



# Oundle Town Council

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

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## Report on the Annual Town Meeting May 30<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 7.30pm

### **Oundle Town Councillors –**

V Chesser, I Clark, L Gray, D Chapple, M Schurer, J Arnold, J Wade R Reichhold, L Bull and J Hutton.

**Apologies –** Cllrs Fuller and Davis

**North Northants Councillors –** Apologies sent by Cllrs Best and Harrison

Approximately 75 members of the public attended.

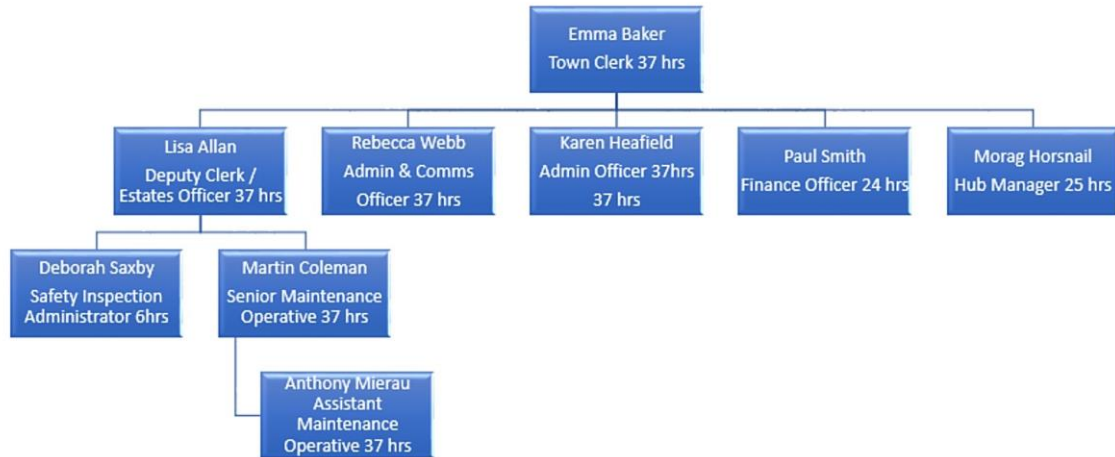
Key points raised were -

### **1. Introduction**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the council members. He informed the members of the public about the OTC Newsletter and thanked the staff.



# Oundle Town Council Current Staff Structure March 2024



## Oundle Town Council

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## Estate

- Fletton House
- Queen Victoria Hall
- Courthouse complex
- Joan Strong Centre
- Public Toilets
- War Memorial
- St Peters Churchyard
- Cemetery
- Snipe Meadow
- CCTV
- Coop Car park
- Benefield Road Car Park
- East Road car park
- Occupation Road sports clubs
- The Recreation Ground
- Pocket Park
- Skatepark
- Rockingham Hill, St Christophers Driver, Wentworth Drive and Rock Road open spaces/play areas
- Markets inc Christmas + Food Festival

## 2. Bus Service

Danny Douglas from NNC attended the meeting to inform the members of the public about the new project to deliver a bus service to Oundle.

X4	Northampton - Peterborough	School journey to Oundle. Improvement of afternoon and evening journeys.
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**Appendix A - List of proposed new/improved bus services**

<b>New services:</b>		
(24)	Rushden Lakes/Raunds – Oundle	Mondays Saturdays. Six buses per day.
(180)	Stamford to Oundle	Monday to Fridays. Peak and shopping bus journey.
2	Weldon Airfield – Kettering via KGH	Mondays to Saturdays. Hourly bus.
	Corby Shopping bus from Weldon	Mondays to Fridays. Shopping bus journey.
	Kettering – Brambleside – Kettering	Mondays to Saturdays. Hourly bus.
(W3)	Wellingborough - Berry Moor	Mondays to Saturdays. Hourly or half-hourly bus
	Demand responsive transport (DRT)	Mondays to Saturdays services. Covering rural areas without a bus service: Oundle North, Oundle South and Thrapston.

DRT (Demand Responsive Transport) bus will return to enable people to move around the town from the North and South side.

### 3. Looking Back

The Cllr Chapple gave a brief overview of what the council has delivered over the year as Mayor of OTC.

He attended the relaunch of the Stahl Theatre., 80<sup>th</sup> D Day anniversary – Longest Yarn event at Fletton House. All eighty panels will be on display in the UK later in the year. He presented the trophy to the winners of the Young Enterprise awards in Fletton House. Schools from Northamptonshire / Lincolnshire had entered the competition, and the winner was the Northampton School for Girls. He thanked the RBL for organisation of the Remembrance Day parade and service.

He thanked the Fletton Field Association for their hard work and dedication in helping to bring the ownership of Fletton Field back to Oundle in the Councils 50<sup>th</sup> year. He thanked the Council staff and colleagues.

