



# **'GO LOCAL!'**

## **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023 War Memorial Hall, Charlbury at 7pm

**Present:** Cllrs: Liz Reason, Gareth Epps, Gary Harrison, Claire Wilding, Frances Mortimer, Dan Raymond-Barker, Peter Kenrick, Tony Merry, Janet Burroughs, Nick Potter, Town Clerk: Lisa Wilkinson, 110 members of public

**Apologies** were received from Tim Crisp and James Styring.

**Local businesses:** The Bull, Chloe, The Old Shed, Charlbury Deli, Amarelo and Halcyon Honey were present and offered nibbles to the meeting attendees.

### **1. Introduction from Liz Reason, Chair of Charlbury Town Council**

Liz Reason introduced the councillors and talked about the work that the council has undertaken over the last 12 months.

### **2. Speeding, fish and more.**

Cllr Gary Harrison gave a short presentation on council work. This included: dragons' teeth, the zebra crossing, 20mph speed limit, Home Comforts project, Land and Nature work, access to green spaces, new play equipment, hydro turbine feasibility study, fish pass feasibility study and the new Charlbury market.

### **3. Ian Wilkinson from FarmEd**

Ian spoke about current work at FarmEd and how he sees the future of farming.

### **4. Honoured Citizen Awards presentation**

Peter Kenrick presented honoured citizen awards to John Fitzgerald, Colin Critch and Teresa Duester. They were thanked for all the voluntary work they have done in Charlbury over many years.

### **5. Charlbury Community Centre**

Chris Potts as chair of the Community Centre, spoke about its current plans to install a gym and a workshop.

### **6. Charlbury Beer Festival**

Nick Millea spoke about their grants and who received them this year.

### **7. Sustainable Charlbury**

Hugh Goyder spoke about how SusCha awards grants and how they welcome applications for funding.

### **8. To elect representative for the Conservation Advisory Committee**

Nicolette Lethbridge was elected as the representative (nominated by Liz Leffman, seconded by Mrs Scott).



## 9. Questions to Town Council and the Chairs of the Charities & Trusts

- Neighbourhood Plan: is another another housing needs assessment required?

Peter Kenrick replied that WODC is currently revising its Local Plan and the TC will engage in this process before any decision is taken on whether an assessment is necessary.

Andy Graham (District Cllr) added that the consultation on the Local Plan starts in the summer 2023. The new plan will not be in place until the end of 2024. Its subtitle is 'Quality of life'.

- Concern about number of Airb&bs in town.

The Government is currently looking at the legislation on this. Andy Graham explained that WODC now has a proactive approach as it is building its own houses for the first time in 40 years. There will be a consultation on this.

Concern was raised by a resident that there is no space for houses in Charlbury.

- Sewage: the TC was asked to throw its weight behind WASP and the people in Charlbury who are actively working on the issue of pollution.

Claire Wilding explained that the TC strongly supports this. There is an article in the Independent online, mentioning Charlbury, for which she was interviewed.

Peter Kenrick is working with the Evenlode Catchment Partnership and mentioned Citizen Science day being held on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April where there are opportunities to get involved with projects such as monitoring water quality.

Gary Harrison is working with the Environment Agency on the fish pass: part of this project is looking at the river and the quality and cleanliness of the water.

Meeting closed: 21.15