

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 27TH 2016 AT THE OFFICES OF OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL, VICTORIA HALL, 39, HIGH STREET, OAKHAM

PRESENT:

Adam Lowe, Martin Brookes, Stan Stubbs, Mrs Joyce Lucas BEM, Vince Howard, Michael Elliott, Michael Haley, Tracy Carr, Peter Ind, Sally Anne Wadsworth

ABSENT:

Cllr Jasmine Hopkins

Three members of the public were also present

The Chairman advised members that during item 1 on the Agenda he would not be taking part in discussions or any vote. So in the absence of a Chairman, the Vice Chairman Cllr Michael Haley chaired the next item. 7.04pm Cllr Lowe left the room

122/16 VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE (Appendix A)

Proposed by Cllr Martin Brookes, that a Vote of No Confidence in Cllr Adam Lowe, and that he should not remain as Mayor or Chairman. This was not seconded.

7.08pm the Chairman returned to the meeting

123/16 APOLOGIES - Standing Order 1(u)

- (i) An apology for absence had been received from Cllr Jasmine Hopkins
- (ii) It was proposed by Cllr Vince Howard, seconded by Cllr Stan Stubbs and agreed with 9 votes and 1 abstention to approve the absence due to ill health

It was then proposed by Cllr Adam Lowe, seconded by Cllr Joyce Lucas and resolved with 9 votes for and 1 abstention to alter the order of business so that Item 15 on the Agenda would be considered next

124/16 PROPER OFFICER

It was proposed by Cllr Adam Lowe, seconded by Cllr Joyce Lucas and resolved with 9 votes for and 1 abstention that the Council to appoint Allison Greaves as Proper Officer in the absence of the Clerk

125/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- (i) No Disclosable Pecuniary Interests were declared
- (ii) No other issues were declared

126/16 MINUTES (Appendix B)

It was proposed by Cllr Vince Howard, seconded by Cllr Stan Stubbs and unanimously resolved that the minutes of the meeting of Oakham Town Council held on Wednesday April 13th 2016 be signed by the Chairman as a true record of that meeting

127/16 COUNCILLOR'S QUESTIONS

The following question was put by Cllr Martin Brookes:

Oakham Town Partnership has been paid £1000, the payment made by the Clerk is unlawful because this council did not give authority to pay and the payment made does not even comply with the councils basic financial regulations, can the council explain the steps it is taking to recover this unlawful payment?

The answer without discussion was
The Chairman will do a written reply

128/16 CHAIRMAN AND MEMBER'S REPORTS

- (i) Cllr Vince Howard thanked the members, local businesses and town residents for their support during the National Beacon Lighting event on the evening of April 21st.
- (ii) Cllr Joyce Lucas reported on her attendance at the Oakham In Bloom meeting held on April 25th
- (iii) Cllr Martin Brookes reported on the Beacon event and thanked the organiser's, sponsors and all those who contributed in making it a great success
- (iv) Cllr Adam Lowe gave a verbal report regarding the Key Safe Project, Goal Street mural plaque and expenditure regarding the Beacon Lighting event

129/16 CLERK'S REPORT

Installation of the 2016 floral displays is due to start late May early June

130/16 DEPUTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

None

131/16 WORKING GROUPS AND STEERING GROUPS STRATEGY ASSURANCE

Members noted reports

132/16 STAFFING HOURS AND OFFICE OPENING (*Appendix D*)

It was proposed by Cllr Vince Howard, seconded by Cllr Stan Stubbs and unanimously agreed to acknowledge the report and to authorise additional expenditure for:

- (i) Engage Streets in the preparation of the Annual Return
- (ii) To employ part time admin support

133/16 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE STAFFING COMMITTEE - ENGAGE HR ADVICE AND LEGAL DIRECTION (*Appendix E*)

It was proposed by Cllr Michael Elliott, seconded by Cllr Stan Stubbs and unanimously agreed to

- (i) The HR Solutions Advice service is engaged for a further 3 months, at a cost of £300
- (ii) The Staffing Committee explore the potential for engaging an expert legal HR Company

It was proposed by Cllr Vince Howard, seconded by Cllr Michael Elliott and unanimously agreed to report back to full Council

134/16 FINAL ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL RETURN (*Appendix F*)

It was proposed by Cllr Michael Elliott, seconded by Cllr Vince Howard and agreed to 9 votes for and 1 abstention by Cllr Brookes that the Council engaged Streets to extend their work on the Final Accounts to include preparation of Oakham Town Councils Annual Return for the period at an additional cost of £350.00 plus VAT.

135/16 CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBER

- (i) It was proposed by Cllr Vince Howard, seconded by Cllr Martin Brookes and unanimously agreed to co-opt a new member to the Council for the Oakham South West Ward
- (ii) It was proposed by Cllr Vince Howard, seconded by Cllr Stan Stubbs and unanimously agreed that an interview panel should comprise of five members, with one in reserve
- (iii) It was then proposed by Cllr Vince Howard, seconded by Cllr Sally Ann Wadsworth and agreed with 9 votes for and 1 against that the interview panel would comprise of Cllrs Mrs Joyce Lucas, Stan Stubbs, Michael Haley, Sally Ann Wadsworth, Tracy Carr and Michael Elliott All members would be entitled to attend any interviews but would be there as observers only and would not take part in the interview process.
- (iv) The timetable for the co-option process be:
 - Facebook, noticeboards, Advert / Article in local press on Thursday 5th
 - Closing date for applications to be Friday 27th May 2016

136/12 REMITTANCE FROM RUTLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

- (i) It was proposed by Cllr Michael Haley, seconded by Stan Stubbs and agreed with 9 votes for and 1 abstention that the Financial Working group to investigate and seek clarification
- (ii) It was proposed by Cllr Vince Howard, seconded by Michael Haley and unanimously agreed that monies remain in the HSBC deposit account until we can verify ownership

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm

Signed: _____

**Chairman
11th May 2016**