



Sodbury Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Markets Committee 6th September 2022, Sodbury Town Council Offices

Committee Members: Cllrs. Linda Banister, Alistair Gregson, Becky Romaine, Phil Rumney, Adrian Rush, Linda Rush & Andy Williams (Chair)

Present: Cllrs. Linda Banister, Alistair Gregson, Phil Rumney, & Andy Williams

Town Clerk – Cate Davidson

Charles & Tracey Porter – W & K N Rowland

1. Apologies

Received from Cllrs Linda & Adrian Rush and Cllr Romaine.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made at this time.

3. Approval of Minutes of 21st June 2022

RESOLVED the minutes of the 21st June 2022 were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising

Members raised concerns about the lack of use of the tables outside of Amigos and the fact they are permanently taking up parking spaces. The Clerk advised that the licence for Amigos and the Bank expires on 15th October. Members discussed a number of concerns about the use of the Pitchings in this way and decided that careful consideration is needed if anyone applies for such usage in the future. The Clerk reminded members that the Police raised serious concerns about the usage.

5. Income & Expenditure

Members noted the spend to date and the Clerk went through item by item. Reports are in a new format which members confirmed they understood. It was noted that the spend for the public conveniences would be over budget due to the refurbishment of the ladies facility and also the works required to the accessible facility following the fire.

It was **Resolved** that the Income & Expenditure to 31 August was approved.

6. Mop Fair 23rd & 24th September 2022

Charles Porter circulated the plan for the mop fair and advised that the locations of 2 of the big rides have been swapped over but this is not expected to cause any problems.

Members asked for confirmation that the problems raised following the last fair had been addressed and CP confirmed they had.

Updated Insurance Certificates were given to the Clerk who reminded CP to send in an up to date risk assessment.

It was **Resolved** that the plan is approved and that members would meet at 17.30 on 23rd September by the Clock Tower for a walk around before the fair opens. The Clerk advised she is on holiday so would not be available.

Discussion was had about the use of red diesel and it was noted that Showmen have authority to use such. Consideration was given to the use of more environmentally friendly fuels such as WVO & HVO and it was noted that these are not commonly in use amongst showmen. CP confirmed that generators are shut down as soon as possible and LED bulbs are used for lighting.

7. **Christmas Trees**

The Clerk advised members that Cotswold Christmas Trees had submitted revised safety precautions for the Christmas trees due to a number of significant problems occurring last year.

Members received a picture of the proposed concrete blocks to be used as ballast and a breakdown of the costs. The supplier has also suggested that the Christmas tree by the pump on Horse Street is deleted due to problems with people continuously parking butt up to it and the fact the hole has been filled in with stone by a local resident. Members expressed disappointment at this but it was **Resolved** to remove this tree from the schedule.

Members were concerned at the costs of the concrete blocks which totals £2,740 for the year. The Clerk did advise that another option had been put forward for wooden barricades but due to the cost of £900 per tree and the fact that we would have to rent storage this proposal had been dismissed. AW advised that he would make enquiries with a supplier he knows in relation to the concrete blocks and come back to the Clerk. Concern was also raised about the visual impact of the blocks and it was decided that some form of covering should be obtained if available.

The Clerk raised dismay that despite her starting discussions in February the supplier has only just come back with a proposal. This leaves very little time to explore other options and to obtain sponsorship or community involvement. It was decided that this year would be a trial and the matter would be reviewed at the first Markets meeting in 2023.

It was **Resolved** that the Christmas trees would be provided by Cotswold Christmas Trees at a maximum cost of £6,840 including supply, installation, removal and concrete ballasts. The Clerk will work with AW and the supplier to reduce costs if possible.

8. **Public Conveniences**

The Clerk reported that works to refurbishing the ladies facility are well under way and it is hoped they will be open by mid October.

Members noted the damage that has been caused in the accessible facility due to a fire which was deliberately caused on Bank Holiday Monday. There is a lot of smoke damage and the melting of lighting, flooring and some of the fixings. The matter has been reported to the Police and they have confirmed the crime reference number and that they have closed the case but will re-open if any CCTV footage is found.

It was **Resolved** that Hill Project Management which is currently undertaking the ladies facility works be appointed to undertake the works required to re-open the accessible facility. The Clerk is to liaise with Brendon Jones and arrange for the facility to be re-opened as soon as possible. The Clerk confirmed she has advised the insurance company of the damage, they require STC to get works completed and then submit invoices for consideration.

The Clerk advised members that the gents toilets has a new wallgate handwash system and that the same is being installed in the ladies facility. The cost for a 3 year service plan for each unit is £382.38 and this includes two services a year, parts and breakdown cover. It does not include vandalism and normal wear and tear. It was **Resolved** that we proceed with the 3 year plan which will start after the first years warranty expires in September 2023.

8. Items to Report

The Clerk advised That due to the closure of the disabled conveniences she has asked the Eat festival to increase their supply of portaloos. This has incurred an additional cost to Eat of £127.26 and it was suggested this was deducted from the licence fee. After some discussion it was agreed that half the net cost could be deducted from the fee and the Clerk is to make appropriate arrangements. AG advised that it is a legal requirement for events organisers to provide toilets therefore members decided that no reduction for such would be made for future events

9. Date of next meeting : TBA – The Old Reading Rooms