



# WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Dear Subscriber,

Welcome to our April 2024 EMail Newsletter.

## News from the Council

**LOCAL ELECTIONS.** On May 2nd this year, the full Council is coming up for re-election. This is an opportunity for new electors to step forward and stand for election. Packs have to be collected from WODC and have to be lodged with them (in person) by 4pm on Friday 5th April.

**THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING.** This was held on Tuesday 26th March and about 50 people attended, despite it being a very rainy evening. The Mayor reported on his year in office ([the report can be viewed here](#)), and a representative from the Police talked about issues in the town. Our two District Councillors presented a report. ([the report can be viewed here](#)). Members of the public spoke about various issues.

**GRANTS** The procedure for grants has been changed this year to make the whole process more transparent and easier to understand. The new Policy, timetable, and application form for 2024/25. To see the underlying forms, please follow [this link](#)

**OXFORDSHIRE'S TALKING TRAVEL** Oxford County Council is talking travel! What is it like to travel in Oxfordshire? What types of transport do you use? When and why do you travel? What is important to you when it comes to making decisions about how to move around? [Click here to take part](#)

## Forthcoming Council Meetings (all at 7pm)

**Tuesday 16th April** Town Council Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday 14th May** Town Council Monthly Meeting

Agendas are normally published on the preceding Wednesday and can be found [here](#)

## Minutes from Past Meetings

Minutes from past meetings (once approved) are available to see [here](#)

## Dates for your Diary

Local Cultural and other events can be found by following [this link](#). If you feel your event should be included, please EMail [webmaster@woodstock-tc.gov.uk](mailto:webmaster@woodstock-tc.gov.uk)

## Woodstock History Notes - Democracy at work in Woodstock

‘The time has now arrived when the battle to which we are mutually pledged is to be fought out to the uttermost.’ This announcement of the (parliamentary) election for the Borough of Woodstock in 1874 was written by the Whig candidate, one Mitchell Henry, in a polemical electioneering bill to be found in the town council’s archives. It illustrates the division then existing between the House of Blenheim and burghers of Woodstock. In the event, Henry’s Tory rival, Randolph Churchill, was returned to the seat.

Woodstock’s local politics have usually included an anti-Blenheim faction. Sentiment surrounding the proposed Solar Farm on Blenheim Estate land is a current example. It is

an issue that might influence the Elections to the Woodstock Town Council - and subsequently that of its mayor - that are shortly to be held on 2 May.

Such elections could not always be taken for granted, as described in the Council's own online history: "By the early 1800s the Council almost ceased to exist. Factions sniped at one another, councillors stayed away from meetings and the entire administration became quite shambolic". In 1834 and 1835 the mayor was elected at a meeting attended only by the outgoing Mayor and the Clerk. The history goes on to state that, "eventually, in 1838, the rifts began to heal and the Council was once more established on a businesslike and democratic footing and has remained so to this day".

Let us hope that history will not repeat itself, and that the Electors of Woodstock town will do as Mitchell Henry exhorted them 150 years ago. "Assert, then, your independence, and elect the Candidate of your choice, for thereby you will obliterate the past, and place your Borough in a proud position in the Kingdom, and you will also secure the faithful services of those who will ever act in accordance with their principles."

**Email Contacts:**

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To view list of all Councillors: <https://woodstock-tc.gov.uk/council-members/>



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