

Oakham Town Council

Report No. Appendix: Agenda Item No.	Council Date of Meeting: 14 June 2023
Report Author: Cllr Lowe	Title: Lighting Recharge
Subject: Lighting Recharge	

Within the agenda pack is a slide dec presented to Council outlining the situation on lighting recharge.

After that was presented OTC decided to defer any further payments until OTC Cllrs had met with RCC Cllr or Officers. RCC have refused to meet OTC, providing only written guidance.

Two further documents have been provided by RCC which more or less confirm what we know.

In 2016 RCC decided to pass on lighting recharge. (OTC pay for the electricity basically) The RCC paperwork identify that RCC decisions included, borrow £420K to upgrade all suitable stock to LED. One of the reasons for the upgrades being to minimise future cost of electricity and to ensure a fair and equitable arrangement for all parishes. By upgrading the street lighting would result in savings of about £120,000 per year. They state that there had been a significant amount of consultation with parishes and no formal objections had been received. The total cost of the upgrades would of been in the region of £800K. With Capital maintenance funding of £380K and the borrowing the planned work would take about 4 years, then the full savings will be realised.

As this Council are aware, RCC never upgraded any of the Oakham Lights that they are asking for the recharge against, and as a result of the cost increase we saw a 40+% increase last year and further 60+% this year. So from a figure of around £10K + 5% each year, we were faced with an invoice of around £26K and a suggested invoice of around £37K.

There is an expectation that energy costs will be coming down.

The Town Council have to approach this pragmatically, suggested points to debate:

Outstanding amount from 2022-23 – Invoice 9142458 – Balance £9270.12

Suggested amount 2023-24 £37000

Proposal:

- (1) OTC pay the outstanding invoice 9142458 £9270.12 (from reserves)
- (2) OTC resolve to pay the 2023-24 invoice from reserves. (unto £40K)
- (3) OTC increase the 2024-25 precept Lighting Recharge heading to £60k
- (4) OTC offer the CiL infrastructure payments received in recent years, about £30K to RCC so they upgrade OTC ?Town Lighting to LED heads

Rational: Failure to pay and support RCC, the County Council have made it very clear that the Town Council will be responsible for the inspection, maintenance and energy costs for all our street lighting stock, no additional funding or subsidies will be available from the Council.

- (5) OTC explore long term implications of taking ownership of the street lighting at some point.