



Minutes of a meeting of Full Council held in the Neeld, Chippenham on 16 June 2021 at 7pm.

**Councillors present:**

Desna Allen	Liz Alstrom (Vice Chair)
Declan Baseley	James Bradbury
Jenny Budgell	Clare Cape
Peter Cousins	Bill Douglas
Robert Giles	Gemma Grimes
Angie Litvak-Watson	Kathryn Macdermid
Nick Murry	Andy Phillips
Nina Phillips	David Poole
Nic Puntis	John Scragg (Chairman)
Matthew Short	Myla Watts
Hayley Wilson	

**Officers present:** Mark Smith, Chief Executive  
Nick Rees, Director of Resources  
Matt Kirby, Director of Community Services  
Heather Rae, Head of Democratic Services  
Michael Weeks, Democratic and Civic Officer  
Lynsey Nichols, Head of Communications and Customer Service  
Andy Conroy, Head of Planning  
Kieran Moore, Technician/Duty Officer

**Public present:** There were 6 members of the public present.

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were six written questions and three verbal questions from members of the public, which are appended to these minutes at **APPENDIX A**. The responses to these questions were not part of the meeting but are appended to these minutes at **APPENDIX B**.

**19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mary Norton due to ill health and Councillor Chris Ruck due to work commitments.

**20. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

## 21. MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting held on 19 May 2021 were proposed by Councillor Desna Allen and seconded by Councillor Jenny Budgetell, with all in favour, it was;

### RESOLVED that:

The minutes from the meeting held on 19 May 2021 were approved as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

## 22. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

i. The Mayor highlighted that as a result of Government guidance Civic Sunday had been postponed and will now take place on 26 September. A bulletin was circulated to Councillors and unfortunately participation had been limited for upcoming events for Armed Forces Day and NHS and Carers Thank You Day.

The Mayor highlighted that the Climate Emergency Advisory Group (CEAG) have developed a programme of free online public events. It was noted that the events will take place on Zoom with booking via Eventbrite, the details can be found on the Council's website and the sessions will be recorded for access online at a later date. The programme includes:

1. Home Energy Efficiency, how to save money and the planet, 23 June 7pm-8pm
2. Which renewables would suit my home, 30 June 7pm-8pm
3. Heat pumps, how do they work in the home, 7 July 7pm-8pm

ii. The list of engagements undertaken by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor since the last meeting of the council held on Wednesday 19 May 2021 were noted.

## 23. POLICE REPORT

The Neighbourhood Sergeant for Chippenham, Calne and Corsham, Sergeant Richard Marshall, updated on the current policing priorities within the Chippenham area including COVID 19 legislation changes, anti-social behaviour, County Lines, speeding and road safety.

Councillors questioned the sergeant on recent Catalytic Converter thefts, concerns of residents over thefts of building materials from homes, E-Scooters, County Lines, vulnerable children. The Sergeant noted that these were issues known to the Police and enhanced patrols and education were being rolled out. It was confirmed that E-Scooters must be fully insured and licenced unless used on private roads and they will be seized in the same way as a motor vehicle. The Chairman thanked the Sergeant for attending the meeting and answering Councillor questions.

### RESOLVED that:

The update be noted.

**Sergeant Richard Marshall left the meeting**

## 24. COMMITTEE MINUTES

### a. Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 02 June were presented by Councillor James Bradbury with all matters resolved.

### b. Human Resources Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 03 June 2021 were presented by Councillor Desna Allen with all matters resolved.

### c. Strategy and Resources Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 09 June 2021 were presented by Councillor Andy Phillips with all matters resolved except the Year End Accounts to be discussed at agenda item 8.

## 25. YOUTH COUNCIL MINUTES

### RESOLVED that:

The minutes from the Youth Council meetings held on 10 March, 29 March, 21 April, 10 May and 26 May were noted.

## 26. YEAR END FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL RETURN 2020/21

The Director of Resources presented the recommendations from the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 09 June 2021 and noted there had been no questions received in advance from Councillors. With all in favour, it was;

### RESOLVED that:

Full Council approved the following statements within the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR Part 3) and that they be signed by the Chairman and Chief Executive:

- i. The Annual Governance Statement 2020/2021;
- ii. The Accounting Statements 2020/2021;
- iii. Full Council adopted the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2021 for Chippenham Town Council and these were signed by the Chairman and the Responsible Financial Officer.

