

## Oundle Town Council – Annual Town Meeting 2018 Report

**A Report from the Annual Town Meeting held at 7.00pm Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at St Peter's Church, Oundle.**

### **Present:**

**Councillors:** Cllrs Hutton (Mayor), Chapple (Deputy Mayor), Robinson, Chesser, N Oakes, S Oakes, Glen, Humphreys, Peel, Fuller, Baker, Clark and Sparkes

**Clerk:** Emma Baker

**Council Staff:** Lisa Allan, Paul Smith, Deborah Saxby, Rebecca Webb

**District Councillors:** Cllrs R Reichhold, P Stearn,

**Apologies received from:** District Councillor Jake Vowles, County Councillor Annabel de Capell Brooke, OTC Councillor Terry Stagg and the Police.

**Residents of Oundle:** 53 members of the public signed the signing in sheet, however it was thought that there were nearer to 100 people in attendance.

**Organisations in attendance:** Oundle Festival of Music and Drama, Oundle Literature Festival, Volunteer Action, Oundle Rotary Club, Oundle Museum, Oundle Historical Society, Oundle Wildlife Trust, Oundle Vintage Festival, Heartstart, Transition Oundle, Amps Wine Merchants, Oundle Speedwatch, Oundle Flood Warden

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and read out the apologies received.

### **2. To receive the report from the 2018 Annual Town Meeting**

The Report from 2018 was received.

### **3. Police Update**

The hard copy report was received from the Police.

### **4. District Councillors Update**

Cllr Reichhold read out a short statement from County Councillor Annabel de Capell Brooke informing the meeting of what she has been working on since becoming County Councillor for Oundle. District Councillors Reichhold and Stearn gave an update on the Unitary process and how ENC are working towards it.

### **5. Oundle Town Council**

- **Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr Peter Peel  
Cllr Peel gave an update on the new proposal for the Neighbourhood Plan and explained how and why the site allocations had been amended.

- **North Bridge** – Cllr Tony Robinson  
Cllr Robinson informed the meeting of the dates when work is due to start on the repair work. Work is due to start the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of July 2019.
- **OTC Unaudited accounts for 2018-2019 + Update on Queen Victoria Hall.** – The Mayor Cllr Hutton  
The Mayor presented a summary of the income and expenditure for OTC. The underspend was due to the amount of funds agreed to cover any NCC services that we may have had to take on and that we have not given out as many grants this year. He explained the amount of money that the Council has to contribute to the running of the Queen Victoria Hall.
- **Ideas for Town Plan** – Cllr Humphreys  
Oundle will be changing in the near future to incorporate more housing. Cllr Humphreys asked the residents at the meeting to think of ideas of how they see Oundle growing, what sort of things they like and what needs to be improved. To make Oundle a nice place to live we need to work on a town plan. Any ideas should be submitted to the Council.

#### 5. **Fletton Field Update** – Andrew Jeavons

Submissions have been made by residents and Oundle Town Council following the Section 77 application consultation made by NCC to enable them to sell the land for development. The Oundle Open Spaces Group will continue to try to save the field from development and for it to be left as open space. Mr Jeavons thanked everyone for donating to the bid.

#### 6. **Flood Warden Report** – Cllr David Fuller

Cllr Fuller gave an overview of the emergency exercise that was held in Fletton House in October 2018. It was the first time that Fletton House had been used for this exercise. Many organisations such as British Red Cross, Police, County Emergency Planning Team and actor volunteers from Oundle School. The exercise went very well. Fletton House was graded a 12-hour shelter as it is not equipped for overnight stays as there are no shower facilities. The Emergency team is working with Oundle School as a possible 24-hour shelter for Oundle. As part of the Pathfinder project we have access to a £3k grant to help pay for emergency equipment. Flood maps are available to view at the Oundle Town Council offices.

#### 7. **Questions from the floor on Oundle Issues**

- Is there any news on plans for the former Primary School and Care Home? Cllr Chapple informed the meeting that there have not been any further developments. The application for a care home on Cotterstock Road has been refused by ENC.
- Why was the Environment Agency mentioned in the flood exercise? Cllr Fuller informed the meeting that the exercise was organised by the County Emergency planning team directly.
- Why is there such a large loan for the QVH?

The loan was taken out for refurbishments. The Council are the sole trustees for the hall and support it.

- Can we use underspend to reduce the capital on the loan? Cllr Chapple informed the meeting that a PWLB loan is a very good way for local authorities to get funds as the interest rate is very low. The Council will be looking to take out another loan to pay for building a new workshop.
- Can the Councillors who are taking down posters that are put up to advertise Oundle events please stop removing them. A member of staff informed the meeting that she will put up posters on their behalf and make sure they are not taken down until after the event.
- Why was the precept increased for 2019-2020 when there had been an underspend the previous year? The Mayor informed the meeting that the decision to increase the precept by 2% was not taken lightly.
- Are there any plans for Riverside yet? Cllr Stearn informed the meeting that there are plans for a care home.
- Has OTC carried out an assessment of why the QVH is not being used, what it is being used for and what is the capacity?
- Can people still send in responses to the Section 77 consultation. The closing date has passed now so this could not be confirmed.
- We should speak with Transition Oundle if we want to work on a vision for the Town as they have been doing a lot of work on sustainable development and have produced a report that may be of help.
- The long stay car park is being used by Fairline workers can something be done to stop this?  
Cllr Robinson and the Mayor have been meeting with Fairline to discuss this matter.
- The question was raised about the points raised at the last meeting and whether they have been addressed?

Most of the actions from the previous Town meeting had been addressed. The Clerk will check that there have been no matters missed.

#### **Neighbourhood Plan Questions**

- Cllr Peel explained the changes to the NP were due to part developed sites not being allowed in the plan. There are differences between the Local Plan and Oundle NP.
- Will there be affordable housing in the new developments as this is required? The developers will have to provide affordable and social housing.
- What will happen when ENC folds and becomes a Unitary Council? Cllr Robinson informed the meeting that ENC are trying to get their plan made before it folds.
- Can Transition Oundle be consulted to help with the discussions about how to deal with the amount of traffic in Oundle following the developments being built? All housing should be within walking distance of the town.
- Can cycle paths and buses be looked at to improve transport into town?
- It is anticipated that ENC will go to consultation for the Local plan in October 2019. OTC should go to consultation in May 2019.
- Many objections to the local plan were submitted from Oundle I am very disappointed by the lack of response from ENC can the Town Council submit a complaint to the inspector about the lack of response from ENC?  
OTC will look to see if this can be done.

- Can we look at ways of reducing the number of parked cars on the roads?  
Parked cars often act as traffic calming measures as people have to slow down to let other cars through.  
Cllr Robinson informed the meeting that we need to get our NP through so that we can start talking to Highways about improving the infrastructure in the town for further development.  
Public transport must be accessible to people to use around the town to stop people trying to park in the town centre.

The questions session finished at 8.30pm. Everyone was invited for refreshments and to look at the displays by the local organisations. The Town Councillors were also available to answer any individual questions.

### **Closing Remarks**

The Mayor thanked everyone for coming.