

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FORTY SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD VIRTUALLY ON WEDNESDAY MAY 5TH, 2021, AT THE OFFICES OF OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL, ROL HOUSE, LONG ROW, OAKHAM

PRESENT:

Cllrs Zoe Neelson, Adam Lowe, David Romney, Sally-Anne Wadsworth, Jean Denyer MBE, Paul Buxton, Andy Burton, Adrian Orchard OBE, Richard Fresia-Farrelly (part), Chris Nix, Keith Gilbody

ALSO PRESENT: Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk

ABSENT: None

IN THE PUBLIC GALLERY: Two members of the public were also present

Opening remarks: Cllr Romney as the outgoing Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanked the Mayoress, members of the Council and the staff for all their support over the last two years and he wished his successor every good luck

95/21 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

- a) Proposed by Cllr Romney, seconded by Cllr Burton, to elect Cllr Neelson – 8 votes in favour
- b) Proposed by Cllr Lowe, seconded by Cllr Buxton, to elect Cllr Wadsworth – 3 votes in favour

Cllr Neelson was duly elected as Chairman of the Council and Mayor of Oakham for the forthcoming municipal year

96/21 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Cllr Neelson signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office for the Chairman which was duly witnessed by the Clerk to the Council

97//21 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

None

98/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Nix declared a pecuniary interest in respect to item 25 (c) on the agenda, as the applicant for 2021/0380/FUL

99/21 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Proposed by Cllr Romney, seconded by Cllr Buxton, and unanimously resolved to elect Cllr Denyer as Vice Chairman and Deputy Mayor of Oakham, for the forthcoming municipal year

100/21 MINUTES

Proposed by Cllr Burton, seconded by Cllr Romney and resolved with 6 votes for and 5 abstentions to confirm the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on Thursday 22nd April 2021

101/21 DEPUTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

None

102/21 COUNCILLOR'S QUESTIONS

None notified

103/21 TO CONFIRM THE AMOUNT OF THE CHAIRMAN'S ALLOWANCE IN PURSUANCE OF SECTION 15 (5) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Proposed by Cllr Romney, seconded by Cllr Burton and resolved with 10 votes for and 1 abstention that the allowance is approved at £3000

- 104/21 CLERKS REPORT**
Members noted the report
- 105/21 MEMBER'S REPORTS**
None received
- 106/21 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS**
- a) Proposed by Cllr Burton, seconded by Cllr Fresia-Farrelly and unanimously resolved that Council approve that local businesses are offered space to exhibit and trade free of charge at an event held on 27th June 2021, in conjunction with the Events working group
 - b) Proposed by Cllr Burton, seconded by Cllr Orchard and resolved with 10 votes for and 1 abstention Council approves expenditure of up to £750 for an event, to cover advertising, and promotion costs
 - c) Proposed by Cllr Burton, seconded by Cllr Fresia-Farrelly and unanimously resolved that Council invite an LRALC representative to a future meeting to explain what external general funding is available to parish/Town Councils, and how we can bid or apply
 - d) A verbal report was received from Cllr Nealsen on behalf of the Media working group
 - e) A verbal report was received from Cllr Wadsworth on behalf of the Events working group
- 107/21 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**
Proposed by Cllr Romney, seconded by Cllr Burton, and unanimously resolved to approve the Statement of Accounts to 30th April 2021
- 108/21 COUNCIL'S GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE**
Proposed by Cllr Romney, seconded by Cllr Fresia-Farrelly and unanimously resolved that on May 5th, 2021 Oakham Town Council meets the criteria for eligibility for the General Power of Competence and that it will exercise its right to use it until the next relevant annual meeting of the Council
- 109/21 CHRISTMAS DISPLAY**
Members considered the quotations and designs received. It was then proposed by Cllr Fresia-Farrelly, seconded by Cllr Burton, and unanimously resolved that the provision of Oakham's Christmas display and tree be awarded to The Christmas Decorators for a three-year period 2021 – 2023, choosing option b and to approve the expenditure of £28,760 plus VAT per year for rental
- 110/21 REPRESENTATION ON OTHER ORGANISATIONS**
Proposed by Cllr Nealsen, seconded by Cllr Fresia-Farrelly, and unanimously resolved that the following will represent the Council at meetings of outside bodies:
Cllr Denyer – Citizens Advice
Cllrs Denyer and Gilbody – Trustees of the Victoria Hall
Cllr Denyer – Oakham In Bloom
Cllr Lowe – Trustees of the Memorial Institute
Cllr Buxton – Rutland Access
Cllr Burton – Parish Council Forum
Cllr Gilbody – Military Commemorations
Cllrs Burton and Nealsen – 4Oakham
- 111/21 APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES (*Appendix F*)**
Proposed by Cllr Burton, seconded by Cllr Romney and unanimously resolved that the membership of the Committees be as follows:
Recreation and Planning Committee - All members
Staffing Committee – Cllrs Nealsen, Romney, Wadsworth, Lowe, Gilbody
Finance Committee – Cllrs Romney, Lowe, Burton, Fresia-Farrelly, Nealsen, Orchard

112/21 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

Proposed by Cllr Burton, seconded by Cllr Romney and unanimously resolved to approve the schedule of meetings for the 2021 – 2022 municipal year

