



Oundle Town Council

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Minutes of the Town Council held on Tuesday 15th December 2015 at 7.30pm in The Oundle Suite, Fletton House, Fletton Way, Oundle.

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

Minutes: Debra Harper

15.151. Apologies for Absence

15.151.01. To receive apologies for absence.
None.

15.151.02. To accept apologies for absence.
None.

15.152. Declarations of Interests

The following declarations of interest from Members and Officers under Section 50 of the Local Government Act 2000 (*Standing Order 35*) were received:

15.152.01. To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.
None.

15.152.02. To declare any Other Interests.

Cllr Murphy declared an Other Interest in Item 15.159.02. Fletton Field due to the proximity of her home to the field.

Chesser, Davis and Murphy all stated an Other Interest in Item 15.164. Planning for the sports facility at Oundle School due to being an employee of the Oundle School. It was noted that this was not an agenda item; however the Interest was noted.

15.152.03. To consider any requests for Dispensation.
None.


15.152.04. To report any gifts or hospitality accepted over the value of £50.00.
None.

15.152.05. To report any inappropriate gifts or hospitality offered.
None.

15.153. Minutes of Previous Meetings – Full Council

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

Proposed: Cllr S Oakes Seconded: Cllr Talbot Resolved Unanimously

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15.154. Review of Actions of the Previous Meetings – 17.11.2015

None.

15.155. Representations from Interested Parties

None.

15.156. Consideration of Requests from Interested Parties

None.

15.157. Reports

15.157.01. Mayors Report

Cllr King confirmed his report and brought members attention to the note regarding the proposal to be forthcoming from Transition Oundle.

15.157.02. Police Report

PCSO Arthur Pereira provided the Police report providing an overview on the crime figures and police activity. He also confirmed that the Joint Action Group had recently met and set two new priorities for the area as follows:

- The reduction of HGV's entering Oundle breaching the weight limit orders;
- Speed enforcement.

Following questions from members on recent crimes, the agenda item was concluded.

15.157.03. District Councillors Report

Cllr Vowles provided an update on South Bridge confirming that Anglian Water had conducted surveys and work should be completed in about 4 weeks after which it will be up to the Highway Authority to take action on the weight limits and remove the barriers.

Cllr Reichhold advised that a new alliance was being formed between the County Council, University Northamptonshire and Northampton Health Trust in order to ease the burden at GP surgeries.

Cllr Stearn advised that the amount of funding applied by central government for next year is looking to be about 8-9% down on last year.

15.158. 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 King

Seconded: Cllr Talbot

Resolved Unanimously

15.159. Town Matters

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

The report was noted. Cllr King remarked that the Christmas Market had been a success despite concerns about the weather that had necessitated a 'no gazebo' policy being implemented and thanked all the staff for their involvement in this.

15.159.02. To receive an update on the Council's application for Village/Town Green Status on Fletton Field, Glaphorn Road.

Cllr Grove provided an overview of the application submitted to apply for Village/Town Green Status on the land at the rear of Abbott House (Fletton Field) and confirmed that this had been received by NCC within the agreed timeline for the submission. Cllr Grove advised that as NCC were both the

Registration Authority and the landowners the application would need to be referred for inspection as this would be a conflict of interest for NCC.
Cllr Grove concluded her report by advising that NCC have now submitted an outline planning application for housing development on the field and that the Clerk had extended the response time to enable this to be considered by the Planning Committee and Full Council.
Cllr King expressed thanks to Christina Cork and Cllr Grove for a very comprehensive submission to NCC.

- 15.159.03. PROPOSITION: 'that Oundle Town Council, with the assistance of the Oundle Recreation and Green Spaces Group, agrees to submit a Community Right to Bid application on the Fletton Field, Glaphorn Road'.
Proposed: Cllr Grove **Seconded:** Cllr N Oakes **For:** 12 **Against:** 1

15.160. Operations Management Matters

- 15.160.01. To receive the minutes of the Operations Management Committee meeting held on 8th December 2015.

Noted.

7.58pm Cllr Chapple arrived having given apologies for a delayed arrival.

RESOLUTION: 'that in view of the special and/or confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it is advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw' (Standing Order 3c)

Proposed: Cllr King **Seconded:** Cllr Chapple **For:** 13 **Abstention:** 1

The meeting was closed at 8.00pm.

- 15.160.02. To accept the findings of the independent review of the Council's operation and approve the subsequent Organisational Development proposals and the resulting financial impact to the Council's staffing costs.

Cllr King provided an overview of the tabled paper and invited comments from members. He then stated that he would break the item into various propositions to enable the agenda item to be considered in steps. The following propositions were then moved:

PROPOSITION: 'that Oundle Town Council accepts the independent scrutiny and acknowledges that it is a Level 4 Council'.

Proposed: Cllr King **Seconded:** Cllr Talbot **For:** 9 **Against:** 3 **Abstention:** 2

PROPOSITION: 'that the proposed Committee structure is accepted from May 2015 and that a trigger system is agreed by the Head of the Planning and Consultation Committee to enable planning applications to be referred to Full Council and that this system is commenced with immediate effect to test the proposal'.

Proposed: Cllr King **Seconded:** Cllr Grove **For:** 7 **Against:** 2 **Abstention:** 5

PROPOSITION: 'that the proposed staffing organisation structure is accepted'.

