Oakham Town Council

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**MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6th AUGUST 2025 AT 6.30 P.M. IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Cllrs: C. Nix, C Clark, M Brookes, A Douthwaite, P Ainsley, J Harris, SA Wadsworth.

 **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Melanie Palmer (Temporary Administration Assistant).

Cllr C. Nix opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

**08/25–01 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCES:** None.

**08/25–02 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) None.

**08/25–03 DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** An opportunity for members of the public to speak in accordance with Standing Orders. None.

**08/25–04 MINUTES:** To confirm the accuracy of the minutes from the meeting held on 14th May following a discussion between Cllrs the minutes would be revisited between MP & CN and amended accordingly. Proposed by Cllr Nix, Seconder Cllr Brookes, 1 abstention, **CARRIED.**

Review minutes of 9th July. Meeting minutes accepted. Proposed by Cllr Nix, Seconder Cllr Brookes, 1 abstention, **CARRIED.**

**08/25-05 CHAIRMANS/CLERKS REPORT:**

**For each of the following events I represented OTC as Mayor of Oakham.**

Attended Rocks by Rail and will be attending and speaking at the VJ event on 15th August.

**08/25-06: PICNIC BENCHES:** Request for picnic benches at Centenary Fields Oakham. Cllr Wadsworth proposed to have three picnic benches installed on the field. Discussion followed between Cllrs the outcome being that the Cllrs requested the office to provide pricing information for 3 x Benches, Cementing in of benches and a recycling bin. Also to provide information detailing which budget this would come out of. Information to be provided by the office at the October Full Council Meeting. Proposed by Cllr Ainsley, Seconder Cllr Clark all in favour. **CARRIED.**

**08/25-07 REVIEW OF MOVE TO VICTORIA HALL:** Cllr Brookes proposed two items

1. Oakham Town Council to reverse the decision to move to Victoria Hall.
2. Working Group to continue but not on the basis of moving to the hall but to continue supporting trustees to obtain grants to maintain Victoria Hall.

Following a discussion between Cllrs agreement was reached as detailed below:

1. Oakham Town Council to reverse the decision to move to Victoria Hall Proposed by Cllr Brookes, no seconder. **Motion Fell.**
2. The council agreed for the working group to continue with its ongoing task the councils agreed move to Victoria Hall.

Proposed by Cllr Ainsley, Seconder Cllr Douthwaite, 1 Abstention. **Carried**.

**08/25-08 DISCOVER OAKHAM:** Update regarding new website [www.discoveroakham.co.uk](http://www.discoveroakham.co.uk)

1. That council welcomes the new discover Oakham platform which is a crucial initiative that will strengthen our community ties and the local economy. Proposed by Cllr Ainsley, Seconder Cllr Douthwaite 1 Abstention **CARRIED**.
2. That council agrees to pursue additional locations for the Smart Hubs. Proposed by Cllr Ainsley, Seconder Cllr Wadsworth, all in favour, **CARRIED.**

### 08/25-09 BANK STATEMENTS: To consider and approve the bank statements for August 25.

9.1 Rialtas Bank Reconciliation

9.2 Lloyds Bank Account

9.3 HSBC Current Account

9.4 HSBC Deposit Account

9.5 Year to Date Spend

Cllr Brookes requested that the staff names should be redacted from the reconciliation information not the amounts. Cllr Brookes also requested that the report should include descriptions of items. Cllr Douthwaite to discuss with Town Clerk to ensure correct report is included in future packs. Proposed by Cllr Nix, Seconder Cllr Wadsworth, Cllr Brookes voted against. **CARRIED.**

### 08/25-10 INTERNAL MIDPOINT AUDIT REVIEW: Cllr Douthwaite proposed that Oakham Town Council carried out an internal audit at the mid point of the financial year.

### Strategic Aims:

###  Ensure that Oakham remains a viable and pleasant environment in which to live work and play.

### Promote the town as an attractive place to visit and stay. Proposal is that Oakham Town Council asks the internal auditor to visit around AP6/7 to review our systems and offer advice for improvements before Year End.

### Discussions were held around cost for this exercise. Decision was to ask the office to explore the cost of this and to defer the item to be reviewed in the September Full Council Meeting to be discussed with cost information provided. Proposed by Cllr Ainsley, Seconder Cllr Clark all in favour. CARRIED.

**08/25-11: POD POINT:** Complaints re slow charging points for cars. Proposal to replace charging points. No Proposer item **FALLS**.

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**08/25-12 CHRISTMAS TREE:** Upgrade Existing Christmas Tree.

Proposal received from Cllr Douthwaite to upgrade the tree in light of the criticism received last year for the tree being underwhelming. Discussions were held regarding the high cost of this, and an amendment was discussed with Cllr Brookes proposing a working group of Cllrs Clark and Douthwaite regarding the enhancement of the Christmas tree in the future, to include looking at potential sponsors for the tree. Proposed by Cllr Douthwaite, seconder Cllr Brookes, all in favour. **CARRIED.**

**08/25-13 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.**

**08/25-14 Bank Signatories**: List of Signatories to be reviewed**.** Cllr Brookes raised concerns about account structure, Cllr Ainsley raised awareness of potential improvements that could be garnered regarding interest rates.Cllr Ainsley proposed that authorised signatories and the Responsible Finance Officer will progress the review of all accounts. In addition, Cllrs Harris and Clark should be added to the Lloyds account. Proposed by Cllr Brookes, Seconder Cllr Wadsworth, all in favour. **CARRIED**.

**Meeting Finished 20.38pm**

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS: 10TH SEPTEMBER 2025**

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