



CHIPPING NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

THE GUILDHALL, CHIPPING NORTON, OXFORDSHIRE OX7 5NJ

TEL: 01608 642341 Email: townclerk@chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk

Office Hours: Mon – Fri 9am – 1pm

Minutes of the Chipping Norton Annual Town Meeting,

Held on the 28th April 2025 at 7pm in the Upper

Hall, Chipping Norton Town Hall

PRESENT:

Cllrs Sandra Coleman (Town Mayor), Mike Rowe, Sharon Wheaton, Tom Festa, Athos Ritsperis, Mike Cahill and Mark Walker

ALSO PRESENT:

Katherine Jang, Town Clerk & CEO

Heidi Davies, Admin and Customer Service Advisor

Tania Kirby, Events and Facilities Officer

Cheryl Huntbach, Local Area Coordinator OCC

Cllr Geoff Saul (OCC)

Members of the public 40 +

1	Welcome Town Mayor, Cllr Coleman gave a Welcome speech to attendees and members of the community. Cllr Coleman introduced the Councillors in attendance at the meeting. Cllr Coleman recognised Cllr Jo Graves for her 30 years of dedicated service since first being appointed as a town councillor. She highlighted Cllr Jo Graves extensive contributions to the community, including her volunteer work and notable achievements, acknowledging the positive impact she has had on the town. Cllr Coleman acknowledged that many individuals in the town are deserving of recognition and encouraged the community to submit nominations for the upcoming community awards IN September 2025.
2	Apologies for absence Apologies were received from Cllrs Natasha Whitmill, Emily Weaver, Dom Rickard, Jo Graves, Steve Akers (Deputy Mayor), Ben Bibby.
3	Minutes Cllrs received the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on the 4 th March 2024. RESOLVED: That the Mayor signs the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting as an accurate record of the meeting.
4	Reports from the Town Council's Standing Committees Cllrs received verbal reports from the Chairs of each of the Town Council's standing committees via the Annual Report. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cllr Sandra Coleman, Chair of Community Committee- Cllr Ian Finney, Chair of Finance and Resources Committee



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Mike Cahill, Chair of Strategic Planning Committee. - Cllr Walker Traffic Advisory Committee <p>Cllr Coleman also gave a verbal report on the Town Council's achievements over the past year. She noted that Glyme Hall is now under the Town Council's management and outlined various events and charitable initiatives, as well as ongoing efforts in Pool Meadow, expressing hopes of continuing work in these areas. She also acknowledged the valuable contributions of the in-house ground maintenance team. A major highlight of the year was the community awards held in September.</p>
5	<p>Community Matters</p> <p>i) Cllrs and the community received updates from voluntary organisations and matters relating to the community of Chipping Norton.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin Jarret gave a verbal report on Chipping Norton Museum and welfare charities. • Katie from The Chipping Norton Theatre provided a verbal report. • Trustees from Chipping Norton Lido shared a verbal report. • Cheryl Huntbach, Local Area Coordinator from OCC, gave an overview of her responsibilities and how she supports people with advice. • Heather from the Green Gym delivered a verbal report. <p>ii) Representatives of the Town, District and County Council. Received questions and comments from electors on any matter which affects the Town.</p> <p>Q1: The Chipping Norton News headline today reads, 'Town Calls Foul Play' regarding planning on the land of the Chipping Norton Football pitch on Walterbush Road. What are the Town Council doing about this?</p> <p>Q2. Pool Meadow has been enjoyed by four generations, and there is an opportunity to save money by maintaining its natural state. Please avoid excessive tidying and refrain from adding picnic tables to preserve its natural character.</p> <p>Q3: With allocated areas designated for housing development, can the council prevent these sites from being built upon?</p> <p>Q4: A resident of Penhurst Gardens asked when the consultation on the skatepark will take place. There are concerns about the skatepark proceeding without requiring a planning application.</p> <p>Q5. A resident of Penhurst Gardens asked why pavement repairs have not been prioritised, especially while funding is being allocated for the installation of a skatepark.</p> <p>Q6: A resident of Spring Street reported a missing railing on the steps two years ago, yet it has not been fixed. Why has this issue not been addressed, and why is it considered a low priority?</p>



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	<p>Q7: A footpath was planned to connect the new estate to the health centre. However, there are concerns that the local authority has not adequately considered public transport options in the area. Residents believe this should be a priority and request that action be taken to address the issue.</p> <p>Q8. There is disappointment regarding the expenditure on grounds maintenance, as it is believed that a contractor could have provided the service for £30k.</p> <p>Q9: Under the current local plan, how many houses are still set to be built? Additionally, do the smaller house plots align with the plan, and is there any infrastructure development planned to support these new homes?</p> <p>Q11: There are concerns that the sewage system is struggling to cope. What steps are being taken to address this issue?</p>
6	<p>Closing remarks</p> <p>Cllr Sandra Coleman (Town Mayor) closed the formal portion of the meeting and invited community members to speak with Councillors and staff at the Town Hall.</p>

The Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.51pm