



CHIPPING NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

THE GUILDHALL, CHIPPING NORTON, OXFORDSHIRE OX7 5NJ

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Minutes of the Chipping Norton Annual Town Meeting which took place on **Monday, 6th March 2023, 7pm** **Upper Hall, Chipping Norton Town Hall**

PRESENT: Cllrs Sandra Coleman (Mayor), Steve Akers, Ruth Fisher, Sharon Wheaton, Mark Walker, David Heyes, Chris Butterworth

ALSO PRESENT:

Luci Ashbourne, Town Clerk
Katherine Jang, Deputy Town Clerk
Paolo Oliveri, Maintenance Operative
Cllr Geoff Saul, OCC
Cllr Mike Cahill, WODC
Chris Ball, Police Inspector TVP
45 Members of the public

1	Introductions and Welcome from the Mayor of Chipping Norton Town Mayor Sandra Coleman welcomed residents to the meeting and introduced councillors and members of staff.
2	To receive any apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Cllr Jo Graves, Natasha Whitmill, Cllr Duncan Enright
3	To receive and approve the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting on the 23rd May 2022 Cllr David Heyes proposed to accept the Minutes of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Akers. No objections from residents. RESOLVED: That the Mayor signs the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting on the 23 rd May 2022 as an accurate record of the meeting.
4	To receive reports from each of the Town Council's Standing Committees The following reports were received regarding the finished and ongoing projects for the Town Council's standing committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cllr Sandra Coleman, Community Committee- Cllr Ruth Fisher, Finance and Resources Committee- Cllr Mark Walker, Strategic Planning Committee and Traffic Advisory Sub-Committee
5	To receive a written update report from Cllr Duncan Enright, Cabinet Member for Travel & Development Strategy Members received a verbal report from Cllr Geoff Saul (OCC) on behalf of Cllr Duncan Enright. The report gave an overview of ongoing HGV weight restriction plans, 20mph zones in towns,

	and the ongoing funds for market towns.
6	<p>Question and Answer session Questions received in advance of the Annual Town Meeting:</p> <p>Q1: There have been instances of graffiti and antisocial behaviour recently. What is the Council planning to do to tidy up the town and stop antisocial behaviour? A – Police Inspector Chris Ball: The young man involved has been identified and PI Ball expects that the graffiti should reduce. He also reported that the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour are very low in Chipping Norton overall.</p> <p>Q2: Can interested parties (owners, landlords, and tenants) be organised to improve the look of the town? A – Cllr Coleman mentioned that the Town Council is working with Emma Philips, WODC Market Towns Officer and is happy to link up interested community members with her if looking to form a community group. A - Cllr Walker mentioned that Middle Row has had work done and funding in the past few years.</p> <p>Questions received on the day of the Annual Town Meeting</p> <p>Theme: Street Cleaning and litter in the town centre Q1: Shopkeepers who own stores along Middle Row are concerned about the litter and responsibility for street cleaning. Other residents were also concerned about the Sainsbury car park and hoardings around The Branch development. Q2: A resident who lives on Middle Row has reported that commercial properties have been dumping waste in residential bins. She had reported this to MP Robert Courts who had come out to do a site visit. Ubico no longer cleans Middle Row, so that now each business is responsible for cleaning the street? A - Cllr Walker mentioned that the TC does not want the town centre looking scruffy A – Cllr Steve Akers put pressure on Ubico to continue reporting instances, suggested Keep Chippy Beautiful group so that community members can pull together. Members of the public group were supportive of this idea. A – Cllr Coleman mentioned that Ubico cleans the town centre, so the TC will chase Ubico and</p> <p>Middle Row Shopkeeper - Concern about the upcoming development and the increase in the amount of cars with the prospective new development. Queried the infrastructure for water and sewage. A - Cllr Walker – TC has limited scope over influence with the investment in infrastructure, but that the TC will put pressure. Also mentioned that the new development had planned to link with the existing town so that walking and cycling infrastructure means that it will be walkable to town. A - Cllr Steve Akers – Mentioned that litter is a country-wide problem, and that there have been budget cuts which means that certain services have been reduced including street cleaning.</p> <p>Q2: What can be done about people leaving dog waste bags in the trees in town? A – Mark Walker – Ubico is engaged to empty the dog and litter bins, but this is down to individual behaviour.</p>

Middle Row Resident - Dog poo bins have been removed?

