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CHIPPING NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

At the Council Meeting held, pursuant to notice on Monday 19th August 2019 at 7.15 pm in the Council Chamber, the Town Hall, the following members were present: -

Cllr. D. Davidson, Town Mayor

Cllr. R. Benfield

Cllr. G. Brown

Cllr. S. Coleman

Cllr. J. Graves

Cllr. D. Heyes

Cllr. M. Jarratt

Cllr. G. Mazower

Cllr. L. Tuckwell

Cllr. M. Tysoe

Cllr. M. Walker

Officer: The Town Clerk

7283 Report of Mayoral Selection Committee for Deputy Town Mayor for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

The Mayoral Selection Committee had met on the 16th July 2019 to select the Deputy Mayor.

Cllr. J. Graves reported that it was proposed that Cllr. M. Walker be the Deputy Mayor for 2019/20. A vote was taken of all in favour of Cllr. M. Walker being the Deputy Mayor.

Cllr. D. Davidson, Town Mayor invested the new Deputy Mayor, Cllr. M. Walker with the Badge of Office. Cllr. M. Walker thanked the Mayoral Selection Committee and gave a speech in response to his election.

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

7284 The minutes of the meeting held on the 15th July 2019 – were approved and signed at the meeting.

7285 Public Participation

Pollution in the Town

Mr Williams spoke of the decline of the town centre and the dangers of HGV’s passing through the town centre to pedestrians and the dangerous levels of pollution. There are no road crossings for families accessing the recreation ground on New Street. Mr Williams referred to a Traffic Plan produced in 2016 by OCC which highlighted high pollution levels in the High Street in addition to an Air Study Report in 2008. Recommendations detailed within the plan were that HGV’s should be diverted away from the town and placing weight restrictions signs at the entrance to the town. Last month members of the public undertook a peaceful demonstration in the High Street to raise awareness to the issues. Mr Williams will continue to lobby those responsible for providing alternative routes for HGV’s to resolve these issues.

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Declaring a Climate Emergency

Mr Simmons had requested that his presentation to Members be issued prior to the meeting for reference. Mr Simmons was representing Transition Chipping Norton and had been undertaking discussion within the town about whether Chipping Norton should declare a climate emergency. Mr Simmons summarised his presentation and highlighted that action at all levels, including locally was required. The proposed Chipping Norton Declaration of Climate and Ecology Emergency had been submitted to the Council by Transition Chipping Norton and would be considered later at the meeting.

7286 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr. N. Bradley, Cllr. C. Butterworth, Cllr. L. Carter, Cllr. E. Coles, Cllr. R. Poole and PC Webb.

7287 Declarations of Interest

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

7288 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. This year’s allotment prize giving would be postponed until the October Council meeting. The Mayor drew attention to the letter he had received from the Lord Lieutenant requesting up to three nominations of people to attend the Royal Garden Party. The letter would be circulated to all Members. Nominations to be submitted to the Town Clerk before 4th October 2019.

7289 Oxfordshire County Council

Cllr. H. Biles reported on the following:

Traffic Camera Survey

A map detailing all the locations of the traffic camera survey locations was provided and would be circulated to all Members. The information will provide details on car, lorry type and were the vehicle goes to and from. Cllr H. Biles has requested that the air quality monitoring equipment is situated next to the traffic camera locations to enable a true reading of air quality at the time of vehicle movement. Survey scheduled for 23rd September operating 24 hours a day for seven days.

Local Transport Plan 5 (LTP5)

The LPT5 is currently being worked on by Mr David Land, OCC. The Town Council should provide any local views on transport to OCC whilst the plan is being developed over the next year.

Burford Weight Limit

The Burford weight limit would be introduced on 1st April 2020. Traffic monitoring of Chipping Norton and surrounding towns would be undertaken at regular intervals over the eighteen month period that the trail is in place. This would establish any negative impact on Chipping Norton by the introduction of the trial weight limit at Burford. The results would be known in two years’ time.

Cllr. G. Mazower advised that the town was frustrated that none of the recommendations on the previous traffic plan had been implemented. Cllr. H. Biles confirmed that these had not been implemented as funding from OCC was not available.

Cllr. M. Tysoe advised that the Council had previously budgeted £15,000 towards the cost of road signs and that this was still available to assist with the implementation of signage at Burford as the data indicated a reduction of HGV traffic would be travelling through Chipping Norton as a result.

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Cllr. D. Heyes advised that the impact of the Burford scheme would not solve the town’s pollution problem and action needs to be taken on the A44. Cllr. H. Biles advised that the trustees of the Rollright Stones and English Heritage do not currently want HGV’s using this alternative route to divert HGV’s from the town.

Cllr. L. Tuckwell advised that the signage had not been fully installed on the M40 and that the action plan should be completed before any further expense or disruption is incurred. Cllr. H. Biles advised that following the Council meeting on 15th July 2019, she raised the issue of the incomplete signage with Cllr. I. Hudspeth as a matter to be resolved by OCC.

