

## Annual Town Meeting Thursday 28 April 2022

### Questions for the meeting

#### Question 1

*(Nigel will prepare answers for 1) and 3). Jim, to prepare a response for question 2).*

- 1) why was the parish meeting date changed from the one advertised in the Town Crier.
- 2) What developments have been made regarding the development of a new cemetery.
- 3) why have the garages in Gainsborough Green/Reynolds Way been demolished are they being replaced.

Jim's answer –

"Thank you for your question. The Town Council maintains two Cemeteries - the Spring Road Cemetery (previously known as the old cemetery) which contains two Victorian chapels - one of which can be hired to hold small funerals, and the Spring Garden Cemetery (previously known as the new cemetery). Further details of the two Cemeteries are given on the Town Council [website](#) .

Previous councils recognised that space in the Spring Garden Cemetery was being used up and took several actions - firstly, to no longer permit pre-purchase of graves, secondly, to introduce a different tariff of fees for non-residents, and thirdly, to start saving money in a dedicated earmarked reserve (as it has been recognised by successive councils that creating a new cemetery will be a significant expense). During the past year small group of councillors, the Council's "New Cemetery Working Party", has started to prepare a business case for a new cemetery which will include an estimate of when it might be needed, possible locations, what features it might contain, and how much it might cost. The Working Party recognised that this was a very complex subject as it needed to take into account not only current and future burial rates, planning rules, land availability, groundwater conditions etc, but also National regulations (which are currently under review). It has therefore placed a contract on the CDS Group, who specialise in designing and building cemeteries, to carry out a detailed review of the options open to the Council, and to identify a shortlist of possible sites. CDS are currently carrying out an assessment of the usable space still available in the Spring Garden Cemetery, after which they will screen potential sites and provide the Council with a range of costed options. It is anticipated that CDS will complete their work in the next two months, Their report will provide the necessary facts to enable the Council to make firm plans about future cemetery provision in the town."

Notes/Response/Action

### Question 2

The developments to the north of Dunmore Road and Twelve Acre Drive are proceeding apace, but as yet no reserved matters plan has been submitted for the local centre (primary school, surgery, shops etc.) and retirement homes proposed in the outline application P17/V0050/O. These facilities will soon be necessary as the new residents move in. Does the Town Council know what the current position is? If not can they investigate?

Notes/Response/Action

### Question 3

I would like to ask, anonymously:

**Are there any plans to change or enforce the street parking restrictions in the Town Centre?**

For example; Bridge Street (by Posh Nosh) has cars parked along it most evenings (especially at weekends) & Taxis seem to have taken over the area by Barclays Bank & down Bath St (where the takeaway restaurants are) of an evening? It would appear that parking restrictions don't apply here, especially in the evenings?

**Please can we have our free 2 hour 'car park' parking back too?** otherwise trade in the Town will most likely be effected by a downwards trend.

Notes/Response/Action

**Question 4**

Have councillors given consideration to how buns can be thrown (projected) to the back of the Market Place so that there is a good distribution of buns? Also, will people be encouraged to be socially distant at the bun throwing?

Notes/Response/Action

**Question 5**

1 For the leader

There are a number of issues which cause great concern to Abingdon residents but which fall outside the remit of the Town Council and we are usually told that questions about these cannot be dealt with at these – or ordinary Council – meetings. The obvious examples at present are the Upper reaches and the Abingdon bridge repairs. My question is why the Town Council does – which is the only body focused solely on this town – not take a more pro-active or assertive stance in holding the appropriate authorities to account. After several years of requests at these meetings the Council did eventually ask the Vale to explain the Upper Reaches situation, but allowed themselves to be fobbed off by an almost insultingly evasive response: it has been left to community groups to pursue the matter and set up discussions with both the Vale and the lessee. There is a similar

situation over the bridge repairs. Surely our elected representatives should be doing at least as much?

2 For the Chair of the Infrastructure Committee

Can we be told how much the TC has got and expects to get in CIL/S.106 money for the new estates – and more detail on how it may be spent

<b>Notes/Response/Action</b>