



Oundle Town Council

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Oundle Town Council – Annual Town Meeting 2015

Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Town Meeting of Oundle Town Council held at 7.30pm on Thursday 30th April 2015 at the Queen Victoria Hall, Oundle.

Present:

Councillors:	Cllrs Chapple, Clarke, Chesser, King, N Oakes, S Oakes, Radcliffe, Sparkes, Fitzgerald and Stagg.
Clerk:	Hanneke Soans
Council Staff:	Trish Baker, Paul Smith and Paula Prince.
Visitors:	Mark Taitt PWS Headmaster
Police:	Sgt Paul Mitchinson, Julie Meads,
County Councillor:	Cllr Matthew Golby
District Councillors:	Cllrs R Reichhold, P Stearn
NCC Highways:	Sarah Barnwell
Apologies received from:	Cllr Meneck, Debra Harper, Mark Felton, June Round and County Councillor Heather Smith.

Welcome and Mayor's Introduction

Cllr Stagg gave house-keeping notes.

Cllr Radcliffe opened the meeting and gave a brief overview of the Annual Report.

Minutes of the 2014 Annual Town Meeting

The minutes of the meeting were reviewed and it was then proposed *'that the minutes of the meeting of the 2014 Annual Town Meeting are approved and accepted as an accurate record'*.

Proposed: Mr Fraser

Seconded: Mr Radcliffe

Resolved Unanimously

▪ **Mayor's Report – Cllr Gwen Radcliffe**

The Mayor gave an overview of the Council Year, Events that were held successfully in the town such as the first Women's Tour, Classic Car Sprint and Christmas Light Switch On. The Neighbourhood Questionnaire was distributed and responses collated. The Town will soon have new heritage lighting and our Estate plans are almost completed with our move to Fletton House.

The Mayor then went on to award to cheques to CHAT and Volunteer Action who were the Mayor's Charity's for the year.

The Mayor closed her report with a thank you to Cllr Stagg for being Deputy Mayor and a public thank you to all the council's staff.

▪ **Questions & Answers on Oundle Town Council Activities**

Mr Walton asked a question on the Towns precept, with increasing number of properties being built in Oundle, will there be further reductions in the precept in future years?

Cllr Stagg answered the question by advising at this stage he cannot say yes or no to further reductions, however his aim is to keep any increase to zero.

- **Police Matters – ‘Are You Special’ - Inspector Julie Meads**

Julie Meads is the new section inspector and has been in the police for 23 years. The central police budget has been reduced from 140 million to 90 million which has implications on front line staff.

Local issues, Lorries through town, speeding, dog fouling.

Futures Programme in Oundle in Kettering. Now have 13 PCSO's in Oundle.

Launching on 22nd May is the cross border crime objective to target travelling criminals from across county borders.

- **Oundle Education Matters**

- **Prince William Development Plans - Mark Taitt**

Mark Taitt the headmaster of Prince William School gave an overview of the development plans for Prince William School.

A question was asked by a resident if there will there be a dedicated 6th form centre in the new layout?

Mr Taitt confirmed that a new 6th form area will be built above Reception and will represent a University style environment.

- **Oundle Primary School Development Plans – Cllr Matthew Golby**

Cllr Matthew Golby from Northants County Council gave apologies for Heather Smith who was unable to attend due to a conference and he read Cllr Smith's Annual Report which reported on the Cycle Tour and thanked Debra Harper and Paula Prince for their efforts in Oundle.

It advised that the County Council is physically re-structuring and building new Council Offices and selling twelve old buildings off and 2020 will see a much smaller County Council.

The report advised that after discussions with English Heritage works will begin on South Bridge by Anglian Water in late June and the current bollards will be removed in July.

There have been several school changes, Kings Cliffe Middle School has been closed and the Primary School will be upgraded and it was publically declared last June that the Middle School would lose some of its land.

This land is not currently up for sale and the County will borrow money to fund the proposed school changes.

Cllr Stearn advised that permission to sell the school land would have to be approved by the Minister of State.

ENC are the local planning authority and currently the RNOTP does not list this site as a development site and any planning application would be rejected by ENC at this moment in time.

Julie Grove spoke on behalf Oundle Community Group and showed a film made by the children asking for the field to be retained as once it is sold it will be gone for ever.

3,000 people have already signed a petition against the sale.

Angela Clipson asked a question “at the original two tier consultation meeting it was never mentioned that the field would be sold. There was funding available at the beginning therefore has any funding been lost since the original meeting?”

Cllr Golby advised that the plans were laid out at the original discussions with school in June and that Northants County Council would have to borrow money.

Duncan Butler” expressed disappointment that Heather Smith was not here and asked what other funding was investigated”?

Cllr Golby was unable to answer this question.

Helen” with 860 new houses being built in Oundle in the next ten years did NCC make any provision for future green spaces in Oundle”?

Cllr Golby was unable to answer this question.

Julie Grove then showed Cllr Golby a site plan that was shown at the June meeting previously referred to which does not show the school field being sold. Cllr Golby does not know the details of which assets are being disposed of.

“As the town is very against the sale of this land, what will it take to change your mind?

Cllr Golby advised that the plans have been in place for a long time and there is insufficient funding around.

“From top down you are supposed to be open about your information? Where are the project plans and costings over the overall scheme”?

Cllr Golby advised that any requests for information would be considered.

“Oundle Football Club use the Middle School fields to play on currently. Where is the provision for the loss of those fields?

Cllr Golby did not answer this question.

A question was put to Mark Tait if there was enough land for PWS? Could county potentially sell land at PWS if it is not being used”?

Mr Tait advised that as PWS grows all its land would be utilised.

What is the 3 million pounds being spent on at the Middle School?

Cllr Golby advised it will be spent on new windows and refurbishment costs.

Someone asked how much the new County Council offices would cost? Can the county not put this on hold and put the money into education instead?

The estimated costs of the new County Council offices on Angel Street will be 53 million pounds.

What are the plans for the current Oundle Primary School Site?

Cllr Golby advised there is a whole process to go through and there are currently no plans on the table at the moment for the site.

What is in the budget figure expected from the sale of the land?

Cllr Golby was unable to answer this question.

PROPOSITION: ‘That the 2015 Annual Town Meeting supports the Oundle Community Group opposing the sale of the playing fields at the new site of Oundle Primary School’.

Proposed: Julie Grove Seconded: Cllr N. Oakes Resolved Unanimously
Questions from the floor on Oundle Issues

The re -designed parking needs two designated disabled parking bays?

Sarah Barnwell advised that she does not know when the disabled bays will happen but there are two planned for outside Smiths at No 4 and one outside The Talbot.

“When Oundle Town Council transfers to Fletton House what will happen to space at The Courthouse”?

This space is being marketed currently to be let.

Cllr Clarke asked why we have three vacancies on the Council when there are so many people here tonight and would people volunteer to stand after tonight.

There being no further business the meeting was closed 9.30pm

Signed:.....

Dated:.....