Cllr. G. Brown advised that he was attending an OCC meeting on 10th September 2019. He would be speaking about these issues and Members were invited to attend the meeting.

Cllr. I. Hudspeth was due to attend the next Council meeting on 16th September 2019.

7290 West Oxfordshire District Council

Cllr. G. Saul reported on the following:

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Cllr. D. Davidson had previously asked why WODC did not have the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in place. Cllr. G. Saul advised that CIL is a charge that can be levied on development towards the provision of infrastructure. Cotswold District Council already has CIL in place. WODC are now undertaking a viability study. A revised charging schedule may be agreed by Council. A consultation period will then take place followed by independent examination with the possibility of being adopted by WODC spring 2020. Cllr. D. Davidson requested that CIL is introduced before the Strategic Development Area commences.

Home Seeker Plus

Cllr G. Saul reported that the June district wide waiting list figures for Home Seeker Plus totalled 2,540 households. The figures were made up of the following property requirements: one bedroom = 1,346; two bedrooms = 818; three bedrooms = 269 and four bedrooms = 107. 66% of applicants are under the age of 44. These figures are useful to enable consideration of the future mix of housing required for Chipping Norton.

Cllr. M. Cahill had nothing further to add to Cllr. G. Saul’s report.

7291 Planning

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

Appendix A – 19th August 2019.

(b) Decisions

There were no planning decisions at variance since the last Town Council meeting.

7292 Town Clerk’s Report

Council approved the following payments: -

1. Imprest Account for July 2019: £9,640.37.
2. General Account: Accounts for payment as at 19th August 2019: £15,696.16.
3. Correspondence received

The report was noted. The Town Clerk informed Members that an insurance claim would be pursued following the recent damage to a section of town centre railings. The estimated cost for repairs was £1,990 with an insurance excess of £100.00.

1. General Power of Competence

The Localism Act 2011 introduced the General Power of Competence (GPC) for Town and Parish Councils subject to certain criteria being met. GPC is the Power of first resort giving Town and Parish Councils the power to do anything that an individual may do as

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long there is no legislation which prevents it. The Town Council met the criteria and was therefore qualified to take up the General Power of Competence.

**RESOLVED: The Council meets the criteria for eligibility for the General Power of Competence relating to the electoral mandate and relevant training of the Town Clerk.**

7293 The Town Hall and Publicity Committee

The Council received the minutes of the Town Hall and Publicity Committee meeting held on 18th July 2019.

7294 The Recreation and Sports Committee

The Council received the minutes of the Recreation and Sports Committee meeting held on 30th July 2019 and the recommendation to Council arising from the meeting. Cllr. M. Walker proposed the following motion: That the Council supports Park Run up to £700 to enable Park Run to get up and running. Cllr. M. Tysoe seconded the motion. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

RESOLVED: That additional funding of up to £700.00 towards the set-up costs of the Chipping Norton Park Run be approved.

7295 Planning Committee

The Council received the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 1st August 2019.

7296 Chipping Norton Declaration of Climate and Ecology Emergency

Members considered the Proposed Chipping Norton Declaration of Climate and Ecology Emergency document. Members were concerned that the Council would not be able to deliver all aspects detailed within the proposed document and that any proposals should be achievable by the Council. Members acknowledged that the proposal was an important document and wide-ranging.

Cllr. D. Davidson proposed that Chipping Norton Town Council declares a Climate and Ecology Emergency. Cllr. S. Coleman seconded the proposal. A unanimous vote was taken of all in favour of the proposal.

RESOLVED: 1. Chipping Norton Town Council declares a Climate and Ecology Emergency.

2. A small committee of Council Members will initially be formed to review the document, take further guidance and report at a future Council meeting.

It was agreed that Cllr D. Davidson and Cllr. S. Coleman would meet to discuss the next steps of forming the small committee.

7297 Police Station (Asset of Community Value)

The property was now on the market and a number of Members had attended viewings. Cllr. D. Heyes advised that legislation was in place to register properties as an Asset of Community Value and this was a two stage process. The first stage would be registering the property with WODC as a possible Asset of Community Value. It was not known if this could happen if the property was already on the market.

RESOLVED: The Council would not pursue listing the property as an Asset of Community Value with WODC.

7298 20mph Signs

Cllr. J. Graves provided an update on the project which was now finalised. A revised quotation for £15,707.51 including VAT, had been received from OCC and was below that budgeted. It was recommended that the quotation be accepted.

RESOLVED: The order for the 20mph signs be placed with OCC.

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7299 Update from PCSO

A Police Report for Chipping Norton had been provided and circulated prior to the meeting. The report was noted.

7300 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED: That under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

7301 Staffing Committee

The Council received the confidential minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 6th August 2019.

RESOLVED: The recommendations detailed within the minutes be approved.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.