Oakham Town Council

Rol House, Long Row, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6LN

 01572 723627

 enquiries@oakhamtowncouncil.gov.uk

**www.oakhamtowncouncil.gov.uk**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 09th MARCH 2022 AT 6.30 P.M. IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Cllrs: A. Burton, D. Graham, A. Lowe, Z. Nealson, C. Nix, S-A. Wadsworth, A Buxton, J Denyer, R Garwood

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** B Tassell (Town Clerk)), K. Geraghty (Deputy Clerk) & 1 resident

**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs: A Burton, A Orchard, K Gilbody

**NOT PRESENT:**  None

Cllr Nealson opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

**03/22 – 01 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCES**: Apologies were received from Cllrs. Burton, Orchard and Gilbody.

 **RESOLVED:** That the apology and reason received from Cllr. Orchard (Work Commitment) be accepted.

 **RESOLVED:** That the apology and reason received from Cllr. Gilbody (Stuck in Traffic) be accepted.

 **RESOLVED:** Thatthe apology and reason received from Cllr. Burton (away from Oakham) be accepted.

**03/22– 02 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS’ INTERESTS AND APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION:** Cllr Lowe noted that he had a pecuniary interest in item 12 on the agenda.

**03/22 – 03 DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were none

**03/22 – 04 FULL COUNCIL**

 4.1 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of the 9th February 2022 were unanimously **agreed** as a true and accurate record with one abstention

4.2 To receive an update on any matters arising not included elsewhere on the agenda. No Matters were raised.

4.3 To discuss the vacancy on the Council and committees.

The Clerk Updated the Council as to the status of the vacancy. It was noted that

notices have been posted as per the regulations. It was **agreed** that is there was

no call for an election following the closing date on the 28th of March than this

position would be advertised for co-option immediately with a closing date for

applications of 11th April 2022

 4.4 To review the membership of all Committees and outside bodies and appoint as necessary. After discussion it was proposed and unanimously **agreed** that Cllr Nix would assume the vacancy as a Victoria Hall trustee on the resignation of Cllr Burton.

Cllr Nix was also nominated and unanimously **agreed** to replace Cllr Burton on the Business working Group.

On Further discussion it was agreed that the Oakham Hopper Work Group would henceforth just consist of Cllrs Nealson and Romney.

Cllr Denyer queried with the Council as to the role of Town Councillors on external committees and working Groups. It was confirmed that with the exception of the Victoria Hall (where the Councillors are also trustees and therefore have full voting rights) the position of the Councillor on these groups is to observe and report back to OTC. These roles was confirmed in a paper submitted last year. The Clerk **agreed** to forward this paper to all councillors for information.

**03/22 – 05. TO CONSIDER CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO RUTLAND COUNTY COUNCIL**

a) 2022/0193/PTA 14 Uppingham Road: Mr M Ozga

T1 Holly felled to ground level. T2 and T3 Yew reduced and rounded into the tops by 2 metres. There were no objections

b) 2022/0203/FUL 7 Holyrood Close: Mr & Mrs Dear

Proposed single storey flat roof outbuilding. There were no objections

c) 2022/0205/MAR Land off Braunston Road: Bellway Homes

Reserved Matters Application for details relating to external appearance, layout, scale

and landscaping with associated open space for the construction of up to 62 dwellings, pursuant to Outline Permission. There were no objections although the council wished for the response to highlight their desire for this development to maximise the provision of affordable housing.

d) 2022/0220/LBA 20 and 22 Mill Street Mr Pattni

Remove small internal partition wall which currently connects the two lean twos at the rear of 20 and 22 Mill Street. There were no objections

 e) 2022/0221/FUL 8 Lonsdale Way Mr Platt

Removal of existing single storey garage and construction of two storey extension. There were no objections

**03/22 – 06. COUNCILLOR’S QUESTIONS**

To answer questions previously notified to the Clerk under Standing Order 9. None had been received

### 03/22 – 07. CLERK’S REPORT:

### Pay increase- The Clerk Informed the Council that we have finally heard back from NALC regarding the agreed local government pay increase: 1.75%. This is to be backdated from April 2021. An additional payment will therefore occur next month to the Previous Clerk for this amount up until the end of her employment..

### Biffa Waste Services: The Clerk updated the Council that there is a query with our waste contract and whether this included a provision for a price increase of CPI after a year. It was agreed to refer this to the next finance committee for discussion.

