

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF OAKHAM TOWN HELD VIRTUALLY AT ROL HOUSE, LONG ROW, OAKHAM ON TUESDAY 4TH MAY 2021 AT 6.00PM

Councillors in attendance: Cllr David Romney (Chairman), Zoe Nealson, Sally-Anne Wadsworth, Keith Gilbody, Jean Denyer, Ade Orchard, Adam Lowe, Chris Nix

Residents: 4

Councillor Romney welcomed everyone to the meeting

01/21 OPENING REMARKS BY THE MAYOR OF OAKHAM

The Council started the new municipal year with a full complement of 12 elected members following the elections in May 2019.

In March 2020 the country went into lockdown and the Council into delegated powers. Members were kept informed of decisions that were made by a weekly update from the Clerk of the Council and telephone conference calls.

The office moved to its new premises, Rol House Long Row, with a larger Council chamber which will allow us to welcome more members of the public to our meetings.

During this time a Covid 19 fund was set up to help local organisations with help being given to the Staff of the Rutland Memorial Hospital who were staying in the Hospital for long hours, to a group of local ladies who made scrubs and wash bags for the NHS and offers of help to the local food bank. The change in legislation later in the year allowed us to get back to holding meetings via Zoom. An interesting concept with members sometimes logging in only to find we hear them but not see them, but we got there in the end. We had some members leave and these vacancies were filled through co-option.

I am pleased to report that the Council's finances are in good order with member setting a generous budget with no increase in council tax to the residents of Oakham. This allowed us to move forward with some of our projects. The Centenary Field access project, the re-development of Cutts Close shelter and the improvement to Royce's basketball court to name but a few. We were also able to give a grant to purchase equipment for a First Responders car. The Council is also setting up its own electric car charging scheme based in the Church Street carpark, bringing the revenue generated back to the community.

We are striving to be more open and accessible with the introduction of our Communication Policy having one member responsible for the way we connect with the public, which has seen an improvement in our Facebook page and with the press. It is hoped that once we return to face to face meetings, we will be streaming our meetings live on Council's Facebook page, allowing members of the public to see us at work.

With lockdown coming to an end in June we are hopeful to restart our bands in the park and look forward to welcoming you all to the first one on the 27th June.

We have gone through some very strange times this past year. For me it has been an honour and privilege to serve as Chairman and Town Mayor for the last two years. The Council will continue to work hard for the residents of Oakham.

02/21 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was proposed by Cllr Romney, seconded by Cllr Lowe, and unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on May 7th, 2019 be signed by the Chairman as a true record of that meeting. (The 2020 Annual Town meeting did not take place)

03/21 TO CONSIDER ISSUES RAISED BY THOSE ATTENDING RELATING TO THE TOWN OF OAKHAM

Cllr Romney invited questions from the members of public. He advised, if he was unable to give an immediate response, if agreeable, they would be followed up in writing.

Mrs Lucas asked if each member would please introduce themselves and advise the ward they represent. Each member gave a short speech.

Mrs Lucas thanked the Town Council on behalf of Oakham In Bloom for their continued support and working as a partnership. She asked if the rolling programme could continue with the replacement of the town benches, litter bins and to liaise with Rutland County Council regarding weed control on the High Street

Cllr Romney thanked everyone for their attendance and support.
The meeting was closed at 18.15

Signed: _____

Chairman
10th May 2022