

OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL

OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL Application form for co-option to the Town Council

Please complete this form to be considered as a candidate for membership of the Town Council then return by post to: The Town clerk, Oakham Town Council, Rol House, Long Row, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6LN or by e-mail (preferably as a printable pdf document) to TownClerk@oakhamtowncouncil.gov.uk

NAME:(Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other)...Melanie

Dawn

Palmer.....

ADDRESS: [REDACTED] Oakham LE15 [REDACTED]

E-mail

address

..... [REDACTED]

Telephone landlinemobile..... [REDACTED]

Qualification to serve

You are at least 18 years old and a British citizen or an eligible Commonwealth and you must be able to answer "YES" to at least one of the following four questions; please circle as many as apply to you.

1.Are you registered at the above address as a Local Government Elector for the area of Oakham Parish? YES

2. During the whole of the last 12 months have you resided in the Parish or within 3 miles (4.8 kilometres) of it? Show address if different from above. YES

3. During the whole of the last 12 months have you occupied as owner or tenant land or premises in the Parish? Give address of land or premises. YES Pickle Cottage 14 Warn Crescent Oakham Rutland LE15 6LZ.

4. During the whole of the last 12 months has your main place of work been within the Parish? Give address and place of work and employer if applicable. YES, ROL HOUSE, LONG ROW OAKHAM RUTLAND LE15 6LN.

Disqualifications (as provided in the Local Government Act 1972, s80; Localism Act 2011, s34)copy available on Manton Parish website:

1. Do you now hold, or have you in the last 12 months held, any paid office or any other position of profit with this Council or an organisation controlled by the Council? **Yes – but I have checked legal references as long as you do not hold a paid role within a council you can apply to become a councillor. I no longer hold a paid role therefore I am able to apply.**

2. Have you ever been surcharged by the District Auditor for £500 or more? No

3. Have you ever been disqualified by a Court from holding Public Office? No

4. Have you ever been declared bankrupt? No

5. Have you ever been convicted of any offence where the sentence of imprisonment was more than 3 months (even if sentence suspended)? No

6. Have you ever been found guilty of corrupt or illegal practices under Election Laws?

I have set out information about my background and reasons for applying to be considered for co-option on pages 3 and 4 of this form.

SignedMelanie Palmer

Date.....25/9/26.....

	OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR APPLICATION FORM
	OTC are keen to co-opt fellow members of the community who are team players, willing to contribute their own ideas whilst respecting those of others and accepting majority decisions. Experience of serving on a council or with other voluntary groups may be useful. Please use this form to explain how your background and skills may enable you to contribute to the running of the Town Council.
	NAME: Melanie Palmer
1	BRIEF CURRICULUM VITAE (You may attach a separate document)
	See Attached
2	REASONS FOR WISHING TO BE A COUNCILLOR
	I am seeking co-option to Oakham Town Council South Ward because I care deeply about the future, wellbeing, and development of our community. My recent role as Clerk to the Council has given me a unique and practical insight into how the council operates, what is required for effective governance, and where strong, resident-focused leadership can make a meaningful difference. This experience has strengthened my desire to contribute at a member level and support the council in delivering high-quality outcomes for Oakham. I am passionate about protecting residents' interests and ensuring that their voices are central to decision-making. Oakham is a growing and diverse community, and I believe councillors have a responsibility to act with transparency, integrity, and a clear focus on public benefit. Through my work as Clerk, I have seen first-hand how important it is for residents to feel heard, respected, and confident in the council's processes. As a councillor, I would work to strengthen that trust and ensure that engagement with the community is meaningful, accessible, and proactive.

	Responsible financial stewardship is another key motivation for me. The precept and Section 106 monies are vital resources that must be managed carefully and lawfully to deliver long-term value for the town. My experience handling council finances, advising on statutory requirements, and supporting project delivery has given me a strong understanding of how these funds should be allocated. I want to help ensure that spending decisions are transparent, well-considered, and aligned with the needs and priorities of Oakham's residents. I am also committed to supporting the growth and development of Oakham's local traders. Our independent businesses are central to the town's identity and economic resilience. Through my work with the council, I have seen how collaboration, supportive policies, and well-planned events can positively impact footfall and business confidence. As a councillor, I would champion initiatives that help traders thrive, encourage local shopping, and strengthen Oakham's position as a vibrant market town. Finally, I care deeply about the wellbeing of council staff. Having worked closely with them, I understand the pressures they face and the dedication they bring to their roles. A respectful, supportive working environment is essential for delivering effective services, and I want to help foster a culture where staff feel valued, appreciated, and empowered to do their best work. My aim is to bring a constructive, balanced, and collaborative approach to the council. With my recent Clerk experience, strong understanding of governance, and commitment to community wellbeing, I believe I can make a positive contribution to Oakham Town Council and help support the town's continued growth and success.
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3	PREVIOUS COMMUNITY/VOLUNTARY/COUNCIL WORK
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	I also bring a long history of voluntary service within Oakham and the wider community. Around twenty years ago, I served as a councillor on Oakham Town Council, giving me early insight into local governance and the responsibilities of public office. I spent six and a half years as a Special Constable, contributing to community safety and supporting frontline policing. In addition, I have volunteered with the Girl Guides and with Oakham in Bloom, helping to enhance local amenities and support youth and environmental initiatives. During the COVID-19 pandemic, I assisted vulnerable residents by delivering prescriptions and essential items, ensuring they received support and reassurance at a challenging time.
4	YOUR SKILLS WHICH MAY BE USEFUL AS A COUNCILLOR
	I bring a strong and relevant skill set to the role of councillor. My background in local government gives me a solid understanding of governance, statutory duties, financial procedures and the importance of transparent, lawful decision-making. I communicate clearly and professionally, and I am able to explain council processes in a way that helps residents feel informed and engaged. I work collaboratively and constructively, building positive relationships with councillors, officers and partner organisations. My experience as a Special Constable has strengthened my resilience, decision-making and ability to assess issues objectively. I am proactive, solutions-focused and committed to helping the council rebuild public confidence by highlighting the dedication and hard work shown by the majority of councillors who serve. In my long career as a Group Account Manager at Vodafone, I developed strong project-management, organisational and stakeholder-coordination skills. I managed complex projects, negotiated with high-level clients, and delivered outcomes within strict deadlines and governance frameworks. This experience strengthened my ability to analyse information, plan strategically, manage competing priorities and work constructively with a wide range of people — all essential skills for a councillor committed to making informed, balanced decisions for the community. Running my own business has also given me valuable practical experience in leadership, budgeting, problem-solving and accountability. Managing operations, clients and finances independently has strengthened my ability to make sound decisions, plan effectively and take responsibility for outcomes. It has also reinforced the importance of clear communication, reliability and maintaining strong relationships — all qualities that support effective and professional conduct as a councillor.
5	ANY OTHER COMMENTS

	Although I stepped down from my role as Clerk at Oakham Town Council due to circumstances that made it necessary for me to prioritise my wellbeing, the time away has given me the opportunity to reflect and rebuild. My recent work with supportive, well-run councils has reminded me of the value of good governance and positive councillor–officer relationships, and has strengthened my desire to contribute meaningfully to my own community again. I now feel ready to return and play an active role in helping Oakham move forward. My focus is on supporting the council in rebuilding public confidence after recent events and ensuring residents recognise the hard work, dedication, and commitment shown by the majority of councillors who serve our town.
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