



Oundle Town Council

Fletton House, Fletton Way, Oundle, Peterborough, PE8 4JA

Tel: 01832 272055

Website: oundle.gov.uk

Email: admin@oundle.gov.uk

Report on the Annual Town Meeting May 27th 2021

An unusual Annual Town meeting was held in Fletton House with some residents present, and others hoping to join on Zoom, which unfortunately let us down. However, the meeting was videoed, and can be watched via the OTC site and YouTube Channel, along with the full text of the meeting (précised below) and presentation.

Key points raised were -

- 1) **Introduction to the councillors** and staff for the new 2021 OTC, and thanks to retiring councillors. “A couple of us live in what might be called North Oundle, a couple in East and a couple in West - our contact details are available on the OTC website – do look there for any council information you want and need, and make contact if you can’t find what you want. “
- 2) **Finances** – figures from the Annual Internal Audit Report (done by ironically an external body, Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils) were

	Year ending 31 March 2020	Year ending 31 March 2021
1. Balances brought forward	363,201	386,057
2. Annual precept	459,985	494,506
3. Total other receipts	194,570	165,415
4. Staff costs	265,628	242,115
5. Loan interest/capital repayments	22,793	22,793
6. Total other payments	343,278	428,830
7. Balances carried forward	386,057	352,240
8. Total cash and investments	388,000	483,965
9. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	2,574,788	2,657,837
10. Total borrowings	423,746	419,509

shared -

- Financially good health with reserves of c.£350k
- Precept – the amount OTC gets from your Council Tax - increased in 20-21 in line with expectation of adopting more services from NCC – and zero increase 21-22.
- Hub closure and covid explain drops in income (FH, QVH, market etc) and costs
- Capital projects/unusual expenditure explain larger than normal “other payments” – skatepark, boardwalk, cycleway, new van, grants for laptops. Our assets value has risen accordingly.
- Clean bill of health from NCALC Auditor – “I am pleased to advise the Town Council that I do not have any issues or comments to raise and that I have found all satisfactory. I would like to congratulate Mrs Baker and her team for the excellent way in which the council has been managed during such a difficult year.”
- A reminder - we as councillors are not paid, we are all of us here as volunteers.

3) OTC Ambitions for the year

Clearly 2021-22 will be a tough year for Oundle as Covid retreats or not. It seems that we have three areas as a Council that we can work hard at this year in order to keep things improving

- a) **Environmental** – Oundle is a great place to live, and we want to keep it that way. Through the work of our Planning and Estates Committees we will do everything we can to ensure you have access to as much open and green space as we can make or keep. Clearly planning has been a big issue in the past year or three, and no doubt will continue to be so in the future. The baton for statutory responsibility has now passed from ENC and NCC to NNC, and we’ll continue to represent the views of the residents of Oundle to NNC as well as we can. Mention of skatepark, cycleways, Footpath and Snipe Meadow wardens, Transport study, Fletton Field, and wildflowers. **Note – an important question was asked by a resident about planning – see Cllr Chapple’s answer on the video.**



b) **Communication -**

- Communication with residents – please make active use of our website; subscribe to Twitter feed, Facebook page and read the Advertiser – monthly pages going to every door in Oundle.



Should we feed Red Kites?

Although feeding Red Kites is not illegal, the RSPB encourages people not to put meat out in gardens for them as there is no need.

Red kites are primarily scavengers who travel far and wide in search of food. They can and will take live prey, notably small mammals such as mice and voles, particularly at certain times of the year. They rarely have any problem finding dead animals and other things to eat, there is plenty of food for them, so there is no need for people to feed them.

Regular feeding of kites could ultimately lead to an unsustainably high population of red kites, reliant on human hand-outs. It also makes them more susceptible to poisoning by persons persecuting them.

Even 20 years ago, very few people would have the opportunity to see them.

The fact that so many of us now can is a brilliant conservation success we can all celebrate.

- New signs going up this summer.

LAND MANAGED BY  **OUNDLE TOWN COUNCIL**



BIN RUBBISH OR TAKE IT HOME



KEEP DOGS ON LEADS & NO DOG FOULING

This land is open for the enjoyment of the community please respect it

Oundle Town Council cannot accept liability for injury caused whilst on this land - oundle.gov.uk



- Communications with neighbouring parishes in the “hinterland” of Oundle through our Rural Forum - we hope to include our neighbours in the Transport Study.

- Communications with NNC – we're lucky that one of Oundle's North Northants ward councillors, Jason Smithers, is leader of NNC. How we work with NNC, who hold most statutory power is very important, and we hope that Jason will ensure Oundle's voice is heard.
- c) **Helping Oundle's future after Covid** – working with OBA to keep the town economically flourishing – loveOundle.org, markets. Working with NNC on same. Finding a way to recognise local heroes and Creative Oundle - do look at the Creative Oundle website. New functions for the Hub space to support local groups

It feels like an exciting time for Oundle – as the town inevitably grows, we all need to work hard to keep what it is about living here that is important. We need to keep being good neighbours, considerate and steady road users, loyal customers of local businesses, regular pothole reporters on FixmyStreet. Do keep in contact with us via Oundle Town Council posts on social media, the ENBs and in print, meetings etc, and make use of us, your councillors and council staff. We want to help facilitate Oundle being as good a place to live in 10 years as it was 10 years ago, and we all need to work hard to make that happen.....

Fletton Field's status as an Asset of Community Value

At the OTC meeting on June 15th we received the modestly good news below from NNC, extending the present position that should the land be made available for sale, the town would have a fair chance to purchase it.

See the full letter on the OTC website.

Asset of Community Value: Fletton Field

Further to Oundle Town Council's nomination to list the above property as an Asset of Community Value under the Localism Act 2011 (the Act), the council has now reached a decision.

In consultation with the relevant Ward Members for Oundle Ward, a decision has been reached that the nominated asset falls within the category of an Asset of Community Value as defined by the Act. The reasons are detailed in the formal decision notice, which is attached as a separate document.

The council will now arrange for Fletton Field, to be listed as an Asset of Community Value as per the Localism Act and associated regulations. This will include publication of the listing on our website and notification to the Land Registry.