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CHIPPING NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

At the Council Meeting held, pursuant to notice on Monday 21st October 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. N. Bradley

Cllr. G. Brown

Cllr. C. Butterworth

Cllr. L. Carter

Cllr. S. Coleman

Cllr. J. Graves

Cllr. D. Heyes

Cllr. M. Jarratt

Cllr. G. Mazower

Cllr. R. Poole

Cllr. L. Tuckwell

Cllr. M. Tysoe

Officer: The Town Clerk

7315 Mayors Welcome

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

7316 The minutes of the meeting held on the 16th September 2019 – were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor at the meeting.

7317 Public Participation

Bus Shelter – Walterbush Road

A resident affected by the anti-social behaviour from the bus shelter (that had been removed) on Walterbush Road spoke on behalf of many residents, some too frightened to speak out about the issues. The resident talked about the anti-social behaviour that had affected them over a significant amount of time. 4-20 youths would gather around the bus shelter at any one night up. Anti-social behaviour would last until midnight and would include knock and run, trespass, damage to vehicles, verbal abuse and intimidation. Residents were also affected by lack of sleep and mental health issues which had proved to have long lasting effects. The resident advised that the various parties including the Town Council, Police, Cottsway and Stagecoach tried to resolve the issues prior to the bus shelter being removed. The resident’s views were not sought on the possible replacement of the bus shelter until 9 days ago. A file held by the Town Council details further information on the issues faced by the residents. The resident felt that the Town Council should not go against the advice it has been given.

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Cllr. M. Walker thanked the resident for speaking and asked if there was one specific thing that the resident would like the Council to do. The resident requested that the bus shelter should not be put back in.

Clean Air for Chippy / Tank Farm

Mr Knowles spoke on the HGV issue and he had concluded it was not a priority for OCC to remove HGV’s from the town and there is no money to tackle this. A further issue within this is Tank Farm. Tank Farm is identified as a strategic development area by the WODC Planners and this is critical to the town in many ways. Housing is important but there is a bigger picture with commercial opportunity associated with the land. We need to look at the project as a whole integrating domestic housing with the industrial content. We need to exploit s106 contributions and make sure the development is integrated within the town and not an add-on. Commercial and industrial people here in the town need to be included to optimise support for all aspects of the development. It needs to attract the high tech sector from within the County. The high rental costs within the area could give the opportunity to sell a green field opportunity. Chippy needs to add a significant industrial element to the development, increasing employment opportunities and selling the benefits of living in the Cotswolds. A professional marketing campaign must be used to engage interest and investment in the project. In order to make progress it is suggested to establish a steering group reporting to the Town Council.

Cllr. G. Mazower advised Mr Knowles that they would be asking for volunteers from within the community to assist with the project.

HGV’s – Open letter to OCC

Mr Williams requested that the Council sends an open letter to OCC demanding they implement the immediate ban of HGV’s through the town, as recommended in their own various traffic plans including the plan produced in 2015. It is clear from the numbers of general public attending the last Council meeting there is growing concern about the lack of progress. The problem has been on-going since the 60’s and is getting worse. The Council should be proactive and take the fight to OCC. An open letter distributed to the media is a suggestion and should be official presented to the OCC Leader. The Council should be co-ordinating action for the town and possible setting up an action group or sub-committee to plan future action and events. The open letter should contain the many arguments put forward. These should include the effects from pollution and physical danger that HGV’s present to the public, number of fatalities, serious accidents and near misses. The pollution monitor was decommissioned a number of years ago and even when working was not sophisticated enough to register the particulates that are now known to be produced from diesel engines. A concern is also the amount of money received from the sale of the land at the Tank Farm development. How much of this will Chipping Norton see? The letter should remind Councillors that the problem is unique to the town.

7318 William Fowler Allotment Competition Winners 2019

The Mayor presented the awards to the winners of the large and small allotments. Members congratulated the winners.

7319 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr. E. Coles and Cllr. H. Biles.

7320 Declarations of Interest

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

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7321 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. The Mayor thanked the Mayoress and Deputy Mayor for attending recent invitations to events that he could not attend.

7322 Oxfordshire County Council

The representative from Oxfordshire County Council had provided apologies for the meeting.

