

Oakham Town Council

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MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th March 2024 AT 6.30 P.M. IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllrs: S-A. Wadsworth, P Buxton, P Ainsley, H. Williams, C. Nix, A Lowe, P Wildbore, C Clark, S Pryer, L Chatfield, J Lucas.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: C. Evans (Clerk) , K. Geraghty (Deputy Clerk) Members of the public 2

Cllr Wadsworth opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

03/25–01 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCES:

Cllr J Hall is on holiday. Proposer Cllr A. Lowe, seconder Cllr C Clarke. Carried

03/25–02 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND APPLICATIONS FOR

DISPENSATION: Reminder to Members to disclose either a Pecuniary Interest or Other Interest in any item on the agenda. The clerk cannot advise members on this. Members are personally responsible for declaring an interest. Members are respectfully advised to read the Code of Conduct for more information. Councillors are also responsible for ensuring that their Registers of Interests are up to date (within 28 days of any changes)

Cllr H Williams declared a non-pecuniary interest on item 11 Rutland and Stamford Sound.

03/25–03 DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: An opportunity for members of the public to speak in accordance with Standing Orders 1 (d)- 1(i)

03/25–04 UPDATE FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR:

County Councillor Raymond Payne (Oakham South) circulated a document from Leicestershire County Council on flooding, and that there will be a survey from RCC which all councillors should address. There is a debate to be had about the value of sandbags. Cllr S Pryer stated the experts on this are Royal Engineers and they should be consulted. Cllr Wildbore advised that RCC should look at Section 208 of the Water Industry Act, and what Anglian Water include for in their planning/mitigation for Civil Emergencies. Cllr S-A Wadsworth mentioned the Emergency Plan document that the office is putting together which will include a section on flooding.

03/25–05 MINUTES: To confirm the accuracy of the minutes from the meeting held on 14th February 2024.

Cllr P Wildbore proposed acceptance with the caveat that his emailed edits are added to the minutes , seconded by Cllr S Pryer. Carried.

03/25-06 COUNCILLOR'S QUESTIONS:

None

03/25-07 CHAIRMANS/CLERKS REPORT:

Cllr S-A Wadsworth stated that the Churches Together open-air service is on 1st September and that the Clerks six-month appraisal has been completed. The Clerk highlighted that there was a Full Agenda which demonstrated the work undertaken since the last Full Council meeting. The Internal Audit would be on 24th April with John Marshall and on 4th April the Rialtas end of year reconciliation would take place.

03/25-08 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

An email from the Save the Parks School requesting funds for legal fees, noted.

03/25-09 BANK STATEMENTS: To consider and approve the bank statements for January 2024.

9.1 Rialtas bank reconciliation

9.2 HSBC Current account

9.3 HSBC Deposit account

Cllr H Williams asked questions regards Toolstation, Travis Perkins and Screwfix invoices, which the Clerk explained were for the Handyman's work, with paint, brushes etc.

Cllr P Ainsley enquired after the change of bank to Unity and the Clerk replied he would check the cost implications of such a move after the Audit and seek advice from the Internal Auditor on this matter.

Proposed by Cllr H Williams and seconded by Cllr C Clarke. Carried

03/25-10 D-DAY BEACON:

Cllr A Lowe introduced this item which would involve no extra funding simply TOIL for the Handyperson. He explained that this is an important nationwide event. Cllr P Buxton proposed and seconded by Cllr H Williams . Carried

03/25-11 RUTLAND AND STAMFORD SOUND:

Cllr A Lowe was concerned with licence issues but was generally supportive if that issue is resolved, and that the Council two years ago gave £1k. It was proposed that a donation of £500 was appropriate by Cllr P Wildbore and seconded by Cllr L Chatfield. Carried

03/25-12 STANDING ORDERS:

Cllr H Williams thanked the Working Group for their work on this matter and proposed the new Standing Orders be accepted, seconded by Cllr S Pryer. Carried

03/25-13 COMMUNITY LIGHTING INVOICE 2024-2025:

Cllr A Lowe addressed the paper presented to Council stating that RCC were not presenting OTC with an accurate invoice for which there was insufficient background information as highlighted by a recent Freedom for Information request. Both Cllr H Williams and Cllr P Buxton support the proposal and are concerned over the recent massive increase in costs. Cllr P Ainsley agrees in principle just not certain of the right method to gain control of this budget.

Cllr A Lowe highlighted a recent issue with the failed lighting on a footpath from Cutts Close which RCC refused to repair and insisted that OTC paid for the repair and only then agreed to take over these four streetlights.