## 27. NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA APPLICATION

The Head of Planning presented the report regarding the extension of the Chippenham Neighbourhood Area boundary so that it fully aligns with the Chippenham Parish boundary, which was extended following the Local Government Boundary Review which came into effect from the May 2021 local elections. With all in favour, it was;

### RESOLVED that:

Full Council agreed to the extension of Chippenham Neighbourhood Area to align with the area of the new Chippenham Parish.

## **28. ANNUAL REPORT ADOPTION**

The Head of Communications and Customer Services presented the Annual Report for adoption by Full Council. Councillors requested that the family of the late Councillor Richard Bambury be informed that it will be going out and published to the website. It was confirmed that promotion of the Annual Report would be through a press release, the website and social media and officers were looking at the option of a digital mailing list. With all in favour, it was;

### **RESOLVED that:**

The Annual Report 2020/2021 be adopted and approved for publication.

## **29. COUNCILLOR MOTIONS**

### **i) COUNCILLOR MOTION 1**

Councillor Desna Allen presented the Councillor motion proposing a change in the start time of the Human Resources Committee from 4pm to 7pm. This is subject to officer and room availability this should be actioned in time for the scheduled meeting on 02 September 2021 but no later than the meeting scheduled for 11 November 2021. The motion was seconded by Councillor Bill Douglas and with all in favour, it was;

### **RESOLVED that:**

The time of the Human Resources Committee be changed from 4pm to 7pm to be in line with other Standing Committees and Council meetings.

### **ii) COUNCILLOR MOTION 2**

Councillor Gemma Grimes presented the Councillor motion co-written by Councillors Nick Murry and Angie Litvak-Watson regarding writing to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and Homes England regarding the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF). The motion was seconded by Councillor Nina Phillips, Councillors highlighted their support for the motion but recognised the need for the right housing in the town that will be sustainable and deliverable. Councillor Gemma Grimes confirmed that the motion to write a letter would not negate future developments and they would be considered on their own merit. With all in favour, it was;

### **RESOLVED that:**

i) The Chief Executive Officer submit a letter to Wiltshire Council's Chief Executive, copied to Homes England, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the MP for the Chippenham constituency, communicating the Town Council's position and responses to the consultations summarised above, stating that:

“With regards to the application to MHCLG for a grant from its Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) for monies to enable part funding of a new road to the eastern and southern boundaries of Chippenham:

Chippenham Town Council wholly opposes the construction of such a road and the use

of HIF funding for highway infrastructure, to the east and south of Chippenham;

- Chippenham Town Council disagrees with the proposals for 7,500 houses in the Avon and Marden Valley area defined by the proposed road routes that would be part funded by the HIF;
- Chippenham Town Council requests that the £75m funding for this road is withdrawn on the basis that there is overwhelming opposition from residents and local town/ parish councils, including Chippenham and Calne, for this carbon intensive and environmentally damaging scheme.

### iii) COUNCILLOR MOTION 3

Councillor Myla Watts presented the Councillor motion co-written by Councillors Nick Murry and Declan Baseley regarding declaring an Ecological Emergency, the motion was seconded by Councillor Clare Cape. Councillors thanked the public for their comments on this motion and highlighted the necessity for measures to protect green spaces and enhance biodiversity. Councillors highlighted the need to carry out more detailed work before the Town Council promise to achieve all objectives.

Councillor Desna Allen proposed an amendment to the motion to amend 'B' of the motion to include: *“And also produce a report and detailed action plan on how some of the proposed actions can be implemented. This to include a feasibility study on the impact on the Councils’ budget 2022/23, precept 2022/23 and officer resources.”*

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Nic Puntis, the proposing Councillor Myla Watts agreed to the amendment and a vote was taken on the amendment. With the majority in favour, the amendment was carried and became the substantive motion, there were no further amendments. A vote was taken on the substantive motion and with the majority in favour, it was;

### **RESOLVED that:**

- i) A. The Council declared an Ecological Emergency to supplement our existing Climate Emergency Declaration, recognising that climate change is a key driver of ecological decline, and that natural systems play an essential role in combatting and building resilience to climate change.
  - ii) B. Officers to report back to the Full Council meeting on 22 September 2021, regarding potential budget implications of taking the actions, detailed below (C - E) ahead of the budget setting process for 2022/2023 and also produce a report and detailed action plan on how some of the proposed actions can be implemented to include the impact on the Councils’ budget 2022/23, precept and officer resources.
- C. To achieve the following objectives within the shortest possible timeframe:
- i. Take measures to protect the green spaces that the Council currently owns, and any adopted in future, against physical development, destruction or degradation, as well as creating additional green space when the opportunity arises;
  - ii. Enhance biodiversity on the Council’s own estate through introduction of trees, hedges, shrubs and wildflower meadows, biodiversity friendly mowing and ecological enhancements such as bird boxes and bat boxes;
  - iii. Promote habitat creation and restoration, so as to benefit biodiversity, whilst also helping to store carbon and build natural resilience against the impacts of climate

