

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 13TH 2016 AT THE OFFICES OF OAKHAM TOWN
COUNCIL, VICTORIA HALL, 39, HIGH STREET, OAKHAM**

PRESENT:

Cllrs Alf Dewis (Chairman), Adam Lowe, Martin Brookes, Stan Stubbs,
Mrs Joyce Lucas BEM, Jasmine Hopkins, Vince Howard and Michael Elliott

ABSENT:

Cllr Michael Haley

Five members of the public were present at the start of the meeting

001/16 APOLOGIES

- (i) An apology for absence was received from Cllr Michael Haley
- (ii) It was proposed by Cllr Adam Lowe, seconded by Cllr Vince Howard and unanimously resolved to approve the absence due to a prior commitment

002/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- (i) No Disclosable Pecuniary Interests were declared
- (ii) Cllr Vince Howard declared an interest in Item 14 on the agenda as a member of the Oakham Angling Society.
Cllr Howard had been granted a dispensation to take part in discussions and vote on the Item

Cllr Mrs Joyce Lucas declared an interest in Item 14 on the agenda as her husband is a member of the Oakham Angling Society
Cllr Lucas had been granted a dispensation to take part in discussions and vote on the Item

Cllr Martin Brookes declared an interest in Item 9 on the agenda as the Town Council's representative to the Citizens Advice. He stated that he would take part in discussions but would abstain in any vote.

003/16 MINUTES (*Appendix A*)

An amendment to the draft minutes was proposed by Cllr Martin Brookes, seconded by Cllr Vince Howard and unanimously approved. The amended minutes of the meeting of Oakham Town Council held on Wednesday December 9th 2015 were then signed by the Chairman as a true record of that meeting

004/16 COUNCILLOR'S QUESTIONS

No questions were notified

005/16 CHAIRMAN AND MEMBER'S REPORTS

The Chairman reported on his attendance at the following:

Thursday 10 December 2015 – Melton Carol Service

Wednesday 16 December 2015 – Catmose College Carol Concert

Thursday 17 December 2015 – Town Carol Service

Tuesday 22 December 2015 – 2248 (Rutland) Sqn ATC Presentation Evening

The Chairman also asked members to note the following future dates:

Thursday 28 January 2016 – Mayors Reception at Rutland County Museum

Wednesday 6 April 2016 – Fund raising event for the Mayor's Charity with TV Auctioneer, Charles Hanson at the Victoria Hall

006/16 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported as follows:

Christmas Lighting

This has now all been removed.

Audit Regime

Members are asked to note that following the abolition of the Audit Commission from 1st April 2015 the audit regime will be changing from 2016 – 2017. In reality there will be no discernible change for Oakham Town Council External Auditors will still be appointed for it albeit by a different organisation and the fees will remain consistent with those currently charged. The Council may, if it chooses, opt out of the process and source its own external auditor. However, this will be extremely time consuming and it is extremely unlikely that the Council will see any cost benefits in appointing its own external auditor.

Community Governance Review (CGR)

Following a request from Oakham Town Council, Rutland County Council will be undertaking a CGR to consider whether the areas of the existing parishes of Oakham and Barleythorpe should be altered and to consider the most effective and convenient form of community governance for residents of Barleythorpe.

If you would like a hard copy of the Terms of Reference for this review then please contact the office. Otherwise it is available to view on Rutland County Council's website as supporting documents under the meeting of RCC held on January 11th 2016.

Recording of Meetings

The installers of the equipment were contacted prior to the Christmas break by the Chairman. As a result a new camera and microphone have now been installed at no cost. The picture quality is now improved and the sound quality should also be improved.

Street Lighting and Parish Lighting Proposals

Information relating to this is attached. Please note that this is being discussed at the Parish Forum on 28th January 2016.

The inventory referred to in the e-mail from Neil Tomlinson shows nearly 1800 lights in Oakham.

Green Flag Award

The submission for Cutts Close has been sent today (January 13th 2016). The Assistant Clerk has asked me to convey her sincere thanks to members who have helped produce and check the document.

007/16 DEPUTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

- (i) A member of the public, referring to Item 21 on the agenda stated that he was surprised that the Council was revisiting the issue. He referred members to correspondence stating that RCC would consult with the Town Council on an alternative location and added that the consultation process with residents had been led by the residents themselves. He also stated that only 3 crimes had been recorded in the area in the previous six months.

- (ii) A member of the public referring to Item 14 on the agenda stated that the Angling Society had been around for about one hundred years. It was seeking support to continue the work at the canal which not only benefitted anglers but residents of Oakham too. The Society was working with Wilds Lodge to improve facilities for all and that it had turned a corner with regard to developing the area and that the environment had been improved considerably

008/16 WORKING GROUPS STRATEGY ASSURANCE

Members noted reports from the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group and the Oakham Community Centre Working Group

At this point in the meeting it was proposed by Cllr Alf Dewis, seconded by Cllr Stan Stubbs and unanimously resolved to alter the order of business and that Item 21 would be considered next followed by Item 14

009/16 CCTV POLE AT ROYCES RECREATION GROUND

During discussions the following points were made:

- That the pole should stay where it is
- That there had been no consultation with OTC about an alternative location
- That RCC should acknowledge that they had made a mistake
- That should the pole remain in its current location then a wayleave agreement should be in place
- That there had been incidents of vandalism and ASB that had not been reported to the police

It was then proposed by Cllr Martin Brookes, seconded by Cllr Michael Elliott that the Council should not revisit its original decision. This motion was defeated with 2 votes for, 4 against and 2 abstentions.