113/21 APPOINTMENT OF WORKING GROUPS

Proposed by Cllr Burton, seconded by Cllr Romney and unanimously resolved that the membership of the working groups be as follows:

Policies and Procedures – Cllrs Burton, Orchard, Romney, Nealson

Events – Cllrs Wadsworth, Buxton, Burton, Romney, Fresia-Farrelly

Floral – Cllrs Buxton, Burton

Business Liaison – Cllrs Burton, Fresia-Farrelly, Nix, Nealson

Media – Cllrs Burton, Nealson, Fresia-Farrelly, Orchard, Nix

Communications Officer – Cllr Nealson

The Shelter – Cllr Lowe

Centenary Field – Cllr Lowe

Public Toilets – Cllr Romney

Armed Forces Champion – Cllr Gilbody

Skate-Park project – Cllr Fresia-Farrelly

Cutts Close representative – Cllr Orchard

Willow Crescent representative – Cllr Fresia-Farrelly

Royce's recreation ground representative – Cllr Romney

Centenary Field representative – Cllr Lowe

114/21 BANK SIGNATORIES

Proposed by Cllr Romney, seconded by Cllr Fresia-Farrelly and unanimously resolved that the following members were duly appointed, as authorised signatories:

Current Account - Cllrs Lowe, Romney, Burton, and the Clerk

Mayor's Charity Account - Cllrs Lowe, Denyer, and the Clerk

Cambridge Building Society – Cllrs Lowe, Romney, Burton

Melton Building Society – Cllrs Lowe, Romney, Nealson

At 7.48pm, Cllr Fresia-Farrelly gave his apologies, and left the meeting

115/21 CONSIDER THE APPOINTMENTS

- a) Proposed by Cllr Nealson, seconded by Cllr Romney and resolved with 9 votes for and 1 abstention to appoint as the Council's HR advisor
- b) Proposed by Cllr Nealson, seconded by Cllr Romney and resolved with 9 votes for and 1 abstention to appoint the LRALC Internal Audit Service

116/21 SYSTEMS OF INTERNAL CONTROL

Proposed by Cllr Romney, seconded by Cllr Burton and unanimously resolved to approve and adopt the protocol

117/21 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- a) Proposed by Cllr Romney, seconded by Cllr Burton and unanimously resolved to grant permission to Visions Community and Children's Centre for the usage of outdoor space in Cutts Close or Royce's recreation ground
- b) Proposed by Cllr Nealson, seconded by Cllr Burton and resolved with 9 votes for and 1 abstention that Council would not consider at this time, a request by Mill Street Traders for permanent lighting in Mill Street due to inadequate infrastructure

118/21 TOWN BUNTING

Proposed by Cllr Nealson, seconded by Cllr Burton and unanimously resolved to purchase new bunting and approve the expenditure from the general reserves

119/21 TO CONSIDER CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND MAKE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS TO RUTLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

- a) 2021/0366/FUL Mr S Murray
Proposal: Change of use of 1 no.shop and 2 no. office suites to 3 no.domestic apartments to include demolition of 2 no. projecting shop fronts, 3 no. new windows, 3 no. new doors and minor internal alterations
40 Melton Road
Recommend Approval
Proposed by Cllr Burton, seconded by Cllr Wadsworth and resolved with 9 votes for and 1 abstention
- b) 2021/0367/LBA Mr S Murray
Proposal: Change of use of 1 no.shop and 2 no. office suites to 3 no.domestic apartments to include demolition of 2 no. projecting shop fronts, 3 no. new windows, 3 no. new doors and minor internal alterations
40 Melton Road
Recommend Approval
Proposed by Cllr Burton, seconded by Cllr Wadsworth and resolved with 9 votes for and 1 abstention
- c) 2021/0380/FUL Mr C Nix
Proposal: Change of use from current retail to a wine bar
Unit 2-3 Knights Yard, Gaol Street
No Comment – As the applicant is a Town Councillor, members felt it would be inappropriate to comment
Proposed by Cllr Burton, seconded by Cllr Romney and resolved with 8 votes for, 1 against and 1 abstention
- d) 2021/0420/FUL Mr N Roberts
Proposal: Works to existing outbuilding to create an annex ancillary to 30 Northgate. Internal changes to ground floor and first floor attic space. External changes new doors and windows, new doors to replace existing garage doors. To be used by occupants and family members only
30 Northgate
Recommend Approval
Proposed by Cllr Burton, seconded by Cllr Romney and unanimously resolved
- e) 2021/0532/CAT Unknown
Proposal: (T1) 1 no. Sycamore tree - Remove. (T2) 1 no. Sycamore tree - Reduce by 30% (2 metres)
Stowe House, 19 Northgate
No Comment – refer to Forestry Officer
Proposed by Cllr Nealson, seconded by Cllr Romney and unanimously resolved
- f) 2021/0445/CAT Mrs Haddon
Proposal: Fell 1 no. Bay Tree
7 Finkey Street
No Comment – refer to Forestry Officer
Proposed by Cllr Nealson, seconded by Cllr Romney and unanimously resolved

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 8.13pm

Signed: _____

**9th June 2021
Chairman**