### The Clerk informed the council that in the next month will be closing off the financial year accounts. Rialtas will be providing a year end report at the end of March and the internal Auditor has been contacted to start work in the coming weeks. This was noted by Council

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### 03/22 – 08. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:

### The Chairman updated the Council. This was noted.

### 03/22 – 09. BUILDINGS INSURANCE:

### The Buildings report was reviewed following the recent inspection and evaluation. This was noted by the Council.

**03/22 – 10. UKRAINE CRISIS**:

It was unanimously **agreed** to purchase a Ukrainian Flag and fly this in Cutts Close. Following discussion and noting the many fund raising campaigns that are taking place both locally and nationally it was decided that the Council would look to work with RCC in the coming months and years assisting any refugees that will be housed in Oakham. Cllr Wadsworth noted that there was a ‘Rutalnd Rocks’ group that was planning a benefit concert. As the Council does not have any information or any funding requests from this group they are unable to look at supporting this. It was greeed that Cllr Wadsworth and Graham would contact this group and if it was viable, encourage them to submit a funding application for consideration by full Council.

03/22 – 11**.** **ROL HOUSE OTC FLAG:**.

 It was unanimously **agreed** to purchase a new flag for the OTC building.

03/22 – 12**. WORKING GROUPS AND OUTSIDE BODIES**

12.1 To receive and consider reports from members, working groups and outside bodies. There were no further updates

12.2 To receive a verbal report from Cllr Lowe from the Memorial

institute. This was received and noted by the council. Cllr Lowe further added

that the group were looking for more trustees if any councillors were interested.

12.3 Welcome Back Fund: The Clerk updated the Council as to the

status of the welcome back fund monies. Discussion was had as to the spending

and it was **agreed** to proceed ( with 2 Abstentions and 1 disagreement (Cllr

Romney)) as per the Clerk’s Schedule in particular with the Cleaning and the

replacement of the door at the Victoria Hall.

 12.4 Party In the park 10.07.22: To consider report Number 2022/06 submitted by Cllr Lowe This has previously been discussed and was therefore withdrawn.

 12.5 Skate park. To consider report Number 2022/10 and supporting documents submitted by Cllr Nealson. This was discussed and unanimously **agreed** that:

Centenary Field is a suitable location for a skate park. (Pending feedback from Tresham and Residents)

The Clerk will contact Tresham to establish whether they would agree to a skate park being built on Centenary Field

Oakham Town Council will cover the cost and time of producing, posting and online hosting the survey up to a value of £200

Oakham Town Council will cover the initial start up costs of the project up to a value of £5,000

 12.6 Summer Events. To consider report 2022/11 (Cllr Lowe left the meeting at this agenda due to a pecuniary Interest). This was reviewed and unanimously **agreed** (Cllr Lowe abstained) to award the Punch and Judy show a £100 donation to charity per performance in lieu of payment.

It was further **agreed** to fund the purchase of commemorative pencils up to a value of £350 for giveaways at the OTC stall at events in the summer.

**03/22 – 13 TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

13.1To note correspondence from residents and response of OTC these were noted.

13.2 Oakham Kino project letter. This was discussed and it was agreed there was no need to respond to this letter.

13.3 The letter and invitation from the Royal British Legion memorial service was noted. Cllr Romney stated that he hoped as many councillors as possible would be able to attend this service.

13.4 Ledbetter and Hicks letter was discussed by council and it was agreed to await legal action if it so passes.

**03/22 – 15. FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

 15.2 Payments for Approval. The payment schedule was reviewed by

the Council and **agreed** unanimously to be paid.

 15.3 Late Payments for approval

 AA Cleaning S19 Toilet Cleaning £1460.00

 Millennium S111/112 Telephone £33.00

 Millennium S111/112 Comuter services £115.68

 Millennium S111/112 Update systems £165.60

 DG Music S19 Deposit for band (Houndogs) £150.00

 O Heap S111/112 Fire extinguisher maintenance £72.60

These were further reviewed by the Council and **agreed** unanimously (Cllr Graham abstained due to a pecuniary interest) to be paid

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 15.4 Bank Reconciliation as at 28 February 2022

Current account £65,561.74

Cambridge Building Society Account £60,000

HSBC reserve Account £250,016.83

Petty Cash £230.00

These were noted by council.

 15.5 Grant applications: Victoria Hall. This application will be submitted at the next meeting for consideration.

**03/22 – 16. MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION:** There was no further matters raised.

**03/22 – 17. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:** 13 April 2022 @ 6.30 p.m.

There being no additional business, the meeting concluded at 8.30 p.m.

**These minutes are not a verbatim report of the meeting. but a summary of discussions and decisions made**