A – Cllr Coleman – mentioned that WODC had completed a bin replacement scheme and the TC was promised that the number would be the same but this had been reduced as the general bins installed can now take dog waste as well.

Resident Comment – Cigarette butt litter is a problem in town as well. No disabled parking bays in the lower level of parking in Chipping Norton.

Theme: Walking and Cycling in Chipping Norton

Q1 – Residents discussed the new tank farm development and the walking and cycling infrastructure plan?

A – Cllr Coleman – often the “fast” method of using the car takes just as much time as walking when taking into account finding parking etc.

A – Cllr Walker – When walking with heavy shopping bags, building in adequate places for people to rest and take a break.

Abby White – Tank farm – Mentioned that it is unrealistic and impractical for people of older age to walk and cycle from places on the edge of Chipping Norton.

A – Cllr Coleman – Mentioned that we currently have the Chippy Shuttle.

Q- What is the policy on parking on pavements if walking is preferred?

A – Chris Ball – If there are cars parked causing an obstruction, this would be down to the police or parking wardens to deal with. They will be towed if a major problem.

Resident comment – As a disabled person who uses a walker, it is very difficult to walk on pavements as most of the pavement is taken up by parked cars. Often it is necessary to walk in the road which is very dangerous in the hilly conditions of Chipping Norton.

A - Mark Walker – Change in administration at county council this year who are much more proactive about traffic and road safety. There have been groups set up to look at the A44, a report to come soon.

A - Cllr Coleman – Mentioned that some front garden hedges are overgrown and reduce the size of pavements, so there are changes that community

Resident comment – Brambles are another thing that can make walking difficult. Using a mobility scooter going down by the War Memorial, he toppled over due to the pavement being uneven. A new resident to Chipping Norton and has mentioned that the community members he has encountered so far have been very kind.

A – Cllr Coleman – Mentioned that she has walked the paths with the OCC officer going over the pedestrian paths that children walk for school.

Theme: Graffiti in town centre

Q1: Who is responsible for the remedial works resulting from the graffiti and vandalism in town?

A1: The Town Clerk mentioned that this is down to the property owners individually.

A1: The Police Inspector has also identified and spoken with the individual responsible for the graffiti.

Theme: Other issues in Chipping Norton

Q1: Before COVID there used to be attendance published for Councillors, will this be happening again?

A1: We publish the attendance of each Councillor on the Minutes for each meeting. Our website provider is also looking into creating a live record of Councillor attendance.

Q2: What happened to the paramedic in chippy?

	<p>A2: Cllrs agreed that this was a valuable resource and know that the service doesn't work as it used to as budgets have been cut.</p> <p>A2: Cllr David Heyes mentioned that after a recent medical issue, he called 999 and a First Responder was sent out immediately from Hook Norton.</p> <p>Comment: The resident watched Escape to the Country and there was a big piece on Chipping Norton which was lovely.</p> <p>A: Councillors thanked the resident for her comment.</p> <p>Q3: A resident asked what happened to the Witch Elm tree which was cut down recently on Spring St.</p> <p>A4: Cllrs mentioned that the County Council has a regular programme of tree maintenance which identifies and removes dead or diseased trees. This particular tree was on private property and was removed after it was reported as diseased/dead by residents.</p> <p>Q4: What are the timelines for the Pool Meadow restoration?</p> <p>A4: The Town Council is working with Beaumont Meadows to bring Pool Meadows back to its former glory. The majority of the work is due to start in summer and should be complete in early October.</p>
7	<p>Open Forum to discuss community matters</p> <p>The Mayor invited residents to speak with Councillors after closing the formal portion of the meeting and reminded residents that Councillors maintain an ongoing Councillor's Surgery each month to encourage ongoing communication between residents and the Town Council.</p>
8	<p>Mayor of Chipping Norton's closing remarks and thanks</p> <p>The Mayor closed the formal portion of the meeting and mentioned that Councillors and staff members would remain at the Town Hall to speak with community members if they wished.</p>

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:26pm.