

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019 AT THE OFFICES OF OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL, VICTORIA HALL, 39, HIGH STREET, OAKHAM**

**PRESENT:**

Cllrs David Romney (Chair), Joy Clough, Alan Walters, Paul Ainsley, Nick Woodley, Paul Buxton, Adam Lowe, Sally-Anne Wadsworth, Zoe Neal, Mark Lomas, Clerk

**ABSENT:** Cllrs Jean Denyer MBE, Ian Razzell

**IN THE PUBLIC GALLERY:** Two

**233/19 APOLOGIES**

- (i) Apologies were received from Cllrs Denyer and Razzell due to a prior commitment
- (ii) Proposed these be accepted by Cllr Lowe, seconded by Cllr Wadsworth and unanimously resolved

**234/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- (i) No disclosable pecuniary interests were declared
- (ii) Cllrs Walters, Lowe, Ainsley and Woodley had been granted a dispensation to take part in any discussions and vote in item 20, to avoid any conflict as they are dual Councillors
- (iii) Cllr Woodley declared an interest in item 8 b. Cllr Woodley stated he would remain in the room, but would not take part in discussions and in any vote under that item of business

**235/19 MINUTES**

Proposed by Cllr Neal, seconded by Cllr Ainsley and resolved with 9 votes for and 1 abstention that subject to an insertion on item 226/19, that the Council support an annual recurring budget (to be determined in the next funding round) that allows allocations to be made towards national military commemorations that are celebrated/recognized within the confines of Oakham, the minutes of the meeting of Oakham Town Council held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were confirmed, signed by the Chairman and adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

**236/19 CHAIRMAN AND MEMBER'S REPORTS**

None received

**237/19 COUNCILLOR'S QUESTIONS**

None received

**238/19 DEPUTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC**

None received

**239/19 RUTLAND HOUSE COMMUNITY TRUST**

- (i) Proposed by Cllr Lowe, seconded by Cllr Walters and resolved with 8 votes for, 1 against and 1 abstention, block pave as per the original plan, subject to the controls being in place by the RHCT with appropriate detail captured in the lease, regarding, drop off, pick up and emergency vehicle access. No staff car parking with traffic bollards to control access in addition to low level lighting being used
- (ii) Proposed by Cllr Lowe, seconded by Cllr Walters and unanimously resolved that Council approves the lease and grants permission to the Clerk to engage with Councils Solicitor regarding the lease

**240/19 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- (i) 2019/1071/LBA – construction of a glazed vestibule to the main entrance of them Great Hall. Construction of glass with an automatic sliding door. The glazing will be mechanically fixed to the floor and walls of the building. It will not have an interface with the decorative stonework around the entrance arch, Oakham Castle, Castle Lane  
Recommend approval.  
Proposed by Cllr Lowe, seconded by Cllr Wadsworth and unanimously resolved

- (ii) 2019/1180/OUT – application for outline planning permission with all matters reserved apart from access for the construction of up to 120 starter (affordable) homes, Hawksmead area 11 site, Land End Way  
Recommend refusal on the grounds this has been set aside for employment land.  
Proposed by Cllr Walters, seconded by Cllr Romney and resolved with 8 votes for and 2 abstentions by Cllrs Lowe and Woodley
- (iii) 2019/0753/PTA – fell group of Ash (G1) on boundary to facilitate erecting fence- there are several stems in area to be felled, 11 Catmose Park  
No comment – members were unable to comment without seeing the application for the new fence.  
Proposed by Cllr Woodley, seconded by Cllr Wadsworth and resolved with 9 votes for and 1 abstention by Cllr Lowe
- (iv) 2019/1247/PTA – fell 1 no. Beech Tree, 6 Catmose Park Road  
No Comment – members were unable to comment as they required clarification on the reasons for the felling.  
Proposed by Cllr Woodley, seconded by Cllr Ainsley and resolved with 9 votes for and 1 abstention by Cllr Lowe

#### **241/19 WORKING GROUPS**

Proposed by Cllr Buxton, seconded by Cllr Lomas and resolved with 9 votes for and 1 abstention that Council approves the expenditure which should not exceed £500, for small trees in Mill Street, decorations, installation and removal costs

