

Public Document Pack



**CHIPPENHAM
TOWN COUNCIL**

Improving the quality of town life

FULL COUNCIL

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of the Full Council held in the Town Hall on Monday 20 November 2023 at 7.00 pm.

COUNCILLORS:	Desna Allen	Liz Alstrom	Declan Baseley (Chair)
	James Bradbury	Matthew Bragg	Jenny Budgetell
	Clare Cape	Pete Cousins	William Douglas
	Robert Giles	Gemma Grimes	Angie Litvak-Watson
	Kathryn Macdermid	Conor Melvin (Vice-Chair)	Nick Murry
	David Poole	Nic Puntis	John Scragg
	Matthew Short	George Simmonds	Myla Watts
	Hayley Wilson		

OFFICERS:	Mark Smith, Chief Executive
	Andy Conroy, Head of Planning
	Heather Rae, Head of Democratic Services
	Alex Cooper, Democratic Services Officer

PUBLIC PRESENT:	There were four members of the public present
------------------------	---

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were two verbal public questions, a copy of the questions are appended to these minutes at **APPENDIX A**. The responses were not part of the meeting but are appended to these minutes at **APPENDIX B**.

48. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Adam Ward due to parental duties and Councillors Andy Phillips due to being unwell.

49. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

50. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements from the Mayor.

51. WILTSHIRE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW CONSULTATION

The Head of Planning presented the report regarding the response to Wiltshire Council's Local Plan Review consultation. The Head of Planning

presented the recommendations of the Planning, Environment and Transport (PET) Committee Meeting on 8 November 2023 and sought agreement from Full Council to these representations.

Councillor Matthew Short made a statement relating to the global carbon budget and sustainability.

Councillor Clare Cape supported the process through the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, the Planning, Environment and Transport Committee and Full Council in this process.

Councillor Matthew Short proposed an amendment to the recommendations, that *“the Town Council request to be present at the hearing in relation to Policy 86 on Renewable Energy”*. This amendment was seconded by Councillor Gemma Grimes. A vote was taken on the amendment and with all in favour, it was supported.

Councillor Pete Cousins proposed an amendment to the recommendations, that *“the Chief Executive writes to the Leader of Wiltshire Council summarising the key points of the Town Council’s response and publishes the letter on the Town Council website. The summary to include the following key aspects of the Council’s response:*

- 1. Non-compliance with para 153 of the NPPF and provisions of the Climate Change Act;*
- 2. Failure to demonstrate Green House Gas emissions associated with plan policies or site selection;*
- 3. The over-estimation of housing numbers (37k instead of 25k reflected by the Housing Needs Assessment;*
- 4. The failure to take account of brownfield site coming forward over the Plan period;*
- 5. The lack of provision for sustainable transport infrastructure as oppose to car dependency;*
- 6. Weak and insufficient support for renewable energy;*
- 7. The Town Council’s support for Policy 85 on net zero development, which aligns in its objective with the Chippenham Neighbourhood Plan’s Net Zero Development policy”*.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Clare Cape, a vote was taken and with all in favour, it was supported.

Councillor Pete Cousins proposed an amendment to the recommendations, that *“with respect to recommendation ii), that: The Town Council’s representations at relevant hearings are inclusive of officers and members, e.g. Chairs of appropriate committees, (where appropriate)”*. The amendment was seconded by Councillor Clare Cape, a vote was taken and with all in favour, it was supported.

With all in favour, it was;

RESOLVED that:

i) Councillors agreed the draft representations commencing as outlined in the report with one amendment that the Town Council request to be present at the hearing in relation to Policy 86 on Renewable Energy. The response to be submitted to Wiltshire Council as the Town Council's formal representations on the Wiltshire Local Plan Review Regulation 19 Consultation.

ii) Councillors agreed to delegate to the Chief Executive the submission of the representations agreed in i) to Wiltshire Council and to ensure that the Town Council is represented at any Examination hearings, where a wish to participate at a hearing has been indicated on the respective representation form. The Town Council's representations at relevant hearings are inclusive of officers and members, e.g. Chairs of appropriate committees, (where appropriate).

iii) Councillors agreed to request that the Chief Executive writes to the Leader of Wiltshire Council summarising the key points of the Town Council's response and publishes the letter on the Town Council website. The summary to include the following key aspects of the Council's response:

1. Non-compliance with para 153 of the NPPF and provisions of the Climate Change Act;
2. Failure to demonstrate Green House Gas emissions associated with plan policies or site selection;
3. The over-estimation of housing numbers (37k instead of 25k reflected by the Housing Needs Assessment);
4. The failure to take account of brownfield site coming forward over the Plan period;
5. The lack of provision for sustainable transport infrastructure as oppose to car dependency;
6. Weak and insufficient support for renewable energy;
7. The Town Council's support for Policy 85 on net zero development, which aligns in its objective with the Chippenham Neighbourhood Plan's Net Zero Development policy.

52. **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW (CGR) - SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS**

The Head of Democratic Services presented the report regarding two proposed amendments that had been submitted to Wiltshire Council as part of their ongoing Community Governance Review. It was confirmed that neighbouring parishes would be aware of these proposals. Councillors did not suggest any additional comments. With all in favour, it was;

RESOLVED that:

- i) Council supported the following two schemes:
- a) Ref: LAC01, Lacock/Chippenham, Rowden Lane, identified as anomalous during the 2019/20 review.

b) Ref: CHI01, Chippenham, Ray Close, raised by Ward Wiltshire Councillor.

ii) Council did not propose any further minor anomalies to be forwarded to Wiltshire Council for them to take into consideration as part of this review process.

iii) Authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to submit comments to Wiltshire Council accordingly.