change;

iv. Aim for 19% woodland cover on the Council's own land, in line with the Woodland Trust's target and as recommended by the Committee on Climate Change, seeking to plant the right species in the right places and optimise carbon sequestration, natural flood management, habitat creation and public amenity benefits;

v. Identify additional suitable land for community projects such as allotments, community gardens, community orchards, tree nurseries and for renewable energy projects;

vi. Cease use of insecticides, fungicides and harmful herbicides (including glyphosate) on the Council's estate, and where possible in contracts with Wiltshire Council or other third parties;

vii. Cease use of single-use plastics on Council premises and throughout its operations;

viii. Cease generating waste that will be sent to landfill or incineration, by procuring reusable, recyclable and naturally biodegradable products and materials;

ix. Avoid the procurement and consumption of products or services that damage wildlife habitats locally or in other parts of the world;

x. Ensure addressing the Climate and Ecological emergencies are strategic priorities for the Council's Corporate Strategic Plan and Chippenham's Neighbourhood Plan policies and design guides, including identifying suitable locations for habitat restoration and biodiversity gain;

xi. Work with the Environment Agency, Wessex Water, Wiltshire Council and other relevant authorities to substantially improve water quality in the River Avon and its tributaries within the parish;

xii. Work with other town and parish councils, local environment and community groups, schools and local residents to protect and enhance natural capital and local wildlife habitats within the parish;

xiii. Undertake awareness raising campaigns for local residents and businesses and provide advice and support on taking positive action to protect and enhance habitats in their neighbourhoods and properties;

xiv. Consider ecological implications of all Council decisions and investments (including CIL funded) in advance, alongside those for climate change.

D. Prepare a monitoring framework and report annually on progress against the above objectives and targets.

E. Incorporate the Ecological Emergency into the Climate Emergency Advisory Group's remit and rename the group the 'Climate and Ecological Emergency Advisory Group'.

One member of public left the meeting.

### **30. DECLARATION OF OFFICE**

The Chief Executive highlighted that one Councillor was unable to sign their Declaration of Office due to ill health. Councillors agreed to resolve that one Councillor may sign their Declaration of Office at a later date prior to the next meeting of Council.

#### **RESOLVED that:**

Councillors agreed that one Councillor who had not been able to sign their Declaration of Office due to ill health may sign their Declaration at a later date prior to the next meeting of Council.

**31. APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODY, MRS UTTERSON'S ALMSHOUSES**

Councillors considered a request from the Chair and Clerk of Mrs Utterson's Almshouses to nominate Mr Jerry Hughes as trustee to fill the position held by the late Cllr Bambury. Mr Hughes has the correct qualifications and experience to become a trustee and would hold office until 30 November 2021.

ii) To re-nominate Cllr Jenny Budgell and Mr Hughes to be the two representatives on Mrs Utterson's Almshouses nominated by the Council to hold office from 01 December 2021 for a full 4 year term of office.

**RESOLVED that:**

i) Mr Jerry Hughes be nominated as trustee of Mrs Utterson's Almshouses to fill the position held by the late Cllr Bambury and would hold office until 30 November 2021.

ii) Cllr Jenny Budgell and Mr Hughes be re-nominated to be the two representatives on Mrs Utterson's Almshouses nominated by the Council to hold office from 01 December 2021 for a full 4 year term of office.

**32. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE**

The Head of Planning updated Councillors on last two Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meetings and work undertaken consulting with parishes.

**RESOLVED that:**

Councillors noted the report.

**33. COUNCILLORS FEEDBACK**

i. Councillor Nic Puntis updated on the recent Area Board meeting and noted a report could be brought to the next meeting.

ii. The Chairman, Councillor John Scragg, updated on attending the Executive Committee but noted the next date had not been confirmed.

iii. Councillor Nic Puntis highlighted he was Chair of the Operational Flood Working Group North.

iv. There were no Committee Membership changes.

v. There were no ideas for potential CIL projects to be forwarded to Wiltshire Council.

vi. There were no Community Matters updates requested.

**34. ITEMS FOR COMMUNICATION**

Councillors requested that the motion on declaring an Ecological Emergency be highlighted to the press and requested that the Youth Council be engaged with this.

