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CHIPPING NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

At the Council Meeting held, pursuant to notice on Monday 18th November 2019 at 7.15 pm in the Council Chamber, the Town Hall, the following members were present: -

Cllr. D. Davidson, Town Mayor

Cllr. M. Walker, Deputy Mayor

Cllr. R. Benfield

Cllr. G. Brown

Cllr. C. Butterworth

Cllr. S. Coleman

Cllr. E. Coles

Cllr. D. Heyes

Cllr. M. Jarratt

Cllr. R. Poole

Cllr. L. Tuckwell

Cllr. M. Tysoe

Officer: The Town Clerk

1. Mayors Welcome

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and warmly greeted Cllr. E. Coles.

7335 The minutes of the meeting held on the 21st October 2019 – were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor at the meeting.

7336 Public Participation

Emergency Plan / Tank Farm

Mr Knowles spoke on the recent flooding that had occurred in northern parts of England and that there seemed to be little co-ordination with the various agencies. Mr Knowles had spoken to Cllr. M. Tysoe regarding this issue and had found some useful information in the ‘Are you Ready’ booklet supplied by the resilience group. The booklet contained some very sensible precautionary information for an incident and advised that the booklet should be read by everyone including businesses. Mr Knowles asked if the Council could assemble an Emergency Committee to look at producing an emergency plan. Cllr. D. Davidson advised that a draft Emergency Plan was currently being worked on and would be presented to Council for consideration in the near future.

Mr Knowles had been looking into the industrial aspect of Tank Farm and along with an assistant had contacted 17 business people within the town. He would be looking at speaking to the larger organisations within the town about the future of the 5 hectare of land allocated for industrial use. Mr Knowles advised that he was also meeting with Mr. W. Barton, WODC Officer next week. Mr Knowles felt that there was no specific detail about what the town will gain from the development. Mr Knowles was now working with Cllr. D. Heyes and Cllr. G. Mazower on the Tank Farm Working Group.

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7337 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr. N. Bradley, Cllr. L. Carter, Cllr. J. Graves, Cllr. G. Mazower and Thames Valley Police.

7338 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest to report at the meeting.

7339 Mayoral Announcements

The Mayoral Announcements had been circulated with the agenda showing the functions which the Mayor had attended since the previous Town Council meeting.

Cllr. Davidson requested that brief reports are submitted to the Town Clerk by the Oxfordshire County Council Councillor, West Oxfordshire District Councillors and any Working Groups prior to the Council meetings to enable Members to fully consider the reports and enable questions to be prepared.

7340 Oxfordshire County Council

Cllr. H. Biles reported on the following:

Public consultation would be undertaken 7th-29th January 2020 on the proposed OCC budget. The Council tax base would be finalised on 31st January 2020. OCC would agree the revenue and medium term plans on 14th February 2020.

Channel 4 had recently shown OCC on the Dispatches programme dealing with county lines and drug running.

OCC was now listed within the top 10 Councils in the UK.

Cllr. H. Biles had proposed a motion to OCC which had been unanimously agreed. The motion was as follows: “This Council has recognised and accepted the serious issues facing Chipping Norton given inclusion in LTP’s as far back as 2004. The biggest issue in Chipping Norton is the amount of HGV’s accessing the High Street in the town.  It is now accepted by Public Health England, that Air pollution damages health and can be responsible for deaths.  Chipping Norton has been an AQMA since 2006. Air Quality continues to be over EU acceptable limits and one of the highest in Oxfordshire. There is also a safety issue where two A roads merge into a narrow road unable to take an HGV and a car travelling in the other direction and narrow pavements. There have been 2 deaths and a serious accident in recent years. HGV’s affect listed buildings and residents. There has been little or no action by OCC.  The majority of land at Tank Farm is OCC owned. Given this, there will be a large receipt from development which could be used towards a weight limit and lorry route. This Council requests the Cabinet to face up to the health and safety issues of residents of Chipping Norton and act on the previous LTP2 and LTP3 recommendations for a weight limit or indeed a lorry route.”

Cllr. M. Walker asked for an update on the recent traffic surveys. Cllr. H. Biles advised that the information would be available shortly. Cllr. M. Jarratt advised Cllr. H. Biles that it had taken eighteen months for a number of gullies to be cleared and that the whole town needed to be done. Cllr. H. Biles advised that OCC do not have the resources available to do this.

1. West Oxfordshire District Council Cllr. M. Cahill reported on the following:

* Action is being taken by WODC on residential properties that have been empty for more than six months. Approx. 418 at end of August. Approx. 700 people are

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* classified as homeless in 2018 and 70 households were placed into temporary accommodation.
* WODC are promoting a video being distributed by Thames Valley Police about relationship abuse
* WODC had drafted there budget which would be discussed at the scrutiny committees in the coming weeks.

These points were detailed in Cllr. M. Cahill’s report distributed at the meeting.

Cllr. G. Saul reported on the following:

* The WODC Climate Change Officer was now in post and had a budget of £200,000 to be spent over 3 years.
* Cabinet had agreed to a tender process for electric charging points within the district. These would mainly be installed within the WODC car parks. A budget of £400,000 had been allocated to the project.

