



# Oundle Town Council

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**Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 21st April 2015 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber, The Courthouse, Mill Road, Oundle.**

**Present:** Cllrs Chapple, Clarke, Fitzgerald, King, Menck, N Oakes, Pearson, Radcliffe, Sparkes and Stagg.

**Minutes:** Hanneke Soans

## 14.242. Apologies for Absence

14.242.01. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Chesser (personal), Rose (personal), S Oakes (personal).

14.242.02. To accept apologies for absence.

PROPOSITION: *'The apologies for absence from Cllrs Chesser, S. Oakes and Rose are accepted'*.

**Resolved Unanimously**

## 14.243. Declarations of Interests

To receive and consider any declarations of interest from Members and Officers under Section 50 of the Local Government Act 2000 (*Standing Order 35*)

(This requirement applies only in respect of matters, which are to be considered by the Council at this meeting.)

14.243.01. To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

Item 14.250.02 Cllr Stagg declared an interest as any development may affect his property.

14.243.02. To declare any Other Interests.

None

14.243.03. To consider any requests for Dispensation.

None

14.243.04. To report any gifts or hospitality accepted over the value of £50.00.

None

14.243.05. To report any inappropriate gifts or hospitality offered.

None

## 14.244. Minutes of Previous Meeting – Full Council

14.244.01 PROPOSITION: *'To approve and sign the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 17 March 2015 as an accurate record.'* (*Standing Order 10c*)

**Proposed:** Cllr King    **Seconded:** Cllr Murphy    **Resolved Unanimously**

#### 14.245. Review of Actions of the Previous Meetings – 17.03.2015

Actions reviewed as completed.

#### 14.246. Representations from Interested Parties

Julie Grove spoke as a representative from Oundle Community Group opposing the sale of the playing fields at Oundle Middle School.

She stated that during the County Council consultation process to alter the schools to a two tier system land sales to fund the process were mentioned. The extent of land to be sold was not specified. Now the decision has been made a large area at the current Middle School site has been identified for sale. Children, parents and school governors all agree that this green space must be retained as a community asset.

Julie Grove then requested Oundle Town Council support their cause.

County Councillor Heather Smith then spoke representing Northamptonshire County Council. She explained that County resources are very tight. In order to invest into the schools in Oundle, and bring them back up their previous high standard, additional funding is required. She stressed that the process is being driven by the need to provide a good standard of education to all children in Oundle and the new Primary school will retain a green playing area, netball court and sports hall an 50% increase on its current footprint.

#### 14.247. Consideration of Requests from Interested Parties

This item is considered further down the agenda.

#### 14.248. Reports

##### 14.248.01. Mayors Report

The Mayor gave a verbal report of civic events attended including a tea party at Higham Ferrer's.

##### 14.248.02. Police Report

PC Paul Mitchinson gave an overview of crime report figures which are low. There has been several shop lifting crimes in Waitrose and the Co-op which the police think is a gang from Peterborough.

##### 14.248.03. District Councillors Report

Cllr Stearn gave a verbal update on the Green cycle ways progress. He stated that ENC are unable to compulsory purchase the Riverside Pub.

Cllr Chapple asked about Spire Homes selling off garages in the town and was advised that two applications had been passed by planning at ENC. Cllr Chapple requested that Spire Homes should do more to advertise garage spaces available before they sell them off.

#### 14.249. Signing & Sealing

**RESOLUTION:** *'that the Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor and Proper Officer may seal any document required by law to be issued under seal on behalf of the Council.'* (Standing Order 14b.)

**Proposed:** Cllr Radcliffe      **Seconded:** Cllr Clarke      **Resolved Unanimously**

#### 14.250. Town Matters

14.250.01. To receive the report from the Events Officer and to consider and approve any recommendations.

Received.

14.250.02. The following proposition has been received from the Oundle Community Group opposing the sale of the playing fields at the new site of Oundle Primary School: *'That Oundle Town Council supports the opposition to the sale of the playing fields at the new site of Oundle Primary School'.*

*8.09 pm Cllr Stagg left the meeting during this item having declared an interest.*  
Cllr King proposed the motion as he is concerned about the disposal of green community space.

**Proposed: Cllr King    Seconded: Cllr N. Oakes    Resolved Unanimously**

*8.19pm Cllr Stagg returned to the room.*

#### 14.251. Operations Management Matters

14.251.01. To approve the Budget Report & Balance Sheet – March 2015.

Cllr Stagg gave an overview of the accounts and advised that a grant of £9,000 from the police for Fletton House has been received.

14.251.02. Payments for March 2015.

£1,666.17 membership to NCALC was added to the published payments schedule.