Proposed: Cllr King **Seconded:** Cllr Talbot **For:** 13 **Abstention:** 1

The Clerk was asked to leave the meeting at this stage of the debate in order that the financial implications of the changes could be considered. After a debate, the following propositions were moved:

PROPOSITION: 'that the role of the Estate Officer is increased to full time hours with effect from 01.01.2016 and that a 2 grade increase is applied from 01.01.2017 subject to appraisal in October 2016'.

Proposed: Cllr King **Seconded:** Cllr Talbot **For:** 13 **Abstention:** 1

PROPOSITION: *'that the grade for the Finance Officer role is increased to 33 with effect from 01.04.2016'*.

Proposed: Cllr King **Seconded:** Cllr Grove **For:** 9 **Against:** 4 **Abstention:** 1

The grade for the Clerk's role was then considered with alternative propositions to those in the report being expressed as follows:

1. *'that the grade for the Clerk is increased to 53 with effect from 01.01.2016 with a review to talk place in October 2016'*.
2. *'that the grade for the Clerk is increased to 56 with effect from 01.04.2016'*.

The vote for each proposition was then taken with 7 votes for each proposition with the Mayor casting the final vote for option 2 above.

The meeting then resolved to accept Option 2.

15.160.03. To consider the 2016/17 draft budget and to agree options on the various scenarios for inclusion within the final budget plan.

This was not considered.

The meeting was re-opened to the public

15.160.04. To receive an update on the final accounts for Fletton House.

Cllr Fitzgerald advised that the final accounts are not yet available and it is hoped that these would be available for the January 2016 meeting.

15.160.05. To approve the Balance Sheet and Budget Report – November 2015.

The reports were accepted.

15.160.06. Payments for November 2015.

PROPOSITION: *'That the schedule of payments for November 2015 as presented at this item are paid in the amount of £45,834.94 and that all related documentation and cheques are signed'*.

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

15.161. Estate Matters

15.161.01. To receive the notes of the Estate Management Committee meeting held on 1st December 2015.

Cllr Stagg provided an overview of the tabled minutes.

15.162. Communications Working Party Matters

None.

15.163. Neighbourhood Planning Scrutiny Committee Matters

15.163.01. To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Planning process.

Cllr King outlined the process for the first meeting to be held next week.

15.164. Planning Matters

15.164.01. To receive the minutes from the Planning Committee meeting held on 1st December 2015.

Noted.

15.164.02. To note the follow up meeting to discuss parking issues at Classic Reclaims Ltd resulting from Condition 28 in Planning Application EN/12/01051/FUL 66 East Road will now take place in January.

Noted.

15.165. Meeting Reports

- 15.165.01. To receive reports on meetings held by members on behalf of the Council.
Noted.
- 15.165.02. To receive reports on meetings due to be held by members on behalf of the Council.
No meetings were noted.

15.166. Council Matters

- 15.166.01. To vote on and adopt the new Oundle Town Council logo.
This item was deferred.
- 15.166.02. To receive an update on progress on the marketing plan for Oundle.
Cllr King provided an update and confirmed that more information will be circulated at the next Full Council meeting.
- 15.166.03. To nominate a Council representative for the Fairtrade Group.
Cllr Sparkes was nominated.

15.167. Consultations, Conferences and Training

- 15.167.01. To consider the response to the NCC Consultation: School Admissions arrangements for September 2017 - Consultation on Schools' Oversubscription Criteria and Published Admissions Numbers. Start Date: 10.11.2015 End Date: 31.12.2015 Note: Consultation allocated to Cllrs Chesser and Chapple.
Cllr Chesser confirmed that no response is required as there is no impact to Oundle.
- 15.167.02. To consider the response to the NCC Consultation: Open Market Review Consultation – Request for Information on Broadband Infrastructure provision in Northamptonshire. Start Date: 17.11.2015 End Date: 18.12.2015 Note: Consultation allocated to Cllrs Menck and Talbot.
Cllr Talbot provided an overview of the circulated paper and confirmed that no response was required.
- 15.167.03. To note the Minerals and Waste Local Plan Update - Draft Plan for Consultation. Start Date: 03.12.2015 End Date: 11.02.2016. Note: Consultation allocated to Cllrs Chapple and Murphy.
Noted.
- 15.167.04. To note the Draft Budget and Council Plan Consultation 2016-17. Start Date 08.12.2015 End Date 19.01.2016. Note: Consultation allocated to Cllrs King and Stagg.
Noted. Cllr Stagg confirmed that a report will be circulated before a response is submitted via the office.

15.168. Correspondence for Action

- 15.168.01. To consider being part of a shared ownership scheme for a Vehicle Activated Speed Sign/Speed Indicator Device.
Noted. It was agreed that no action would be taken.

15.169. Correspondence for Information

- 15.169.01. To note the letter from Adam Simmonds, Police and Crime Commissioner and receipt of the latest Delivery Report.
The letter and the Delivery Report was noted and circulated. Cllr King advised that numerous meetings with the Police and Crime Commissioner had been arranged but each time they had been cancelled. He advised that a central


meeting will be held and circulated for anyone interested in attending.

15.170. Any Other Relevant Matters for Report

Cllr Stagg stated that should anyone wish to discuss any aspect of the Council's finances with him he openly welcomes this.

Cllr King thanked Cllr Grove for her work on the Green Spaces and concluded the meeting by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and expressing hope that he would see everyone at the event planned for the following evening.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.51pm.

Signed:..........

Dated:.....19/11/16.....