7342 Planning

(a) Council decided to make the observations set out under the heading ‘comments’ on

Appendix A – 18th November 2019.

(b) Decisions

None received.

7343 Town Clerk’s Report

Council approved the following payments: -

1. Imprest Account for October 2019: £9,835.11.
2. General Account: Accounts for payment as at 18th November 2019: £7,615.21.
3. Correspondence received - The report was noted.

7344 Grants to Voluntary Bodies Committee

The Council received the minutes of the Grants to Voluntary Bodies Committee meeting held on 28th October 2019. Following the meeting, all Members were consulted regarding a grant application towards medical treatment for Anna Drysdale. A grant of £1,000 was awarded under the General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011 ss 1-8.

7345 Town Hall and Publicity Committee

The Council received the minutes of the Town Hall and Publicity Committee meeting held on 29th October 2019.

7346 Staffing Committee

The Council received the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 29th October 2019.

RESOLVED: To adopt the Pensions Discretions Policy.

7347 Resolution to Extend 6 Month Rule – Local Government Act 1972, Section 85

Cllr. E. Coles was in attendance at the meeting. Therefore this item did not require a resolution by Council.

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7348 Youth Matters

Cllr. D. Davidson informed Members that two applications for the OCC Youth Funding had been produced. Cllr. R. Poole confirmed that she and Cllr. G. Brown had worked together but ultimately two applications had been written and were ready for submission to OCC. Both had meet with Officers from Swindon who had established a Youth Worker and a Youth Club. Cllr. G. Brown had thought that a Youth Worker and a Youth Club could work together. The current youth clubs in town catered for 11-16 yrs. old and that his application would cater for the older youths. Cllr. R. Poole advised Members that a Detached Youth Worker would speak to young people and that this could coincide with a Youth Working Group. Cllr. M. Walker felt that a sequential approach to the youth project should occur. Cllr. L. Tuckwell felt that both applications connected together but the Detached Youth Worker would provide a broader solution and provide the opportunity to listen to the voice of the youth. Cllr. G. Brown had spoken to the Police and had also been out at night speaking to the youth to understand their needs. Cllr. G. Brown felt confident of a dual approach for the two separate applications and that a professional Grants Officer should also be employed for four hours per week to obtain additional funding. Cllr. E. Coles advised that Members must ask the young people what they actually want as youth clubs do not appeal to everyone. Cllr. R. Poole expressed concern about what would happen if the applications did not get funding as there was a clearly identified need. A Grants Officer could be employed to look at funding sources to enable the projects to progress if they were unsuccessful with the grant applications. Cllr. G. Brown advised that both applications totalled £40,000 and that the applications had to be submitted within 3 days.

A vote was taken by Members for a single application to be submitted for a Detached Youth Worker:

For: Unanimous

A vote was taken by Members for two applications to be submitted for a Detached Youth Worker and a Youth Club:

For: 5

Against: 6

Abstain: 1

RESOLVED: One application is to be submitted for a Detached Youth Worker to OCC.

Cllr. G. Brown asked if a Grants Officer could be engaged by the Council. Cllr. D. Davidson advised that the Grants Officer could look at other project funding and that the Staffing Committee should investigate this role further.

Cllr. D. Davidson thanked those that had undertaken the work on the applications in such a short amount of time and the useful information that had been obtained.

7349 Chipping Norton Declaration of Climate and Ecology Emergency

Cllr. S. Coleman had drafted a Chipping Norton declaration of Climate and Ecology Emergency, Climate Emergency Working Party Terms of Reference, Climate Action Plan and a suggested projects list for discussion by Members. Cllr. S. Coleman advised that the Action Plan was a suggestion for review by the Council’s Committees. Members would need to agree how to update the Action Plan. The next actions were to consider the measures of success and to involve more Members. Cllr. D. Davidson advised that the Welfare Charities and William Fowler Allotment Trust would need to independently consider Cllr. S. Coleman’s proposals. Cllr. D. Davidson advised that this had already been discussed at the recent Welfare Charities Meeting and would need to be discussed at the next William Fowler Allotment Trust meeting. Members agreed that as some amendments were required, the revised documents would be circulated in good time ahead of the December Council

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meeting. This would enable full consideration of the documents. Cllr. D. Davidson thanked Cllr. S. Coleman for the work that had been undertaken to date.

7350 Update on Tank Farm Development

Cllr. D. Heyes provided Members with a copy of an update that had been written for Chippy News. Cllr. D. Davidson advised that a meeting had been arranged for 27th November 2019 to which all Members of the Town Council are invited along with representatives from OCC and WODC to discuss the Strategic Development Area. Cllr. D. Heyes advised that two workshops were planned to take place in the Town Hall on 3rd and 10th December to which the public were invited to participate. Cllr. D. Davidson thanked Cllr. D. Heyes for organising the workshop. Cllr. D. Heyes advised that the working group was now larger and was meeting once per week.

7351 Update from Thames Valley Police

A report had been provided by Thames Valley Police prior to the meeting. The report was noted. Cllr. D. Heyes expressed concern about the new 20mph speed limit not being policed or being observed by drivers. Cllr. M. Walker advised that there was a planned awareness campaign by a number of Members later in the week for Road Safety Week and would involve a stall, banner etc.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.