



Oundle Town Council

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Minutes of the Town Council held on Tuesday 19th January 2016 at 7.30pm in The Oundle Suite, Fletton House, Fletton Way, Oundle.

Present: Cllrs Chesser, Chapple, Davis, Fitzgerald, Grove, King, Menck, Murphy, N Oakes, S Oakes, Piercy-Hughes, Sparkes, Stagg and Talbot.

Minutes: Hanneke Soans/Trish Baker

15.171. Apologies for Absence

15.171.01. To receive apologies for absence.

None

15.171.02. To accept apologies for absence.

None

15.172. 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.)

15.172.01. To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

None

15.172.02. To declare any Other Interests.

None

15.172.03. To consider any requests for Dispensation.

None

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

None

15.172.05. To report any inappropriate gifts or hospitality offered.

15.173. Minutes of Previous Meetings – Full Council

15.173.01 PROPOSITION: *'To approve and sign the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 15 December 2015 as an accurate record.'* (*Standing Order 10c*)

Cllr Chapple requested an amendment on the previous minutes on item 15.160.02

That in relation to the proposition for the Clerk's role was considered with two propositions put forward, a misunderstanding occurred and Cllr Stagg did not vote (For 7 Against 4 Abstentions 2) a second vote was then taken (For 7 Against 7) the final casting vote was given to the Chair and the meeting then resolved to accept Option 2 and that this was minuted correctly.

It was agreed that the minutes be amended.

Proposed: Cllr Chapple **Seconded:** Cllr Davis **For 8 Against 5 Abstentions 1**

15.174. Review of Actions of the Previous Meetings – 15.12.15

15.175. Representations from Interested Parties

None

15.176. Consideration of Requests from Interested Parties

None

15.177. Signing & Sealing

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

Proposed: Cllr S. Oakes **Seconded:** Cllr Chesser **Resolved Unanimously**

15.178. Council Matters

15.178.01. To discuss the process and actions taken to lead to the proposition contained within Item 15.178.02.

Cllr.Chapple advised that there was no need for a debate on this matter and that it should go straight to vote.

Proposed Cllr. Chapple **Seconded** Cllr. Chesser

In favour Cllrs. Chapple,Chesser, S Oakes, N Oakes, Davis, Menck, Sparkes, Piercy – Hughes. **Against** Cllrs. Murphy, Fitzgerald, Grove, Talbot, King, Stagg

15.178.02. **PROPOSITION:** *'That the decision taken at the December Full Council Meeting to accept that Oundle Town Council is a Level 4 Council is rescinded and that the issue is further considered'.*

We hereby further require that if the previous proposition is adopted that the following further proposition be placed on the agenda for the next full council meeting:

PROPOSITION: *'That all written material provided by the Town Council to those persons originally asked to advise the Council on the issue as to whether it is a Level 3 or a Level 4 Council be copied to each Oundle Town Councillor together with their previous written advice to the Council and that those persons who have previously advised the Council on this issue be asked to attend a meeting so that they can answer any questions put to them by Councillors and thereafter provide further oral advice to the Council on the issue of Oundle Town Council's Level 3 status'.*

Cllr King gave an overview of the December meeting and gave the background behind the lead up to the point where eight councillors have since asked to rescind this decision.

Cllr King then went on to ask the room "I would like to understand as Chair how we came to this point?" As we need to sort out the budget in the next week and set a precept.

Cllr Chapple felt it would not be helpful to have a debate at this stage of the process and according to Standing Orders 6g a vote should be taken on this proposition to enable the meeting to move forward.

Cllr Chapple asked for a vote on the original proposition.

Proposed: Cllr Chapple **Seconded:** Cllr Chesser

In Favour Cllr Chapple, S.Oakes, Menck, N. Oakes, Chesser, Piercy-Hughes, Davis and Cllr Sparkes **Against** Cllr King, Stagg, Talbot, Grove, Fitzgerald and Murphy.

The decision taken at the December Full Council Meeting has been rescinded.

