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| **Agenda Item: 5** | **Council**  **Full Council Meeting**  **Date of Meeting: 13th November 2024** |

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| **OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL** |

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| **Report Authors:**  **Town Clerk** | **Title: Financial Statement** |
| **Subject : Fraudulent attempts to access funds and Bank transfer** | |
| In the middle of September, a cheque was taken in by HSBC for funds of £4,900. This was immediately rejected by the bank as it was clear that the cheque was not from one of our Cheque books and that it was therefore fake. The money therefore was recredited to our account on the same day. This was also attempted by someone two years ago with a similar outcome.  On the 1st October someone set up a Direct Debit agreement on our bank account to Ebay Commerce. The Deputy Clerk noticed this a week later when two debits for some hundreds of pounds was taken for Ebay Commerce. The office immediately phoned HSBC and stopped the DD agreement and reported it as fraudulent activity. A visit to the nearest branch resulted in our account being suspended and new authorizations issued . Within days the account was accessible, and it was evident the funds had been returned under the Direct Debit Guarantee.  LRALC, the police and ICO have been informed of this matter. Clearly there has been two significant attempts to defraud Oakham Town Council, both unsuccessful.  One outcome of this matter is that from now on as recommended by LRALC no signed minutes will be published. Secondly Oakham Town Council will be transferring its bank account to Lloyds Bank so that a second signatory system can be invoked. Once this is completed no sort code or account number will be also published.  **PROPOSAL: That the Council agree to the transfer from HSBC to Lloyds Bank.** | |