7323 West Oxfordshire District Council

Cllr. G. Saul reported on the following:

* WODC had received one off funding from central government of £20,000 for high street community clean-ups. £1,710 was allocated to Chipping Norton.
* Cabinet approved £50,000 for the district’s capital programme for the replacement of Chipping Norton Sports Hall.
* WODC are bringing forward and developing the Council’s plan. This is a vision statement for the district. The evidential information underneath the plan is very interesting e.g. house prices, social rent, employment data, commuting etc.

Cllr. L. Carter reported on the following:

* The issues facing Chipping Norton with HGV’s and pollution would be discussed on BBC Radio Oxford on Wednesday.
* The Police had provided an annual update including information on county lines, domestic abuse, and cross border crime. There was also one additional PC for the local policing area.

Cllr. M. Cahill reported on the following:

* WODC had drafted six key priorities for 2019 – 2023 and six draft vision statements. These were detailed in Cllr. M. Cahill’s report distributed at the meeting.

7324 Planning

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

Appendix A – 21st October 2019.

(b) Decisions

The Council noted the appeal decisions in respect of APP/D3125/W/19/3228404 and APP/D3125/W/19/3228946.

7325 Town Clerk’s Report

Council approved the following payments: -

1. Imprest Account for September 2019: £9,819.48.
2. General Account: Accounts for payment as at 21st October 2019: £23,271.61.
3. Correspondence received - The report was noted.

7326 Planning Committee

The Council received the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 18th September 2019.

7327 Traffic Advisory Committee

The Council received the minutes of the Traffic Advisory Committee meeting held on 19th September 2019. Cllr. M. Walker thanked Mr J. Wright, OCC Officer for the 20mph project work and positive working relationship established with all parties on the committee. There

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would soon be a road safety awareness campaign that could potentially involve the local schools.

7328 Cemetery and Pool Meadow Committee

The Council received the minutes of the Cemetery and Pool Meadow Committee meeting held on 25th September 2019. Cllr. M. Jarratt informed Members that eight people had assisted with the cemetery clear up day on Sunday 20th October 2019. Cllr. M. Jarratt informed Members that Cllr. G. Brown’s request for work at Pool Meadow had been discussed at the Committee meeting but the logistics were too great. Work on the path needs to be done and this will be programmed for completion. Cllr. G. Brown felt that the town was lucky to have such a facility close to town and that the path was not very accessible. Cllr. N. Bradley suggested that the Town Working Group could discuss these issues further.

7329 Finance and General Purposes Committee

The Council received the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 10th October 2019 and the recommendation to Council arising from the meeting. Cllr. M. Tysoe highlighted the need for volunteers to assist with the Christmas trees on the 24th November 2019.

RESOLVED: That the Council employs MacCreanor Lavington to work with the Council and the community to prepare a manifesto at a cost not exceeding £5,000.

7330 Audit

The Council received and approved the Annual Return and External Audit Certificate for the year ended 31st March 2019.

7331 Bus Shelter – Walterbush Road

Cllr. G. Mazower had reported at the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting and had now spoken to the majority of the residents including the resident who had spoken under public participation. It was acknowledged that this was a very difficult issue to resolve. Cllr. G. Mazower appreciated the weather conditions at the site and understood why a bus shelter was needed. It was also appreciated that the bus shelter had caused issues for the local residents by attracting anti-social behaviour. Cllr. L. Carter was concerned that we were now entering winter and the issue needed to be resolved. Cllr. M. Tysoe commented that the Inspector of the Police Neighbourhood Team had reported that the location of the bus shelter had been the main cause of the problem with anti-social behaviour and since its removal; there had been a significant reduction in ASB for the area. Cllr. G. Mazower was investigating a different location, planting and shelter size. Cllr. G. Mazower would look at these suggestions further and arrange a multi-agency meeting to progress the matter and report at a further meeting.

7332 Update on Tank Farm Development

Cllr. D. Heyes delivered a presentation to Members on the Tank Farm development and the proposal of engaging MacCreanor Lavington. A timeline for the first stages of the project was discussed. There were some initial ideas and engagement with the community would be undertaken. Cllr. D. Heyes and Cllr. G. Mazower would be asking for any volunteers from within the community to assist with the project.

7333 Update from Thames Valley Police

There was no representative or report from Thames Valley Police.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.