

**Minutes of the Town Meeting for CHIPPENHAM
held at The Town Hall, High Street, Chippenham
on Wednesday 2nd May 2018 at 6.30p.m.**

PRESENT: 48 members of the electorate of Chippenham, including 13 Town Councillors and 6 Officers from Chippenham Town Council.

Mayor of the Meeting: Councillor Mary Norton, Mayor of Chippenham

1. CHAIRMAN / TOWN MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the purpose of the meeting, stating it is the opportunity to express opinions and raise questions on matters relating to the town.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Melody Thompson

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING – Wednesday 4th May 2016

The minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 26th April 2017 were proposed by Councillor Peter Hutton, seconded by Councillor Andy Phillips and approved as a correct record and signed on behalf of the meeting by the Mayor Councillor Mary Norton.

4. PRESENTATIONS

The Mayor introduced the speakers:-

i Councillor Sandie Webb, Leader, Chippenham Town Council

Councillor Sandie Webb presented information on the forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan which would be produced in consultation with the residents of Chippenham and outlined the reasons behind the need for a Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillor Sandie Webb then presented information on the impending Tourism Strategy, which is a long overdue piece of work and now one of the Corporate Strategic Plan objectives to 'promote Chippenham as a destination market town based on our rich heritage, history and culture'. The outcomes of which would increase awareness of local attractions, such as the Yelde Hall and museum, sightseeing and exploration of the idyllic location we live in by both locals and visitors work. In addition to this would, increase the income of businesses that supply the tourist industry and provide more employment opportunities for local people.

Councillor Sandie Webb then moved on to present information regarding the devolution of services and assets from Wiltshire Council.

Councillor Sandie Webb outlined the reasons for devolution of services and assets.

- Central Government funding reductions and austerity measures
- Recession of 2010, Localism Act services are best delivered at local area (and paid for!).
- Reduction in funding Principal councils, 2019 no indication on whether there will even be any money coming down to Wiltshire.
- Some Principal Councils are on the point of financial collapse Northampton County Council with others in the wings.

- Wiltshire not one of them but needs to make huge savings this year so cutting discretionary services offered down to the bare bones, as they are spending an increasing percentage of their total available budget on children's services, adults social care and strategic highways.

Councillor Sandie Webb outlined the process; the Devolution Working Party will be analysing everything that Wiltshire Council owns in Chippenham. The Council shall then form a view of those services and assets it would like to take on from Wiltshire Council.

Councillor Sandie Webb then explained the process;

- The adage of Finance follows function doesn't necessarily apply but we will try to achieve as much funding as we possibly can from Wiltshire
- It is a myth to think that we'll be provided with lots of income generating opportunity from Wiltshire, that simply won't be the case
- There is due to be an increase in housing provision = more income
- Review of boundaries will bring more houses into Chippenham = more income
- WE may be able to increase income by taking on functions for other parishes
- Are there organisations/groups who would be interested?
- We will, of course, have to use some of our General Reserves – on some of the assets that are transferred.
- There will inevitably be an Increase in the precept, as it is not sustainable to use reserves to fund all ongoing maintenance activities.

ii Acting Superintendent Mark Luffman, Wiltshire Police

Acting Superintendent Mark Luffman presented 'Community Policing – One Team' the purpose for which is to prevent crime and protect the public. He explained the background to the Wiltshire Police Operational Model which previously had separate teams; direct response teams, local crime teams and neighbourhood policing teams. The Community Policing Team (CPT) was rolled out across Wiltshire Police in 2016. The new model brings the three strands into a single team for a more effective approach to community policing. It means there is a bigger team of officers and police staff available to attend incidents and improves communication between teams and departments. Each Community Policing Team is overseen by a Superintendent with an Inspector and a deputy. The team is made up of a mixture of police officers, community co-ordinators, PCSOs, civilian local crime investigators and Specials. The new model gives the public a better service, allowing the potential for issues to be resolved at the first point of contact (101 and 999 call takers) and giving victims a named officer or member of police staff to contact during investigations. It also encourages officers and staff to take more ownership of cases. The police are striving to put the right resource in the right place in the right time. The Wiltshire North CPT operating 24/7 has 5 teams working from Royal Wootton Bassett and 5 teams working from Chippenham covering an area of 296 square miles (768 square kilometres).

