

Minutes of the meeting of the Oakham Town Council held on the 11th January, 2017 in the offices of the Town Council, Victoria Hall, Main Street, Oakham, Rutland.

Present	Cllr Martin Brookes	
	Cllr Michael Haley	
	Cllr Richard Haynes	
	Cllr Vince Howard	
	Cllr Peter Ind	
	Cllr Adam Lowe	Chairman of the Town Council
	Cllr Mrs Joyce Lucas. BEM	
	Cllr Stan Stubbs	
	Cllr Miss Sally Ann Wadsworth	
	Mr Malcolm Plumb. F. Inst. LCM	Acting Town Clerk
	Ms Allison Greaves	Deputy Town Clerk

No Members of the Public were in attendance

294/17 Apologies for absence

All Councillors being present, no apologies for absence were made.

295/17 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were made by Councillors in respect of items of business specified on the agenda for this meeting.

296/17 Minutes

Subject to the following amendments, the minutes of the meeting of the Oakham Town Council held on the 14th December, 2016 were adopted as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

- Attendance list, first page. Amend entry for "Cllr Joyce Lucas" to "Cllr Mrs Joyce Lucas BEM".
- Minute 277 (referring to minute 271/16). Delete the sentence "Cllr Lucas.....Princess Avenue", replace with "The Council agreed that £200 for plants on Princess Avenue be approved".

297/17 Members reports

Cllr Joyce Lucas gave a detailed report upon the following

- PDA. Current position relating to the acquisition of new shrubs, outstanding work required to existing trees, proposed varieties of new shrubs, the need to provide three new trees, and the need for a tree survey to be done for Cutts Close and Willow Crescent (Budgetary provision)
- Festival Arrangements. Current work and proposed programme

- LSP Group. Proposals for a 20yr. celebration of independence (Town). Request for ideas from Councillors.

After discussion, the reports were NOTED by the meeting

298/17 Clerks report.

The Acting Town Clerk reported the following.

- Councils Policies and Procedures working group will be meeting in the near future
- The Deputy Town Clerk had commenced her CiCLA training course
- The advertisements for the appointment of a (permanent) Town Clerk had been placed.
- The outsourcing of Payroll work had now been set up.

The reports were NOTED by the meeting.

299/17 Deputations by the public

No deputations were made or discussed under this item of business.

300/17 Rutland Local Strategic Partnership

The Chairman of the Council, Cllr Adam Lowe, referred to a letter, circulated with the agenda papers, received from the RCC Chief Executive Officer, inviting the Town Councils views upon the future structure, terms of reference and modus operandi for the Partnership. Several proposals were put forward for the Town Councils consideration. The meeting therefore considered each proposal in detail and recorded the following responses.

1. Partnership to remain in place as Rutland Together. Agreed.
2. RCC Leader (or Deputy Leader) to chair the Partnership. In order to preserve and emphasise the independence of the Partnership, The Town Council believes that the Chairman and Vice Chairman should be elected annually from the Partnership Members.
3. Partnership meetings to take place three times a year. Agreed.
4. (and 5). In all cases, the Partner Organisation and its Representative, should each be specifically named.
5. As 4 above.
6. Terms of reference. Agreed.
7. As 6 above.

It was agreed that the foregoing responses be communicated to the RCC Chief Executive Officer by the Acting Town Clerk.

301/17 Budget/precept for 2017/18

The Town Council Vice Chairman, Cllr Michael Haley gave a screen presentation of the amended draft budget/precept proposed by the December 2016 Town Council meeting. He emphasised that the precept notice must be served on the Rutland County Council next week. This meeting was, therefore, the final opportunity for Councillors to determine the Councils budget for 2017/18.

Accordingly, every single budget item was again considered separately by the meeting where Councillors final views were expressed. Final amendments to the draft were all agreed by full voting procedures. After a detailed discussion, it **was resolved**, by 8 votes for and 1 against (Cllr Martin Brookes), that the budget document for 2017/18 be agreed. For minute record purposes, the final budget total was £229,170 (two hundred and twenty nine thousand, one hundred and seventy pounds), which represented a 7% average increase (Sched. D rateable properties) from the current financial year. The actual increased (average) cost in monetary terms, would be £3.71p per property for the full year. A full copy of the budget is attached to these minutes for record purposes.

The Council meeting also **noted** that the Councils “reserves funds” (public money retained for unexpected costs) comprised of two elements, being a “general” reserve, and “earmarked” (specific item) reserves. This second element comprised of such things as a grant received from the Developers of the new Larkfleet Housing project, and expected renovations which will be needed, sometime in the future, for public toilets, playground equipment, Bandstand etc.

Finally, the meeting recorded its appreciation to the Council Finances Working Group and the Council Staff for their work in helping to prepare fair and justified budget proposals for 2017/18. The Acting Town Clerk would now issue the precept notice to the Rutland County Council.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 20.45hrs.