reported back to the next meeting.

#### **220. Grass Cutting**

Further to item 217, grass cutting was considered as part of the 2023/24 budget.

Discussions took place whether to purchase any additional cuts alongside the 2 core cuts (either 2 extra at a cost of £2029.58 or 8 additional cuts £7417.77).

**RESOLVED:** An extra 2 cuts be purchased (in addition to the 2x core cuts provided by South Gloucestershire Council at a cost of £2029.58). Request that South Gloucestershire Council do the 4 cuts as follows: late April, Mid-June, Late July/Early August/ Late September.

#### **221. S106 – Ridings Play Area Project**

To **NOTE** the following verbal was received:

- The planning application for the climbing ‘Bloqx’ unit behind the football pitch continues. Objections have been received from Sport England. Cllr S Spooner will draft a response outlining the ways in which the objections have already been addressed;
- The Asterope unit which is being installed into the existing play area will hopefully proceed soon, lead times and a refreshed quote are awaited.

**222. Sodbury Town Council Play Areas**

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

- Annual ROSPA inspections were undertaken to both sites in September. No high risk issues were identified.
- The Ridings – minor issues identified were the safety surfacing shrinkage (this will be mostly rectified when the play area refurbishment is undertaken), and wear to the bushes on the swings.
- Old Sodbury – minor issues identified as decaying timber at the base/ legs of the fort. Investigation of replacement legs will be required in the future.

**223. Climate Working Group and Local Nature Action Plan**

Cllr Spooner provided a verbal update as follows:

Wild flower seeding had been undertaken in partnership with Sally from South Gloucestershire Council in several areas of the parish. It transpired that some of these areas belong to The Somerset Trust and that permission should have been sought in advance.

More wild flower planting is planned – discussions are underway with the Town Trust as to whether land at The Ridings (the bank by the cricket fields) may be suitable.

A draft letter from cross parish LNAP group to South Gloucestershire Council was received. The cross parish LNAP group are asking for the letter to be supported by Sodbury Town Council (as well as the other Town and Parish Council's on the cross parish group).

It was **RESOLVED** the Sodbury Town Council would support the letter.

**224. Old Sodbury Woodland**

Cllr Spooner provided an update as follows:

- 100 hedgerow trees had been received from OVO
- The woodland is doing well – about 10 to 15% of trees have failed to thrive which is within expected boundaries
- Trees are available to replace any which have failed to thrive over the next few months
- 6 dates have been arranged over the next 3 months for more planting
- An update was requested about permission to extend the hedgerow along the field side of Chapel Lane. Network Rail have been contacted and permission in writing is awaited.

**225. Items to Report**

Nothing to report.

**226. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm

Signed ..... Dated .....