iii Theresa Hopwood, Partnership Manager, Visit Wiltshire

Theresa Hopwood presented on 'Being a Tourist in your own Town' and outlined the value of tourism to Wiltshire; which has had record years since 2012, with 20m visitors a year, and tourism related turnover up from £1.1bn to £1.53bn, a 39% increase. Over 29,000 people are employed in tourism in Wiltshire, which is approximately 9% of all jobs. Theresa outlined hidden treasures and world class attractions on our doorstep, ways to appreciate the town, gain new skills and participate in local events and leisure activities. Theresa introduced the 'Great West Way' a multi modal route from London to Bristol which is being launched at the World Travel

Market in November 2018. Theresa was encouraged to see that Chippenham Town Council have included in their Corporate Strategic Plan plans to promote Chippenham as a destination market town based on its' rich heritage history and culture and hoped that residents would further 'explore their own local area and enjoy staycations'.

iv Chippenham Station Masterplan – Network Rail & Wiltshire Council & GVA

Representatives from Network Rail, Emily Maiden and Kelsie Hills, Rory Bowen and Matthew Croston from Wiltshire Council and Charlotte Taylor from Planning Consultants GVA presented the masterplan for the Chippenham Station Hub.

- i) Electrification will be running through Chippenham about 1 mile west of the station, to Thingley Junction. This section of electrification will be complete in March 2019 which will enable almost a doubling of services between Bristol Temple Meads and London Paddington with a reduced journey time.
- ii) Chippenham Station Phase 1 works - the completion of the Gateline took place in December 2017 and the completion of the ticket office and café in January 2018.
- iii) Chippenham Phase 2 – Planning application for Sadler's Mead to be submitted Summer 2018.
- iv) Chippenham Phase 3 - Planning application to be submitted as part of a hybrid planning for a wider site in Autumn 2018.

5. TOPICS AND QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED

Question – War Memorial

As we are probably all aware this November will be the 100th year since the Great War ended. Massive Remembrance Services are to be held throughout the country. What is not so well known is that the War Memorial, paid for by the Townsfolk of Chippenham was accepted by the mayor of the day in 1921, who pledged the council would be responsible for its upkeep. |Sadly after 97 years and frequent repairs it still requires regular ongoing attention, money for which is difficult for the council to find.

Should the Mayor and Councillors ask the residents of the town for their views as to the options available to sort this ongoing problem once and for all, perhaps followed by a council meeting which should be open to the residents to hear and discuss the results. I am led to believe that a grant for funds from the War Memorial Trust might be possible to help mitigate the cost.

Answer

We acknowledge and thank the resident for this question. As this is a Town meeting and not a meeting of the Full Council, we are unable to discuss the matter this evening. However, I shall request that officers put this on the agenda for a future meeting of the Full Council.

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

- Q. A resident raised concern regarding the state of the trees in tubs in the High Street.
- A. Very often as you can see from the Visit Wiltshire presentation they can be looking wonderful, but sadly people put their coffee and drinks into the tubs causing some damage. Thank you for making us aware of this issue. We are mindful to keep on top of it and ensure watering is done on a frequent basis.
- Q. A resident enquired whether the former work undertaken on the Chippenham Masterplan would be taken into consideration with the forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan.
- A. The Neighbourhood Plan will incorporate proposals included in the previous Masterplan. In addition to this, the public are encouraged to be involved in the Neighbourhood Plan process and we would actively seek individual to come forward to assist.

Q. The same resident who had submitted the written war memorial raised the question again verbally and asked opinions from the public audience and then left the meeting.

A. There was little response from the public audience and one other resident suggested perhaps a brand new cenotaph. The Mayor thanked the resident and re-iterated that the matter would be put to the council on a formal agenda at some point in the future.

7. CLOSING REMARKS

There being no further questions the Mayor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Meeting will be held on Wednesday 24 April 2019.

The meeting closed at 8.13 pm.

Signed

Date

DRAFT