#### **242/19 SOUND EQUIPMENT**

Proposed by Cllr Buxton, seconded by Cllr Lomas and resolved with 9 votes for and 1 abstention that Council award the contract to Astounded, for the purchase of Wharfedale, option 1, with an upgrade on speakers, and to approve the expenditure which should not exceed £3500 (net)

#### **243/19 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Proposed by Cllr Woodley, seconded by Cllr Wadsworth and unanimously resolved to approve the Statement of Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 and total expenditure of £33,589.45

#### **244/19 RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO FINANCIAL POLICIES**

Proposed by Cllr Walters, seconded by Cllr Clough and unanimously resolved:

- (i) That Council determines to revoke the Grants Policy with effect from the last day of the Financial Year 2019/2020
- (ii) That Council authorises the Finance Working Group to continue with its work on amending the Financial Reserves Policy, which will be amended with effect from the last day of the Financial Year 2019/2020, and directs that the overall level of reserves to be held is within the range 45% to 65% of the relevant year's total precept income, where 40% is the budgeted unallocated reserves total, and up to an additional 25% may be held for specific earmarked purposes as determined by Council

#### **245/19 CUTTS CLOSE SHELTER**

Proposed by Cllr Ainsley, seconded by Cllr Clough and unanimously resolved that Council creates a new Shelter Capital expenditure heading and allocates £25,000 from the 2020/21 reserves to allow match funding of grants received from other local organisations/national funding bodies. Council grants permission for the working group to explore options. It also approves an immediate budget of £5,000, but all expenditure must be ratified by full council

#### **246/19 HR POLICIES**

Proposed by Cllr Ainsley, seconded by Cllr Clough and unanimously resolved that HR Policies and the employee / staff handbook remain aligned with current legislation and HR good Practice, and Council engage our HR advisors to produce a full suite of employment policies and protocols

#### **247/19 COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH**

Proposed by Cllr Ainsley, seconded by Cllr Clough and unanimously resolved to pass a minuted resolution of support to the scheme but at this time unable to take part

**248/19 APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Proposed by Cllr Romney, seconded by Cllr Neal and resolved with 8 votes for and 2 abstentions to nominate Cllr Wadsworth as Oakham Town Partnership representative, and Cllr Lowe as Oakham United Charities additional representative

**249/19 PARKS AND OPEN SPACES TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

Proposed by Cllr Lowe, seconded by Cllr Buxton and unanimously resolved to appoint Cllrs Wadsworth, Clough and Razzell as members of the task and finish group

**250/19 COTTESMORE HUNT**

Proposed by Cllr Ainsley, seconded by Cllr Lowe and resolved with 6 votes for, 2 against, and 2 abstentions that the Clerk writes to the Hunt, with regards to its Annual Boxing Day Meet, it may be considered to recommence at Cutts Close subject to an annual application and other terms

**251/19 EXEMPT ITEM**

Proposed by Cllr Neal, seconded by Cllr Lowe and resolved with 7 votes for, and 3 abstentions to exclude the press and public during consideration of Item 20 on the Agenda as it concerns contractual matters

*The meeting was adjourned at 20.18 and reconvened at 20.23*

*Proposed by Cllr Romney, seconded by Cllr Woodley and unanimously resolved to extend the meeting by 15 minutes to allow for the business to be transacted*

**251/19 RELOCATION OF COUNCIL OFFICES AND CHAMBER**

- (i) Proposed by Cllr Walters, seconded by Cllr Wadsworth and resolved with 8 votes for and 2 against that their preferred site is appendix K ii
- (ii) Proposed by Cllr Romney, seconded by Cllr Neal and resolved with 8 votes for and 2 against to authorise recommendations 2,3,4,5 and 6
- (iii) Proposed by Cllr Romney, seconded by Cllr Lowe and unanimously resolved to appoint Cllrs Romney, Wadsworth, Walters, Neal as members of the task and finish group

**The Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 20.44**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chairman  
11<sup>th</sup> December 2019**