Cllr A Lowe proposed that RCC are informed of these actions, and this was seconded by Cllr J Lucas. Carried

03/25-14 ASSET REGISTER REVIEW:

The Town Clerk introduced this item where the entire Assets of OTC are in this document which is updated to 2024. An issue that had arisen from this comprehensive review was that only the Lease for Centenary Field was on record, and it appeared that the Land Registry had not been informed as per the terms of the Lease. The Town Clerk was contacting the solicitor concerned to establish the exact status.

Proposal to accept by Cllr H Williams and seconded by Cllr C Clarke. Carried

03/25-15 TOWN CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT:

The Chair proposed that 1k is taken from the CIL budget to initiate a five-year plan for the redevelopment of the Town Centre. This initially would start with surveys, and the first one could be at the Farmers market with a pergola set up and simply listen to people. Cllr C Clarke would welcome such participation and stated the market occurs every third Saturday of the month. The Deputy Clerk requested that the time and dates for the year are sent to the office.

It was agreed that the surveys should take place over the next six months and Cllr C Clarke agreed to send the Town Clerk a folder with information on this matter.

Proposed by Cllr S-A Wadsworth and seconded by Cllr C Clarke. Carried

03/25-16 RCC CAR PARKS IN OAKHAM:

The Chair stated that in discussion with the Chief Exec of RCC a cost had been established for free car parking in Oakham for one day at around £1,250. The Chair believes that this would encourage visitors and shoppers into Oakham. Cllr H Williams had concerns with this and did not believe it would be good value for money, especially if not well advertised.

Cllr J Lucas was concerned that Oakham had no Chamber of Commerce and Cllr C Nix thought shops / businesses could be approached to fund this initiative.

Cllr S-A Wadsworth proposed a trial on Saturday 20th April and seconded Cllr C Clarke. Carried.

Meeting suspended from 19:44 to 19:49 for comfort break.

03/25-17 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE: To resolve that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items on the grounds that they relate to individuals and the financial affairs of persons. This information is classed as exempt under paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Proposed by Cllr S-A Wadsworth and seconded by Cllr C Nix. Carried

03/25-18 RCC DISCUSSION ON ASSETS:

The Clerk and the Chair of OTC have met with the Chief Exec and Leader of RCC to discuss the potential transfer of property and Green Space assets from RCC to OTC. The Clerk indicated that this was simply early discussions and there would be no commitment at this stage of the process.

Cllr P Ainsley requested that Cllr C Nix attend the next meeting which was agreed.

03/25-19 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT:

Cllr P Wildbore led on this tender exercise, where considerable work had been undertaken by the Working Group to filter through the twenty tenders received and initially selected the two best contractors. Then negotiations were held on the exact requirements of the Council to ensure that best value for money was achieved the requirement of an affordable outcome within the set budget.

The outcome that followed is as highlighted in a paper sent to all Councillors.

That Glendale with a price of just over 25k are awarded the contract.

Cllr P Wildbore proposed that the Council

- Accept the revised Bill of Quantities
- That we endorse the town clerk to finalise the contract with Glendale in the sum of £24,858
- That the modifications to litter aspects are monitored and formally reviewed by Councillors in July 2024
- That a break clause is inserted into the three-year contract, with an annual review and a three month notice of withdrawal from either party.

This was seconded by Cllr P Ainsley. Carried.

03/25-20 TOILETS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT:

The Town Clerk stated that only two tenders were received for this contract with significant differences in the annual cost. Therefore it was simply proposed that the bid by S4 facilities Management Ltd at £15,015 be accepted with a break clause inserted into the contract.

This was proposed by Cllr S-A Wadsworth and seconded by Cllr C Nix. Carried

Standing Orders be suspended as approaching time limit for meeting, proposed by Cllr S-A Wadsworth seconded by Cllr C Nix. Carried

03/25-21 TENNIS AND BOWLS CLUB DEVELOPMENT:

The Chair proposed that the future of these Clubs needs to be ratified and that there was no justification for relocation.

Proposed by Cllr S-A Wadsworth and seconded by Cllr J Lucas . Carried.

03/25-22 ELECTRICITY CONTRACT:

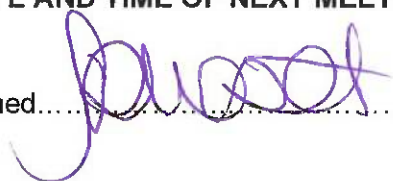
Cllr A Lowe highlighted the ongoing issue with the Electricity contract for the Toilets on Church Street , whereby the previous clerk had signed a two-year contract from 1st January 2024. The claim is that this contract has not been honoured due to a one-year contract signed by the Council from 1st January 2024 with Total Energy.

Cllr H Williams proposed that the Council sign with Positize Energy for two years from 1st January 2025, this was seconded by Cllr C Clarke. Carried

MEETING CLOSED 8.50PM

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: 10th April 2024

Signed.....



Date.....



