



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 4th March 2024 at 7pm in the

Upper Hall, Chipping Norton Town Hall

PRESENT:

Cllrs Sandra Coleman (Town Mayor), Dom Rickard, Jo Graves, Mike Rowe, Sharon Wheaton, Tom Festa, Emily Weaver, Athos Ritsperis

ALSO PRESENT:

Luci Ashbourne, Town Clerk & CEO
Katherine Jang, Deputy Town Clerk and Estates Manager
Police Inspector, Chris Ball, Thames Valley Police
Cllr Judy Roberts (OCC)
Cllr Geoff Saul (OCC)
Cllr Mark Walker (WODC)
Paolo Oliveri, General Maintenance Operative
90 members of the public

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| 1 | Introductions Cllr Sandra Coleman (Town Mayor) gave a Welcome speech to attendees and members of the community. Cllr Coleman gave an introduction to District Councillors in attendance at the meeting, as well as Town Councillors and members of staff. |
| 2 | Apologies for absence Apologies were received from Cllrs Ian Finney, Mike Cahill, Natasha Whitmill, Bibby, and Andrew Gant (WODC). |
| 3 | Minutes Cllrs received the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on the 6 th March 2023. 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 written 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- Cllr Mike Cahill, Chair of Strategic Planning Committee Cllr Coleman (Town Mayor) also gave a verbal report about the Town Council's achievements over the past year. The Mayor reported that the main achievements from this past year included refurbishing the ladies toilets at the Town Hall, installing the play park at Cotswold Crescent, awarding community grants, and installing bike repair stations in the town centre. Police Inspector Chris Ball also gave a verbal report about crime in Chipping Norton. The most common type of crime in Chipping Norton is theft from the vehicle and shoplifting |



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| | <p>from the town centre. Three PCSOs have been redeployed to oversee the town centre starting February 2024. He mentioned that only 3 ASBOs were reported in the town centre in the past year, and that the most meaningful takeaway from this is that residents are encouraged to report any crimes to the police.</p> <p>Cllr Judy Roberts (Cabinet member for development and infrastructure, OCC) gave a verbal report about the HGV strategy for Chipping Norton. An area strategy for weight restriction has been analysed over the past year, and the outcome realized is that this is not an effective strategy to pursue further. Cllr Roberts reported that after a study undertaken at Burford, they found that 40% of the traffic noted in the area is local traffic which cannot be mitigated. The largest issue with weight restrictions on roads is that they aren't easily enforceable.</p> |
| <p>5</p> | <p>Guest Speaker Session</p> <p>John Graves spoke as a representative of Chipping Norton Archaeology Research Group (CHARG) to present an overview of the group's work and the Scheduled Ancient Monument at the land to the East of Chipping Norton (Tank Farm).</p> |
| <p>6</p> | <p>Q&A Session</p> <p>Members of the community asked questions to representatives of the Town, District and County Council, and Thames Valley Police.</p> <p><u>East Chipping Norton and Archaeology</u></p> <p>Q1: What will happen to the East Chipping Norton site going forward? John Graves responded – No development will be allowed on the site going forward, even ploughing by the farmers. At the moment there is nothing to see at the site as everything is buried so excavation would need to take place before this is opened to the public as a visitor site.</p> <p>What is the implication for the East Chipping Norton Development? Cllr Geoff Saul (OCC) responded that the outcome for the site is unknown at this time. At the moment it is clear that the entire site will need to be entirely re-planned as the initial proposal will not be able to go forward.</p> <p><u>Police and Crime</u></p> <p>Q1: Was anyone caught for the ram-raid on Sainsbury's last year? PI Ball replied that this was part of a national crime gang inspection, and</p> <p>Q2: How does the crime rate relate to the 70's and 80's? Replied – that this is reported on year on year rather than trends from that far back.</p> <p>Q3: How are the 3 PCSO's patrolling? PI Ball is keen to have them walking down the streets and speaking to residents. Due to feedback from the Town Council, they have spoken with shopkeepers in town and have made 3 arrests in the town centre following tip offs. A crime reduction officer funding has also been secured for Chipping Norton.</p> <p>Q4: A resident gave their genuine thanks to PCSO Wes Smith for saving a retailer's life in summer. PI Ball noted this and will pass on his thanks to PCSO Smith.</p> <p>Q5: Shoplifting and crime is often a symptom of a larger societal issue, is there something that can be done to tackle this? PI Ball responded that as part of sentencing police can request a drug treatment plan alongside other sentencing measures.</p> |



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| | <p><u>Questions for Cllr Roberts</u></p> <p>Q1: HGV's have been a longstanding issue in the town, what can be done to expedite anything? Cllr Roberts reported that a large problem with Chipping Norton is that the High Street / A44 is considered a suitable road for HGVs. A new bus service from Chipping Norton to Moreton-in-Marsh has been announced.</p> <p>More discussion arose about the inaction and lack of progress with HGVs in Chipping Norton for quite a long time.</p> <p>Cllr Saul (OCC) agreed that this has been an ongoing issue but commended the County Council for gathering the data required to solve the issue. He answered that a bypass is not feasible so would need to be monitored by things such as ANPR cameras.</p> <p>Cllr Walker (Town Council and WODC) thanked Cllr Roberts for attending the meeting and noted that the town is very passionate about traffic issues including HGVs in the town. Goals from the Town Council include creating safer streets, healthier streets, and living streets (usable and including walking paths around town).</p> <p>Q2: Residents raised parking issues and speeding on Worcester Rd. PI Ball reported that it is possible to have spot checks done on Worcester Road to monitor speeding.</p> <p>Other matters:</p> <p>Q3: Could we have any updates or answers about the local market? Cllr Saul replied that from WODC's point of view the markets haven't been as vibrant as they have been in the past – a proposal has come through that a company take over the markets and franchise the markets.</p> <p>A stall holder who has held their stall for many decades voiced their concern about the market being franchised. They do not see value in employing a third-party when the stall holders organise everything from their point of view.</p> <p>Q4: Has any funding been set aside to provide a crossing at the bottom of New St considering the proposed skatepark at the site? Cllr Walker reported that this is one of the crossing points identified for the LCWIP and is a priority as it is a safety concern. He answered that the 20mph zone should also be extended so that it includes the proposed crossing point.</p> <p>Q5: Is the New St site the correct site for the skatepark? Cllr Coleman noted that there has been a lot of consultation with the police and other consultants who have experience with designing and implementing skateparks – noting that skateparks should be visible from the road to reduce any anti-social behaviour, so the New St site is ideal from that aspect. Additionally, because the A44 is busy the noise from the cars will be louder than any impact from the skatepark, which should mean that nearby residents will not be impacted.</p> <p>Q6: Are there any plans to formally consult with residents nearby the proposed skatepark? The Town Clerk answered that the Town Council will engage with residents, and the proposed site is 90m away from any residential dwelling. The maximum distance allowed is 100m. The Town Council will likely engage with residents in summer 2024.</p> |
| 7 | Open Forum To discuss community matters |



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| 8 | The Town Mayor's closing remarks and thanks The Town Mayor closed the formal portion of the meeting and invited community members to speak with Councillors and staff at the Town Hall. |
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The Town Mayor closed the meeting at 9:00pm.

DRAFT