Oakham Town Council

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MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28th MAY 2026 AT 6.40 P.M. IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROL HOUSE LONG ROW OAKHAM LE15 6LN.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllrs: M Brookes (Chair) P Ainsley, C Clark, S Wadsworth, J Harris, A Padmore & J Nichols.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Melanie Palmer (Acting Proper Officer and RFO) and eighteen members of the public.

Cllr Brookes opened the meeting and welcomed all present. He went on to state:
For the duration of this evening's meeting and IAW with Standing Orders para 3i, and as Chairman I waive the requirement to stand when speaking unless you wish to do so.

26034: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: C Clark, Council Resolved to accept apologies.

26035: 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 Declared.

26036: CO-OPTION OF TWO NEW COUNCILLORS: To consider applications for the co-option of two new councillors to fill current vacancies on the Council, and to agree appointments following a review of eligible candidates**. Council resolved to accept David Romney and Ben Callaghan as Councillors.** 18:40 Meeting paused for signing of declaration of acceptance of office by both. 18:42 Meeting resumed.

26037: MINUTES: To confirm the accuracy of the minutes from the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on: 13th May 2026. **Council resolved to accept the minutes.**

26038: DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: An opportunity for members of the public to speak in accordance with Standing Orders 3: f. and 3: g Each member of the public is given the opportunity to speak on matters on the agenda for no more than 3 minutes. If a question is asked, the chairman of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given. A person shall raise their hand when requesting to speak. A person who speaks at a meeting shall direct their comments to the chairperson of the meeting. Only one person is permitted to speak at a time. If more than one person wants to speak, the chairperson of the meeting shall direct the order of speaking. Standing orders give a period of time designated for public participation at a meeting in accordance with Standing Order 3(g) they shall not exceed 15 minutes unless directed by the chairperson of the meeting. The chairman suspends standing or Order 3(g) to give all an opportunity to speak.

Eight Members of the public addressed council regarding the recent agenda item for the feasibility study for the bowls and tennis clubs. There was a strong feeling of concern regarding the proposal to carry out a feasibility study, with references made to fiscal irresponsibility, concerns for mental health with the potential loss of these facilities and concerns that the idea alone was contradictory to the historical recommendations.

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26039: MAYORAL CHARITY NOMINATION 2026–2027 appendix a

Discuss the merits of the Lions Club or suggest an alternative local charity that aligns with the Chairman's focus on resident welfare.

- Approve a single "Lead Charity" for the 2026 – 2027 term
- Authorise the Mayor to begin branding and marketing for the upcoming fundraising events

Council resolved to accept the adoption of the Lions Club as the lead charity for 26/27.

26040: SPORTS FEASABILITY AND REDEVELOPMENT STUDY appendix b.

A special motion has been submitted and received by the proper officer in accordance with Standing Order 9 the council is permitted to revisit two decisions resolved at AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29th APRIL 2026 To reconsider:

1. The commencement of Phase 1 feasibility work, as described in the confidential document Sports Facilities Feasibility & Redevelopment Strategy.

Cllr Ainsley wished his vote against to be recorded. Council resolved not to commence with the motion regarding The commencement of Phase 1 feasibility work, as described in the confidential document Sports Facilities Feasibility & Redevelopment Strategy, which was minute ref 04/26-13.

2. To reconsider the use of funds from the £10,000 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund with the balance of £15,000 to come from general reserves to support Phase 1 activities, including feasibility studies, site search, valuation, development appraisal, planning feasibility, and associated professional advice.

Cllr Ainsley called for the agenda item to be postponed due to insufficient time for members to review information. **Cllr Ainsley wished his vote against to be recorded. Council resolved not to use the funds from the UKSPF.**

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DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 17th June 2026.

Meeting Finished 19:47

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