CHIPPING NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN HALL, CHIPPING NORTON, OXFORDSHIRE OX7 5NA

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TOWN CLERK and CEO: Katherine Jang

Minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on Monday 14 September 2026 at 6:30pm in the Council Chamber, Chipping Norton Town Hall.

PRESENT: Cllrs Jo Graves (Chair for the meeting), Steve Akers, Michael Rowe, Emily Weaver and Victoria Halford (substitute).

ALSO PRESENT:

Katherine Jang, Town Clerk & CEO
Louise Warren, Responsible Finance Officer & Deputy Clerk
Maddy Fisher, Admin, Venues and Events Officer
Two members of the public

CC16 Election of Chair for the meeting

In the absence of the Committee Chair and Vice-Chair, nominations were invited for a Chair for the meeting. Cllr Akers proposed Cllr Graves, seconded by Cllr Weaver. No other nominations were received.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Jo Graves chair the meeting.

CC17 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Sandra Coleman, Alex Keyser, Athos Ritsperis and Ben Bibby.

CC18 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were received.

CC19 Minutes

The minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on 15 June 2026 were considered. No amendments were requested.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

CC20 Public participation

None received.

CC21 Correspondence

Henry Cornish Care Home consultation

Members considered correspondence from Cllr Coleman regarding Oxfordshire County Council's consultation on the proposed closure of Henry Cornish Care Home. The consultation deadline was noted as 21 October 2026.

Cllr Graves outlined the background to the care home, including the previous closure of Chipping Norton Hospital and the amalgamation of care homes in the town.

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Cllr Akers expressed concern about the potential loss of further public assets and services. He questioned the interpretation of the occupancy figures in the briefing paper, including how the use of beds for residents with higher dependency needs was reflected.

Keith Ruddle, a member of the public who reported having served on an Oxfordshire County Council scrutiny board for eight years, provided background information. He encouraged Members to read the consultation document and frequently asked questions. He referred to the move towards care in people's own homes, reflecting personal preferences and cost savings, and called for further scrutiny of whether unoccupied beds demonstrated a lack of demand or need.

Members questioned whether the occupancy figures related to 14 beds rather than the whole care home, which was understood to have approximately 50 beds.

Cllr Akers read his draft public statement and proposed that the Committee support it. Publication in Chippy News as soon as possible was discussed.

It was agreed that a task and finish group comprising Cllrs Steve Akers, Jo Graves and Sandra Coleman would prepare a response to the consultation following a meeting with Naomi Taviner.

CC22 Committee Action Plan 2026–27

The Committee's ongoing Action Plan for 2026–27 was presented for review.

CC23 Venues

a. Town Hall

The Town Hall report from the Admin, Venues and Events Officer was considered. Cllr Weaver asked whether Cllr Whitmill could provide a professional assessment of the kitchen facilities. Officers were asked to contact Cllr Whitmill and pursue this.

b. Glyme Hall

The Glyme Hall report from the Admin, Venues and Events Officer was presented. No additional questions were received.

c. Venues Marketing Strategy and Support

Members received an update following the discussion at Full Council on 7 September 2026. The Town Clerk had approached Alison Wright PR for a further quotation, as requested by Members, but Alison Wright had advised that she was not the appropriate person to provide the required support. The Town Clerk would pursue other options and report to the October Full Council meeting.

CC24 Events

Members received the events report from the Admin, Venues and Events Officer. Members thanked Maddy Fisher for the success of Picnic in the Park and expressed their hope that it would become an annual event.

The Heritage Open Day had also been successful, attracting over 200 attendees. There had been 83 responses to the survey, with a target of 100 responses by the end of the week.

CC25 Play areas

Members noted that the cableways at New Street Recreation Area and Evans Way Play Area had been serviced.

The fence at Cornish Road Play Area required repair following deliberate damage. The damage was to be reported to the police as criminal damage.

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CC26 Skatepark Project

There were no further updates since the Full Council meeting on 7 September 2026.

CC27 Keep Chippy Beautiful

Members noted the following forthcoming events:

13 October 2026 – Spruce Up.

24 October 2026 – Keep Chippy Beautiful litter pick.

10 November 2026 – event in conjunction with Holy Trinity Primary School.

12 December 2026 – pre-Christmas clean-up.

CC28 Date of the next meeting

The next Community Committee meeting would be held on Monday 2 November 2026.

The Chair closed the meeting at 7:45pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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