



cirencester
· town council ·

Annual Town Meeting

You are hereby invited to attend the Fiftieth Annual Town Meeting
of the Cirencester town electorate.

To be held on Tuesday, 23rd April 2024 at 6.30 p.m.
at the Winstone Learning Centre, Corinium Museum, Park Street, Cirencester.

Cllr Sabrina Dixon
Mayor of Cirencester
12th April 2024

-
- | | |
|--------|---|
| 6.30pm | Welcome from the Mayor
To receive a welcome from the Mayor and Chair of Council. |
| 6.31pm | Apologies
To receive apologies from those unable to attend the Annual Town Meeting. |
| 6.32pm | Mayor's Annual Address
To receive the Mayor's Annual Address. |
| 6.40pm | Minutes of the Last Meeting Held on 23rd May 2023
To receive and approve, as an accurate record, the Minutes of the last Annual Town Meeting. |
| 6.45pm | Annual Report 2023-24
To receive a summary update on the last 12 months in respect of each of the following aspects of the Council:

Corporate Governance & Personnel – Cllr Gary Selwyn
Planning – Cllr Andy Jopp
Finance and Audit – Cllr Mark Harris
Community Services – Cllr Sarah Orr
Land and Property – Cllr Nick Bridges
Climate and Environment – Cllr Sabrina Dixon |
| 7.00pm | Peter Clegg, CEO of the Bathurst Estate
To receive an update from Peter Clegg, Chief Executive Officer of the Bathurst Estate, relating to The Steadings development and Bathurst Estate matters. |
| 7.15pm | Neighbourhood Policing Team
To receive an update from the Cirencester Neighbourhood Policing Team. |

Contd.

7.30pm **Community Presentations and Updates**
To receive presentations and updates from the local community.

7.45pm **Questions from the Public**
An opportunity for the electorate of Cirencester town to ask questions relating to the work of the Council and other issues relating to the social, environmental and economic well-being of the town.



Bingham House, 1 Dyer Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 2PP
Tel: 01285 655646, www.cirencester.gov.uk



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TOWN

MINUTES of the Forty-Ninth Annual Town Meeting, held on Tuesday, 23rd May 2023 at 6.30 p.m. at Cirencester Library, The Waterloo, Cirencester.

Present: Councillor Sarah Orr – Deputy Mayor of Cirencester (Chair)

Councillors: Naomi Bloomer
Nick Bridges
Patrick Coleman
Christine Gore
Jan Gronow
Mark Harris
Jenny Hincks
Bob Irving
Andy Jopp
Andrea Pellegram
Nigel Robbins
Gary Selwyn
Pete Smith

Andrew Tubb – Chief Executive Officer
Johan Newman – Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Becky Coles - Community Services Manager

16 members of the public were present.

01.23 WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR

In the absence of the Mayor of Cirencester, Sabrina Dixon, the Deputy Mayor of Cirencester, Councillor Sarah Orr, welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the format and purpose of the meeting. All councillors introduced themselves and the ward they represent.

02.23 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and noted from the Mayor of Cirencester, Councillor Sabrina Dixon.

03.23 MAYOR'S ANNUAL ADDRESS

On behalf of the Mayor of Cirencester, Councillor Sabrina Dixon, the Deputy Mayor of Cirencester, Councillor Sarah Orr, presented the following:

"It would be difficult to list every single one of the wonderful Cirencester businesses, community organisations and people I have met over the past year, let alone all the fascinating things I have learnt. Cirencester bucks national trends in terms of the strength of our voluntary sector, our town centre footfall and the number of shops on our high street. I am proud to represent it and show it off at any opportunity! Despite this, we must also acknowledge that many residents are still facing cost of living challenges, a lack of affordable housing and other national issues. As we emerged from Covid lockdowns, I was honoured to drive to St Genis Laval in France, get the train to Itzehoe in Germany and host visitors from Bathurst in Australia to celebrate our partnerships. These partnerships all look slightly different, but ultimately aim to encourage international friendship, business links, opportunities for young people, plus sharing best practice on climate change prevention and mitigation.