Cllr Chapple wished to move to the next proposition which was to ask Chris Moses and Danny Moody from NCALC to come back and discuss their original reports and answer the Council's questions. Cllr King requested that no matter what happens that council accept the review of these two independent parties and that a meeting should be arranged as soon as possible.

Cllr Chapple understands it has immediate implications for staff and therefore felt personally that he would find it morally wrong that staff who have been spoken to regarding changes to pay and hours should not be affected and that their Level 4 status should be upheld.

Cllr Grove asked "why if seven of the eight were not happy on the night why did they not question the decision at the previous meeting?" and asked why they took the action they did in the manner they did? By choosing to form a group of eight and not including the other six councillors you have created an intolerable situation for staff and councillors alike, undermining the position of the Town Clerk and neglected a duty of care to staff. Faith in the council has been eroded and broken and they have lost her respect.

Cllr Fitzgerald wished to complain under the member's code of conduct that they have failed to adhere to it and failed to be objective.

Cllr Murphy "we debated long and hard in December in order to fully understand why we were moving into a level 4 council, and this decision has undermined the whole process."

Cllr Chesser advised that the council don't have to adhere in any way to NJC pay scales. Cllr King felt that this was new information, which had not been mentioned previously.

The Chair on advice from Cllr Chapple closed the meeting in order to allow questions from the public under Standing Order 3g and 3h.

Standing Order 3g

"A question asked by a member of the public during a public participation session at a meeting shall not require a response or debate. The chairman of the meeting may, however, direct that response to a question posed by a member of the public be referred to a councillor for an oral response or to an employee for a written or an oral response;

A record of a public participation session at a meeting shall be included in the minutes of the meeting;"

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8.20pm

Questions were now taken from the public

"Why did you not question the report at the original meeting?"

The report was sent out by Cllr King on Saturday lunchtime and there were issues with the size of the report being compatible with some systems,

whether it is a Level 3 or a Level 4 Council be copied to each Oundle Town Councillor together with their previous written advice to the Council and that those persons who have previously advised the Council on this issue be asked to attend a meeting so that they can answer any questions put to them by Councillors and thereafter provide further oral advice to the Council on the issue of Oundle Town Council's Level 3 status'.

Proposed: Cllr Chapple **Seconded:** Cllr Piercy - Hughes

In Favour Cllrs Chapple, S. Oakes, Menck, Davis, Sparkes, N Oakes and Chesser

Against Cllrs Murphy, Grove, King, Stagg, Talbot

Abstension Cllr Fitzgerald

15.179. Planning Matters

15.179.01. To consider Planning Application 15/02174/OUT – Proposal: Up to thirteen dwellings and associated infrastructure (all matters reserved except for access) at Land Rear of Abbott House and 1-3 Glaphorn Road Oundle.

Cllr Chapple gave an overview of the planning issue. The planning committee recommendation was to object to the planning application.

In the RNOTP this is not part of that 2021 allocation.

Inspector rejected a previous site that was not in the RNOTP and he feels this site would fall within the same criteria.

Cllr Chapple read out the existing objection that was logged by Planning Committee. And advised that the seven councillors who had not had a chance to object previously could now speak if they wished.

Cllr Grove advised that land was discussed at an ENC meeting the previous evening and that district Cllr Reichhold seems to be unaware of the lack of public green space in the town. It was agreed to inform the three district councillors directly that the town objects to the sale of this land.

It was agreed that with a slight amendment, of the impact upon Magdalena House and the School Chapel Gardens that this would be submitted.

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

15.180. Any Other Relevant Matters for Report

It was agreed that another Full Council meeting needs to be set for Wednesday 27th January to finalise the budget ready to submit the precept request. The full budget paper will be circulated to all councillors.

Cllr Grove again approached the eight councillors and asked why they did not contact any of the other six. Cllr Piercy-Hughes said there had been no transparency over the Commercial Manager role. He was advised that at a previous meeting delegated powers to replace the previous employee was given to The Clerk to manage the Hub staff.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed:.....

Dated:.....