Town Crier’s, Prior to widespread literacy, town criers were the means of communication with the people of the town since many people could not read or write. Proclamations, local bylaws, market days, adverts, were all proclaimed by a bellman or crier.

When the need for a town crier disappeared, the position passed into local [folklore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Folklore). Informal and later formal town crier competitions were held from the early 20th century. Subsequently, some cities and towns reinstated the post purely for ceremonial purposes.

Many local councils in England and Wales reinstated the post of town crier from the mid-1990s onwards. Many are honorary appointments or employed part-time by the council. In October 2010, there were 144 towns in England and Wales with town criers registered with the Ancient and Honourable Guild of Town Criers.They mainly perform ceremonial duties at civic functions. Local councils with a paid town crier often make them available for charity events.

The paper before you is to ask if OTC will appoint a Town Crier, unpaid, and with the Mayors Signature and OTC seal of office allow the nominee to register with The Ancient & Honourable GUILD OF TOWN CRIERS. The registration fee and annual membership being paid by the nominee

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Report No. TC 02/11/2021  Agenda Item No. 14 | Council  Date of Meeting: 10th November 2021 |

|  |
| --- |
| **Oakham Town Council** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Report Author: Adam Lowe | Title: Town Crier |
| Subject: OTC Appoint a Town Crier | |
| Strategic Aim No. Promote the town as an attractive place to visit and stay. | |

Decisions: (1) The Council agree that they will support the re-introduction of a formal Town Crier

(2) The Council authorise the Chairman to sign the application on behalf of the Town Council

(3) The Council accepts Cllr Adam Lowe as the nominated Town Crier.

Additional Information: Former Known Town Criers

1881 Cllr Jeff Dale - RCC Chairman currently (Jeff won a local competition, he is. It carrying it on) 1950 Harry Rate The last Official known Town Crier 1930 John Henry Wade Left the Town in 1938 1900 Harry Ellingworth 1881 William Ellingworth 1851 Seth Ellingwoirth