PROPOSITION: *'That the schedule of payments for March 2015 as presented at this item are paid in the amount of £221,573.67 and that all related documentation and cheques are signed'.*

**Proposed: Cllr Stagg    Seconded: Cllr Clarke    Resolved Unanimously**

#### 14.252. Estate Matters

14.252.01. To receive the minutes from the Estate Management Committee meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

Cllr King explained a request received for an extension of the current lease on the Tennis Club. It was agreed that the Estates Committee should re-visit this request once a new committee is formed as there are big differences between the lease terms on Occupation Road.

14.252.02. PROPOSITION: *'That the marketing of The Courthouse is extended to a multiple agency basis.'*

**Proposed: Cllr King    Seconded: Cllr N. Oakes    Resolved Unanimously**

#### 14.253. Fletton House Acquisition Working Party Matters

14.253.01. To receive the minutes from the Fletton House Working Party meeting held on 13 April 2015.

14.253.02. To receive a verbal update on progress with Fletton House.

Cllr Fitzgerald gave an overview of the works so far. The extension is nearing completion and the gas and electric has been installed. There has been a meeting with the doctor's surgery and library to re-develop area in front of Fletton. The surgery requested help to obtain the agreed section 106 money for the surgery to fund the works.

Cllr Murphy attended a meeting with Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs about a "not a youth club" in Fletton House. Cllr Murphy will join NAYC and will be

trained for this development.

**14.254. Communications Working Party Matters**

14.254.01. To receive the minutes from Communications Working Party meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

Will be discussed later on agenda.

14.254.02. To note the Council's policy on dealing with anonymous emails.

**14.255. Neighbourhood Planning Working Party Matters**

14.255.01. To receive the minutes of the Neighbourhood Planning Working Party meeting held on 24 March 2015.

**14.256. Planning Matters**

14.256.01 To receive the minutes from the Planning Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

Apologies received from Cllr Clarke for not attending the Planning meeting.

**14.257. Meeting Reports**

14.257.01. To receive reports on meetings held by members on behalf of the Council.

Various reports were noted. A verbal report from a Museum Trust Meeting was given. The Museum reported that visitor numbers are up.

14.257.02. To receive reports on meetings due to be held by members on behalf of the Council.

None.

**14.258. Council Matters**

14.258.01. To note the outcome of the Nominations for Elections for Parish Councillors for Oundle has an uncontested election for 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015 and there are three vacancies on the Town Council.

If there are insufficient candidates OTC may fill the remaining options by co-option. It was agreed that the new council would discuss the issue if 14 councillors is the correct number. Vacancies would be advertised at the Annual Town Meeting.

14.258.02. To consider the Council's draft Annual Report.

Cllr Radcliffe gave overview of the work carried out so far. It was agreed to add a section in the Estates report on street lighting and verges. A Planning Report was requested and also the number of consultations that the Council have responded to in the last Council year.

14.254.03. To receive an update on the plans for the Annual Town Meeting.

This was discussed at the Communications Meeting the previous night. It was requested that all councillors wear badges and dress smartly. It was requested everyone be there before 7pm to greet the public. Start at 7.30pm. There may be lots of non-residents attending and they will be advised on entering that they cannot vote on the motion on the agenda.

14.258.04. To table revised Standing Orders for debate at the Full Council meeting to be held on 12 May 2015.

Further amendments can be proposed and discussed on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

14.258.05. To receive an update on progress with the Oundle Town Council 2015-19 Business Plan.

Cllr King asked all councillors to read this before the next meeting in May.

14.258.06. To nominate the Oundle Town Council Trustees for the Parson Latham's Hospital Trust.

Current trustees approved for another term, however it was noted there will no longer be a council representative on group. If there were a vacancy in the future we would like it to go to a Town Councillor.

**Proposed:** Cllr Chapple      **Seconded:** Cllr N Oakes      **Resolved Unanimously**

14.258.07. To approve the budgeted expenditure of up to £3000 to purchase Ipads to enable all Council meetings to be administered electronically.

**Proposed:** Cllr Stagg      **Seconded:** Cllr N. Oakes      Cllr Chapple abstained.

**14.259. Consultations, Conferences and Training**

14.259.01. Strengthening Parish and Town Council accountability consultation.

Cllr Radcliffe will prepare a response for consideration.

**14.260. Correspondence for Action**

14.260.01. To consider a request from Prince William School for the Council's attendance at a Careers Fair on 25 June 2015.

Council staff will try to be there, if appropriate, when we have further info about event.

**14.261. Correspondence for Information**

14.261.01. To note that Christian Aid week will be held during the 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

Noted.

**14.262. Any Other Relevant Matters for Report**

Cllr Radcliffe thanked all councillors for their support over the year. Cllr King thanked Cllr Radcliffe for all her hard work.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed:.....



Dated:.....

19/5/2015