One of my most memorable visits was to Paternoster School, where pupils got the very rare and special privilege of trying on the Mayoral chain! As a result of our visit, Cirencester Town Council arranged some supported work experience for older pupils from the school. You can see the resulting bug hotels and herb beds in St Michael's Park.

Cirencester Town Council is not divided by party politics. Though we naturally have differing opinions amongst ourselves, our residents and our town come first. We have continued to work proactively and positively with other councils, Cirencester Chamber of Commerce, Cirencester College, schools and voluntary organisations throughout the year. It was a delight to invite so many of them to the annual Mayor's Reception to celebrate our collaborative efforts and achievements.

It has been an honour and a joy to be Mayor of Cirencester for the past year. Thank you, Cirencester, for giving me this opportunity to serve you."

04.23 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 26TH APRIL 2022

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Forty-eighth Annual Town Meeting held on 26th April 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

05.23 MATTERS ARISING

None.

06.23 ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

Lead Members provided a summary update of key services and projects that the Town Council has delivered over the past 12 months.

The Annual Report for 2022-23 will be made available on the Town Council's website and it also provides important financial information and how the Council has engaged with the public, but also ways in which the public can engage with the Council.

07.23 CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

The CEO, Andrew Tubb, referenced the decision of Council in 2019 when it declared a Climate Emergency. Since then the Council has undertaken Carbon Literacy certification and regular Carbon Footprint Assessments. The Climate and Environment Committee have an action plan to track and monitor progress, as the Council works towards being carbon neutral. The CEO also referred to the climate competition which is being launched in all wards later in the year.

08.23 ANNUAL TOWN SURVEY 2023

The CEO, Andrew Tubb, outlined the importance of the Council reaching out to everyone in the community seeking their views, to find out their needs and gather invaluable information that will help the Council respond more effectively and meaningfully; shaping future services and facilities. The CEO shared some of the feedback received from the 2022 survey and advised that the current survey is live from 24th May, closes on 31st July 2023 and outlined the ways in which the community can get in touch.

09.23 COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS AND UPDATES

PC Richard Webb outlined the issues the local Police had been dealing with including anti-social behavior and speeding. PC Webb answered questions and outlined changes to the crime recordings and the new speed camera. He also encouraged residents to report even minor issues regarding drug taking, etc., in order that the Police are able to build better intelligence and solve crime.

John Tiffney gave a presentation on the new pathway proposal at St John's Church, including processes and funding challenges.

Geoffrey Adams spoke on his time as a councillor and his current role as representative on local trusts and how rewarding it is.

Councillor Joe Harris, Gloucestershire and Cotswold District Councillor, referred to the recent local elections and was grateful to the Town Council for the foundation it had provided him. He also reported on the financial challenges ahead and opportunities such as the crowd funding scheme and asset improvements.

Councillor Patrick Coleman, commented on the problems of car racing in the town.

Mary Cobbett of the Park Community Group and the Cirencester Food Pantry, thanked the Community Services Team and Councillors for their support to the community groups and that they were seeking accessible meeting space. She stated that the sense of community is really strong in Cirencester.

Gemma Routledge of the Cirencester Clothes Swap provided an update on the organisation and stated that at the last clothes swap, 250 items of recycled clothing had been swapped; this is a brilliant way for people to come together and were seeking collaboration to support a sustainable community storage facility to enable them to run successful events and venues. It was noted that grant aid and space might be available.

Jay Haigh of the Making Place organisation reported that they met monthly at Stratton Village Hall to connect, be creative and share skills.

10.23

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The following questions were raised:

Is there one place they can access information on organisations/events?

It was confirmed that the Council will happily share details on its website www.cirencester.gov.uk and social media. A local publication, Cirencester Scene, also lists contact details of organisations.

What has happened to the signage in Abbey Grounds on where dogs are allowed?

The Council are currently conducting a review of all its open spaces, including signage and will feed this into the review.

Can you provide further information on the trees in streets initiative?

It is Gloucestershire County Council's project and Councillor Nick Bridges can provide further information. The Cirencester Civic Society is providing match funding.

The meeting closed at 7.33 p.m.

Councillor Sarah Orr
Deputy Mayor of Cirencester