35. **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Full Council will take place at 7pm on Wednesday 22 September 2021.

The meeting concluded at 8.56pm

These Minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting

Signed on behalf of the Council as a true record of the meeting

Chairman:

Date:

Public Comments and Questions

At the invitation of the Chairman residents made the following comments and questions:

Written public question:

1. The Wiltshire Councillor for Cepen Park and Hunters Moon congratulated the Mayor on his recent appointment and thanked him for comments at the opening address. The three new areas to the Chippenham boundary were highlighted as the Wiltshire Council representative for the new development at Hunters Moon it was requested that at the appropriate time subject to COVID regulations and the capacity of the Town Council, consideration is given to running public engagement events not only at Hunter's Moon but all the new developments currently being built at Chippenham and future developments. It was requested an update on the progress of noticeboard in the Hunters Moon Area. There is already a proactive community, but a noticeboard will help promote Town Council events and other community groups in the town. The importance of inclusivity was highlighted to include those living on the edge of Chippenham to feel part of the Town.
2. I was fortunate and grateful to attend the PET meeting where members of the public spoke and Councillors agreed to reject the Future Chippenham Road Consultation and refer their proposal to full Council. Councillor Richard Bambury, even though he had only come back from hospital that day chaired the meeting as it was so important to us, that is my memory of him and my condolences go to his friends and family. I was also fortunate and grateful for the Town Council meetings when the motions were confirmed to reject the Future Chippenham and Local Plan Consultations and would urge all Councillors to agree with the motion tonight for the Chief Executive Officer to submit a letter to Wiltshire Council's Chief Executive, copied to Homes England, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the MP for the Chippenham constituency, communicating Chippenham Town Council requests that the £75m funding for this road is withdrawn on the basis that there is overwhelming opposition from residents and local town/parish councils, including Chippenham and Calne, for this carbon intensive and environmentally damaging scheme. Attending the Area Board Meeting on Monday night confirmed the need for clear and concise action as even though Town Councillors raised about allocating land for business doesn't bring businesses to the town and the SWLEP presentation was very poor in not considering the out commuting of 67% of workers. I noted the item on the Youth Council's minutes about the Future Chippenham Consultation and wondered if the offer by Cllr Nick Murry at a previous Town Council meeting had been taken up so the Youth Council heard from both sides of the argument and could make their own decisions and question the Future Chippenham Team further? I'm presuming not by the comments noted: Presented new economic opportunities - If CAUSE had been present they would have said allocating space does not bring business opportunities, this can be seen from the many vacant business premises of all sizes and land currently already available while 67% of residents have to commute out of Chippenham for work. Traveling in and out of the area easier - If CAUSE had been present they would have said as I found out when I questioned the Future Chippenham Team this is for future residents of the 7.500 houses required for the road funding and not for existing residents. We are already seeing through the new traffic lights at Station Hill which are causing chaos and pollution, Wiltshire Council say they are part of the Future Chippenham project, I would prefer a

system that took every mode of transport into consideration, stopping people and buses getting to the train station to reduce the length of car journeys and causing additional pollution by gridlocked traffic are not acceptable in a Climate Emergency, residents could have come up with a much better solution for walkers, cyclists, cars, buses etc. I also noted they were concerned about the general urban sprawl, environmental consequences, and damage to farmland which was good to see as the aim is to allow Chippenham to evolve sustainably for future generations. Then we can get on with making Chippenham the wonderful place it can be through declaring an Ecological Emergency, the Town Council promoting it through Visit Wiltshire and involving residents. I would also like to reiterate my previous couple of requests for a Town Council newsletter for Chippenham like many other local towns, I have included a copy of Trowbridge e-newsletter and they also have a physical newspaper too.