It was then proposed by Cllr Mrs Joyce Lucas, seconded by Cllr Adam Lowe and resolved with 5 votes for and 3 against that the pole remains where it is and is used for CCTV.

It was then proposed by Cllr Martin Brookes, seconded by Cllr Adam Lowe and resolved with 7 votes for and 1 abstention that the Council agrees to a Wayleave agreement being put in place at no cost to the Council and that is attached to the Deeds.

010/16 GRANT APPLICATION

Following discussions it was proposed by Cllr Stan Stubbs, seconded by Cllr Mrs Joyce Lucas and resolved with 7 votes for and 1 against that the sum of £1,000 be granted to the Oakham Angling Society

011/16 CITIZENS ADVICE RUTLAND FUNDING 2016 – 2017

Members considered a report and after due discussion it was proposed by Cllr Vince Howard, seconded by Cllr Stan Stubbs and resolved with 6 votes for and 2 abstentions that the item be deferred on the grounds of lack of information and that the Council should request details as to what any money may be used for.

012/16 CCTV FUNDING 2016 – 2017

Members considered correspondence from RCC proposing that the Council contributed £4,700 in 2016 – 2017 towards the cost of the upgraded CCTV system. Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Adam Lowe, seconded by Cllr Martin Brookes and resolved with 5 votes for and 3 abstentions that Oakham Town Council would not make any financial contribution in 2016 - 2017

013/16 BUDGET 2016 – 2017

- (i) Members considered a report from the Financial Matters and Procedures Working Group (FWG) that recommended that the Council should not reconsider its previous decision to keep any increase in the precept to 2% for a Band D equivalent property in Oakham in 2016 – 2017.
It was then proposed by Cllr Vince Howard, seconded by Cllr Stan Stubbs and resolved with 7 votes for and Cllr Martin Brookes against that the budget be approved as recommended
- (ii) It was then proposed by Cllr Stan Stubbs, seconded by Cllr Vince Howard and resolved with 7 votes for and Cllr Martin Brookes against that the Precept Demand to Rutland County Council for 2016 – 2017 be £211,635

014/16 INSURANCE PROVISION FROM APRIL 1ST 2016

It was proposed by Cllr Adam Lowe, seconded by Cllr Vince Howard and unanimously resolved to defer this item as not all information had been received.

015/16 REGULAR PUBLIC MEETINGS

Members discussed a report deferred from December 9th 2015 and it was then proposed by Cllr Martin Brookes, seconded by Cllr Jasmine Hopkins and resolved with 7 votes for and Cllr Mrs Joyce Lucas against that regular public meetings should take place with the first being the Annual Town Meeting. They would then take place quarterly thereafter and kept under review

016/16 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REPRESENTATION

Following consideration of a report it was proposed by Cllr Stan Stubbs, seconded by Cllr Martin Brookes and unanimously resolved that the Council's representatives to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group be Cllrs Alf Dewis and Michael Haley.

017/16 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE STAFFING COMMITTEE

Members considered a report from the Staffing Committee relating to Local Government Pension Scheme Policies. It was then proposed by Cllr Vince Howard, seconded by Cllr Jasmine Hopkins and resolved with 7 votes for and Cllr Martin Brookes against that the policies as recommended by the Staffing Committee be approved, published on the Council's website and kept under review.

018/16 REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

It was proposed by Cllr Stan Stubbs, seconded by Cllr Vince Howard and unanimously resolved that the recommendations contained in a report by the Financial Matters and Procedures Working Group be approved and the Financial Regulations be amended accordingly

019/16 OAKHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

It was proposed by Cllr Stan Stubbs, seconded by Cllr Vince Howard and resolved with 7 votes for and Cllr Martin Brookes against that the sum of £200 be approved for the purposes of providing marketing materials

020/16 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Cllr Martin Brookes asked for clarification of a number of items listed on the Schedule of Payments.

During this discussion Cllr Adam Lowe left the meeting and did not return.

It was then proposed by Cllr Vince Howard, seconded by Cllr Stan Stubbs and resolved with 6 votes for and Cllr Brookes against that the Schedule of Payments for the period December 1st 2015 – December 31st 2015 be approved.

021/16 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

There being no questions it was proposed by Cllr Vince Howard, seconded by Cllr Stan Stubbs and resolved with 6 votes for and Cllr Martin Brookes against to approve the Statement of Accounts to December 31st 2015

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.59pm

Signed: _____

Chairman
10th February 2016