Oakham Town Council

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**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10th JULY 2024 AT 6.30 P.M. IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Cllrs:  A Lowe S-A Wadsworth, C. Nix, L Chatfield, J Lucas, P Wildbore, P Ainsley,

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** C. Evans (Clerk) , Members of the public, two.

Cllr A Lowe opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

**07/24–01 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCES:**

Cllr S Pryer and Cllr H Williams have medical reasons for not attending. Cllr J Hall is on vacation and Cllr C Clerk has work commitments. Proposed by Cllr P Wildbore to accept and seconded by Cllr J Lucas. Carried.

**07/24–02 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 A Lowe declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 10 and will leave the room.

**07/24–03 DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** An opportunity for members of the public to speak in accordance with Standing Orders 1 (d)- 1(i).

None

**07/24–04 UPDATE FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR:**

County Cllr R Payne congratulated RCC on a well-run election count. He was concerned over the proliferation of illegal developer signs throughout Oakham and was taking the matter up with RCC.

**07/24–05 FULL COUNCIL MINUTES:** To confirm the accuracy of the minutes from the meeting held on 12th June 2024.

Cllr P Ainsley highlighted the fact that his wife’s name was Pauline not Annette, the Clerk agreed to alter this.

Proposed acceptance by Cllr P Wildbore and seconded by Cllr C Nix. Carried.

**07/24–06 COUNCILLOR’S QUESTIONS:**

None.

**07/24-07** **CLERKS / CHAIRMANS REPORT:**

The Town Clerk stated that the External Audit submission had been completed well before the deadline date and from Monday June 24th the public notice had been placed on the web site and a notice board with the end date Friday 2nd August for public inspection.

The Internal Audit comments has also highlighted an issue with the Direct Debits the Council is paying stating that these should be avoided where possible, especially variable amounts as with the Electricity Contract for the toilets.

Progress has also been made on the proposal for a new Community Centre with pre planning applications with RCC to be initiated.

The Mayor had been at Oakham School for Speech Day and also attended Brook Hill Primary School. He had also been on the Osprey Cruise on Rutland Water.

**07/24-08 CORRESPONDANCE RECIEVED:**

There had been some issues with the contract issued by RCC over the Queen Elizabeth Statue regards responsibility for the CCTV and lights , which RCC had now agreed to remove.

It was proposed by Cllr A Lowe and seconded by Cllr J Lucas that the agreement be signed . Carried.

**07/24-09 BANK STATEMENTS / BUDGET:** To consider and approve the bank statements for June 2024.

Cllr C Nix enquired regards the payments to LCC, the Chair replied that these were the pension payments for staff.

Proposed acceptance of all presented accounts by Cllr S-A Wadsworth and seconded by Cllr P. Ainsley. Carried

**07/24-10 GAZEBO:**

Cllr A Lowe left the room and Cllr C Nix took the Chair.

There was some debate over the exact value of a second-hand Gazebo and it was agreed that the sum paid should be £ 250. Cllr P Wildbore proposed acceptance, and this was seconded by Cllr L Chatfield. Carried.

Cllr A Lowe returned to the chamber and thanked the Council and stated that the agreed sum would be donated to his charity.

**07/24-11 CUTTS CLOSE PAY AREA SURFACE:**

The Town Clerk introduced this agenda item and stated that the location of this play area was unique due to its heritage setting and therefore requested that the Council urgently address this matter with minimal groundwork intervention by a wet pour repair of the present surface and the overlay of a new wet pour.

The Chair agreed that this now needed to be addressed and proposed that a budget of £25K is set aside with delegated powers to the Clerk and two Councillors to decide on the contract.

Proposed by Cllr A Lowe and seconded by C Nix. Carried.

**07/24-12 EMERGENCY PLAN:**

Cllr A Lowe introduced this agenda item and distributed paper copies of the draft Oakham Emergency Plan . He had obtained a price of £90 for 50 copies of the plan . It is also essential that an online version is also published.

There still is work to be done, identifying the partner organisations and obtaining permissions for the adopted policies.

The Council agreed for this to be brought to a later Council meeting with a cost for copies and postage

**07/24-13 AUGUST ARTISAN AFTERNOON:**

Cllr S-A Wadsworth introduced this agenda item and the proposal was to hold an event on Sunday 25th August in the Market place at a cost of £250 to the Council.

Proposed by Cllr P Ainsley and seconded by Cllr. S-A Wadsworth Carried.

**07/24-14** **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 acceptance by Cllr C Nix and seconded by Cllr S-A Wadsworth . Carried.

**07/24-15 CHRISTMAS LIGHT TENDER:**

There were two bids for this contract and after some debate it was agreed to award the contract to Blachere Illumination for an initial one year period to be extended to three years on success of first years illuminations.

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

**MEETING CLOSED 7:32 PM**

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: 7th August 2024**

Signed………………………………………………….. Date………………….