3. I am a Chippenham resident and have lived here all of my 42 years of life, with the exception of a couple of years when I moved briefly to another Wiltshire town due to work commitments. I returned because I wanted to raise a family back home in Chippenham as I believe the town is a safe community with a vast amount of thriving schools and with a real community feel. My childhood days in Chippenham were some of the best times of my life, mostly due to the ability to play with friends amongst lots of green spaces surrounded by nature which, sadly, many of them have now been built upon and I am finding that my children cannot experience the same joy I did. As much as I am aware that population is increasing, I feel as though Chippenham is changing at an alarming rate and that my children ranging from age 13 to 3, cannot experience the same freedom or safety due to the increase of roads, buildings and having safe, open play spaces taken away from them. Not only for my children but I care deeply about nature and therefore read the motion with a keen interest. The green spaces that we are so often losing here in Chippenham has a huge impact on wildlife and habitats. This in turn impacts clean air, food and water for us all. I am trying my best to educate my family and helping to respect our beautiful planet by growing my own veg and fruits, growing flowers and allowing weeds to thrive for bees which are important to our food chain and by reducing our use of single use plastics. However, as much as I am trying to do my bit, which I know some others are too, it is time now for Chippenham council to acknowledge that the scientific evidence tells us we are in the midst of a biodiversity crisis - nature is in dangerous decline with unprecedented and accelerating species extinction rates. With the current global pandemic, it is evident that we need to do more to protect our planet and nature plays a huge part in that, it always has and always will. We all need to act NOW for our generation and future generations. Chippenham is a respectable town with a good reputation. It is now time to make our community even better, and for these reasons I am in full support of this motion and would urge all councillors to follow the lead of other councils across the UK, and vote in favour of it. Thank you for listening.
4. The last 15 months have show us the importance of nature for our mental health and emotional wellbeing. At the same time we are becoming increasingly aware through research of the threat to the ecology and reduction in native fauna and flora. Through my work with young people locally I have had the opportunity to talk to them about the impact of the pandemic and one of the issues they have raised was the importance of access to open spaces for their physical and mental health. We need not only to protect what open space we have in Chippenham but also promote habitat diversity to stop the decline in species and improve species diversity. We need to ensure that future generations are grateful for the action we take to protect our precious natural environment not blame us for its continued decline and destruction. For these reasons I

fully support this motion to declare an ecological emergency and put in place the actions set out in the motion and I would like all the councillors to vote in favour.

5. I am a Chippenham resident. And like more and more people I am becoming very concerned about the impact the human race is having upon the natural world. One only has to watch a programme such as Springwatch or one Sir David Attenborough's programme's to see that the destruction of wildlife and habitats is causing increasing damage to the natural world, which humanity depends on for food, water and clean air. I am a Methodist minister, based at Central Methodist Church. The Methodist Church at a national and local level is also very concerned about this issue. I feel that as a community leader it is vital that I express a view on this from the faith perspective as well. In the words of hymn writer Fred Pratt Green, I believe that: God in his love for us lent us this planet, gave it a purpose in time and in space: Long have our human wars ruined its harvest; long has earth bowed to the terror of force; long have we wasted what others have need of, poisoned the fountain of life at its source. Earth is the Lord's: it is ours to enjoy it, ours, as his stewards, to farm and defend. From its pollution, misuse, and destruction, good Lord, deliver us, world without end. Regardless of whether someone is a person of faith or not, I feel it is incumbent on all people to protect the natural world. I understand that many other progressive Councils across the country have already declared an Ecological Emergencies, and I would urge Chippenham Councillors to do the same and please back this motion. Thank you.
6. I have been concerned for a while now over the way that council land is managed, there is very little hedging or evergreen hedging in the Chippenham, which leaves many species of animals including Hedgehogs, Birds and small mammals like shrews very little places to hide and hibernate, this leaves them exposed with a high winter mortality rate especially when harsh winters set in. On top of this when spring comes around I find that there are workers going around any thicker areas, where animals may have made their homes for the winter and could still be asleep, with strimmers destroying so much and potentially maiming animals (not intentionally but just not realising the impact of what they are doing). I spoke to one worker as he was strimming the undergrowth and mentioned to him that there could well be hedgehogs living in what he was strimming back and he had no idea and was very understanding and stopped what he was doing. In the summer the grass is left to grow which is wonderful to see the wild flowers come out for the bees but the grass is then left for so long that mammals start to make their homes in it, only for someone to come round on an industrial ride on mower and destroy their homes. I feel that here is far more that could be done to help our beautiful wildlife, hedgehogs are especially venerable and are on the official list of animals that are in danger of becoming extinct in this country. Could evergreen hedging be put into the areas surrounding parks and open spaces that are council tended? Could a 1 meter area around the extremities of these open spaces be left not mowed? Could better training be given to workers using such equipment like strimmers, mowers and equipment that could cause harm to wildlife?
7. I would just like to offer my whole-hearted support to two motions that will be presented under Item 11. 11(i) - Letter confirming the Council's position on the HIF bid and associated development. I am very pleased to see this necessary next step being put forward, and that the newly elected Council is firmly resolved to continue to push back on this. Whilst the proposed scheme was clearly unwanted and potentially hugely damaging to our local environment in Chippenham, I am glad that the point of principle and wider implications of the potential carbon emissions that would result from this scale of development on greenfield land all formed part of the arguments that were