53. **ITEMS FOR COMMUNICATION**

There were no items for communication requested. Councillors requested that the summary letter for the Wiltshire Local Plan Review consultation response be shared with the Youth Council.

54. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Full Council will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 22 November 2023.

The Chair closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.41 pm.

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting.

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

Signature

Date

Appendix

Public Questions - APPENDIX A

Public questions at Extraordinary Full Council on Monday 20 November 2023:

1. “Google “NASA Ice Sheets” and you’ll see, both Poles have been melting inconceivably fast since well before 2002
Ask ChatGPT “Do the poles control the Jet Streams?” and the answer is ‘Yes, the poles control the Jet Streams’
The BBC now explains how and why extreme UK weather events are caused by our Jet Stream

The more the poles melt, the more often the Jet streams will stutter and stop
The more the poles melt the more powerful, persistent and regular become the extreme weather events

This unprecedented weather is happening, every year, around the globe because we’ve massively melted the poles

Our greenhouse gases have warmed the planet so much already that it is too hot for the poles to exist today

Picture two ice cubes in a bath full of hot water.

Astute people realise that ‘Net Zero 2050’ is a total irrelevance - typical politician clap-trap

If we get to 2050 Net Zero, it won’t stop the weather getting worse

The poles are melting today - in 2023, so obviously - it’s too hot for them to exist today, in 2023

The only way to stop them melting is to suck vast volumes of greenhouse gas out of the atmosphere

But the UK’s politicians serve Growth, not humanity.

Their priority is money, not nature

Their desire is wealth, not your future

Their focus Economic Growth, not melting poles, tax cuts, not global crop failure

Backed by developers and financiers, this growth-driven Wiltshire Local Plan will dump 35 million tonnes of CO₂e into the atmosphere from 100,000 new residents and the building of 37,000 new homes.

Over 18 years, this Local Plan promotes emissions of around 300 million tonnes, by Wiltshire.

An alternative plan could recognise the climate & environment reality and deploy all Wiltshire resources to try to Secure a Future.

i.e. Apply all Climate & Environmental policies currently detailed in the Local plan to existing urban environments
Redesignate all pasture land as “Land to Transition”, via regenerative farming, to forever forest
Deploy 37,000 zero-carbon Micro-EcoHomes to seed indigenous communities across the Transition Land
House migrant farmers in micro EcoCommunities to plant, manage, maintain and protect transition forest
Cut ruminant populations by 99%, repurpose them, first to restore our dead soil and then to be ‘forest foragers’
Execute a strategic plan for Wiltshire to harvest energy to draw down carbon and produce eCrude & cultured food

The 1000Ha of land mentioned in this plan could sequester 20,000 tonnes per year if covered with mature trees.

Alternatively, 1000Ha of mature trees above deep geothermal and around big turbines could sequester 30x more.

But to draw down the 9 million tonnes which the existing ½ a million population emits yearly, 15,000Ha of land needed to have been fully transitioned already

By 2038 the plan should be to transition Wiltshire’s 90,000Ha of grazing land to have

- created 37,000 new households
- promoted large-scale ecological growth
- upgraded the entire urban estate
- sequestered 300 million tonnes

The current Wiltshire Local Plan promotes dumping an insane 300 million tonnes into the atmosphere by 2038.

A sane plan would focus immediately on methane reduction and carbon sequestration to give Wiltshire some chance of Securing a Future.”

2. “The report from Chippenham Town Council’s Head of Planning makes clear the extent to which Wiltshire Council’s Local Plan Review ignores the details as well as the aspirations of the Chippenham Neighbourhood Plan. (See Report paragraphs 3.6, 3.8, 3.9, 3.21, 3.24, and 3.26)

Wiltshire Council’s Local Plan Review doesn’t even try to justify the decades and scores of separate planning applications for which it has granted permission, with no five-year land supply plan and no other plans, except the ones referred to by the council as lying in the future, but not the today of any individual document.

See, for example, paragraph 3.28 Policy 8: ‘setting out three opportunity sites where proposals for redevelopment, informed by masterplans prepared by the developer (my emphasis) which does not accurately reflect the new areas of

housing which have now been built and occupied, principally at Hunters Moon and Birds Marsh estates.’

Instead, Wiltshire Council has thrown around, in different publications, abstract terms like master plan, concept plan, strategic concept plan, concept framework, emerging plan, spatial strategy, spatial vision, policy map—terms that defy close reading.

These irrational and discrepant documents also resist systematic analysis. I don’t think that my incomprehension results from lack of intellectual capacity. The documents manipulate assumptions about authority and expertise that are embedded in ideologically based policies, such as those concerning the free market, home ownership, deregulation or privatisation. But they are set out in vocabularies of environmentalism, empowerment, inclusion, transparency or sustainability.

The quantity of these publications masks the extent to which, in essential respects, Wiltshire Council has not advanced its stated mission but instead allowed it to stagnate and, at worst, decline.

DRAFT

Not Part of the Meeting - APPENDIX B

Responses to Public Questions - Extraordinary Full Council 20 November 2023

1. Thank you for your comments made at the Extraordinary Full Council meeting on 20 November 2023. The Town Council's response to the Local Plan Consultation was agreed at this meeting and can be read in full in the minutes which will be published on the Town Council website under 'Your Council', 'agendas and minutes'.
2. Thank you for your comments made at the Extraordinary Full Council meeting on 20 November 2023. The Town Council's response to the Local Plan Consultation was agreed at this meeting and can be read in full in the minutes which will be published on the Town Council website under 'Your Council', 'agendas and minutes'.

DRAFT