

Chairman's Report

Oakham Town Council Meeting — 14th October 2026

"Good evening, councillors and members of the public.

Over the last month, I have not attended any civic events.

Local Dog Show: As Mayor, I have been invited to judge a section of a local dog show taking place at Oakham Castle this coming Sunday.

I will also be representing our town as Mayor at the upcoming Remembrance commemorations:

On Remembrance Sunday morning, just before 11:00 am, I will attend the Oakham Town Council observance of the national two-minute silence at the Oakham War Memorial.

On Remembrance Sunday afternoon, it will be a true honour to lay the poppy wreath on behalf of our residents and the Council at the county wreath-laying ceremony at the War Memorial.

On Armistice Day morning, I will attend the Armistice Day event to be held at Oakham Castle.

All members have received invitations to these important commemorations, and I hope to see many if not all of you there.

Later in this evening's meeting, we will be considering the co-option of two new members. I would like to remind councillors that while you will have the opportunity to ask the candidates questions, these must not be of a personal nature. Questions should focus strictly on what the candidates can bring to the Council if co-opted.

Finally, I would like to use this report to formally record a huge thank you to our Locum Clerk, Sam Haywood.

As we are all aware, we received a very poor internal audit report earlier this year, and I fully expected that this would lead to a qualified external audit. However, thanks to Sam's incredible hard work addressing the internal audit issues and thoroughly answering so many questions raised by the external auditor we have avoided a qualified audit decision.

This is a significant achievement for Sam, especially given that she was dropped straight into a challenging situation and asked to sort it all out. On behalf of the Council, thank you, Sam, for your dedication and hard work."