shared against it. I'm glad that we are beginning to put these vital issues at the front and centre of decision-making and challenging those who would continue to ignore them. 11 (ii) - Ecological Emergency, alongside the rejection of the HIF funds, if passed this motion signals a renewed and powerful commitment to putting planet, and its relationship to the wellbeing of people, at the heart of all that the council does. A growing number of people are aware of the imperative we have now to protect declining species and recover ecosystems for our own future survival, but irrespective of this there are few that are unmoved by the sadness of witnessing animals and natural spaces in decline, and how this is linked to human behaviour.

This motion is an example of how local government can really educate and inspire the community by leading by example. These are tough times but we need to face head on the reality of the twinned Climate and Ecological Crises, with positive action. The comprehensive and robust measures set out would do this, and leave no-one in doubt that the Council is taking it's responsibility for the areas it can manage with good conscience.

8. A resident highlighted increasing invasive species on parts of the Avon which are managed by the Town Council and questioned what plans the Council have to deal with this problem.
9. A resident requested a following up from the last Council meeting on their public question regarding what the Council are doing to control staff salaries. The resident requested that salaries in excess of £50,000 per year are declared and questioned who provides the answers to these questions. The resident noted that comments made by other members of the public had already covered the topic of the Ecological Emergency and support for the HIF Bid letter. The resident requested that Councillors in particular those that were also Wiltshire Councillors ask Wiltshire Council to reject the application to build an incinerator in Westbury which is not in line with the declared Ecological Emergency.

Written responses to public questions asked at the Full Council meeting on 16 June 2021:

1. Thank you for your comments and questions asked at Full Council on 16 June 2021, your comments have been noted. The community noticeboard for the Hunters Moon area is being progressed, when the development is finished the details of where it will be located will be confirmed and communicated.
2. Thank you for your comments and questions asked at Full Council on 16 June 2021, your comments have been noted. The Youth Council did not receive an update from CAUSE due to the deadline of the consultation and not being able to fit this into a meeting. The Youth Council did consider both sides of the argument, one Youth Councillor spoke to their peer group on this topic and received 74 responses with 44 of these broadly opposed. Concerns were around general urban sprawl, environmental consequences, and damage to farmland. Those in favour believed that the proposal presented new economic opportunities for the town, making the town more significant and traveling in and out of the area easier. Youth Councillors then voiced their own views on the proposals and at the meeting it was concluded that as opinions were divided it would not be appropriate to respond as a Youth Council. It was agreed that Youth Council members would be encouraged to respond individually if they wanted.
3. Thank you for your comments made at Full Council on 16 June 2021, your comments have been noted.
4. Thank you for your comments made at Full Council on 16 June 2021, your comments have been noted.
5. Thank you for your comments made at Full Council on 16 June 2021, your comments have been noted.
6. Thank you for your comments and questions asked at Full Council on 16 June 2021, your comments have been noted. Since the transfer of assets and services from Wiltshire Council, Chippenham Town Council currently manage approximately 33,000 square meters of hedging in Chippenham. The current work that the Council are undertaking with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust will create more opportunities for mammals to hibernate, mammals don't necessarily require evergreen hedging to hibernate in therefore any new hedge planting will take into account the holistic view of biodiversity and include native species wherever possible. The Town Council will be undertaking a review of their grass cutting round in the coming months, working towards a new grass cutting strategy for the spring of 2022. The Council will be consulting with the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and will take this into consideration. Chippenham Town Council Grounds Operatives are all comprehensively trained on all equipment that they operate.
7. Thank you for your comments made at Full Council on 16 June 2021, your comments have been noted.

8. Thank you for your comments and question asked at Full Council on 16 June 2021, your comments have been noted and the Council will be looking to divert resources and engage with community volunteers for the hand pulling of Himalayan Balsam in the near future. Chippenham Town Council already undertake the treatment of Japanese Knotweed in some areas where it is known to the Council.
  
9. Thank you for your comments and questions asked at Full Council on 16 June 2021, your comments have been noted. As we stated previously, annual salary increases are determined nationally in negotiation between employees and employer's representatives. All other decisions on salaries and staffing numbers are decided upon by the Human Resources Committee, considering the needs of the Council and its services. The Council will be publishing this information on the Council's website in due course. Public question responses are drafted by the Corporate Management Team for approval and comment by the relevant Chairman of the particular Committee and/or Full Council.