### 4. Looking Forward

The Mayor informed the meeting that OTC are reviewing the Vision. He talked about the minibus trials and working closely with the Oundle Business Association.

The Oundle Walking app is getting nearer to being finalised and was trialed at the Vintage Festival.

The Councillors will be spending time in the town at the Thursday market and Farmers market to give residents to opportunity to give their views.

### 5. NNC Councillors

Unfortunately, there were no NNC Councillors at the meeting.

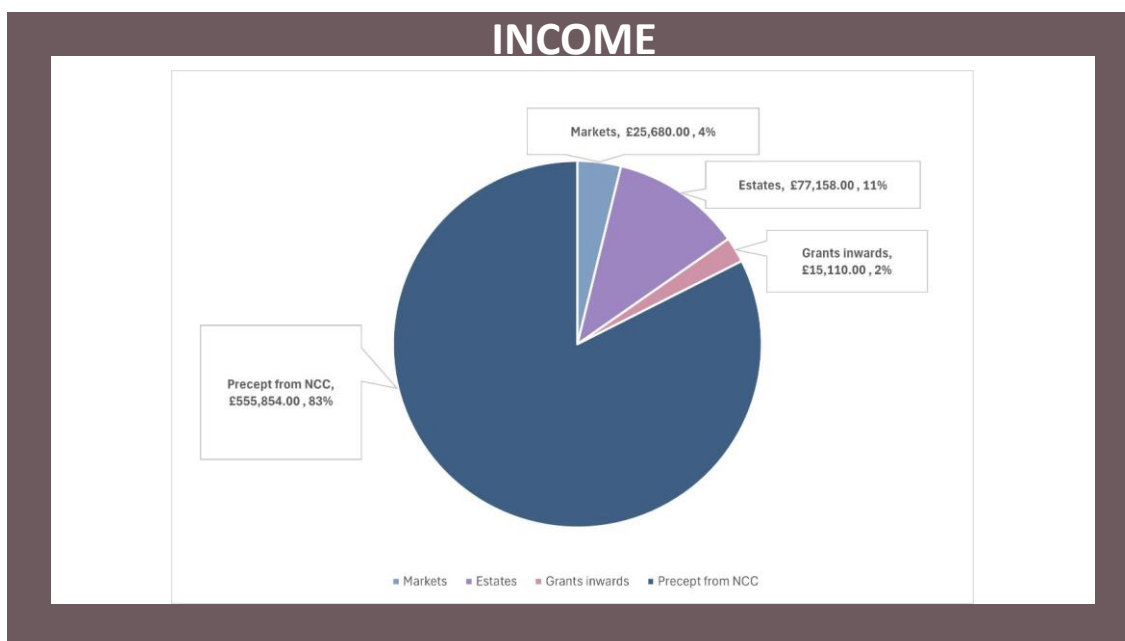
### 6. Community and Paul King Awards

The Community Awards were given to David Wilkinson for his time devoted to the Oundle Horticultural Society, David, and Sarah Webb for raising over £1million pounds in the MacMillan Mammoth Quiz and the Oundle and District Care Committee for the help they give people who need medical equipment.

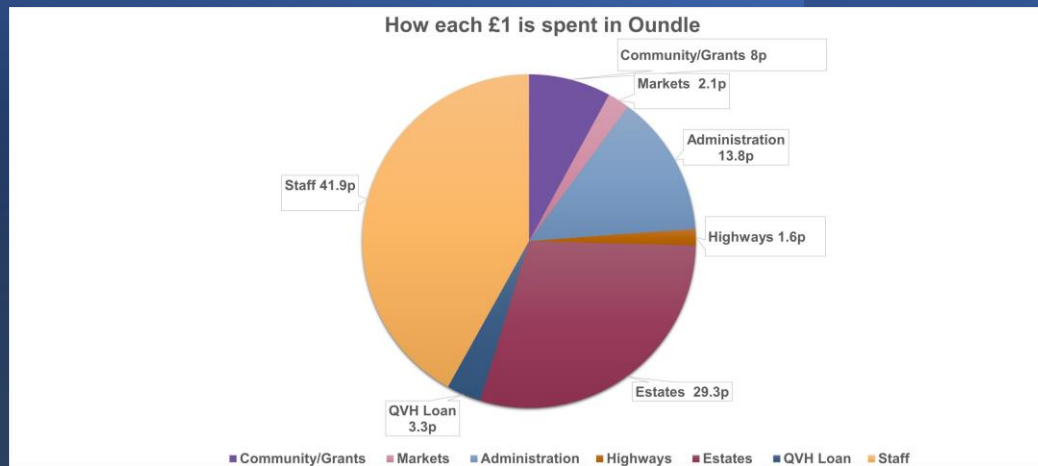
The Paul King award is an award set up in memory of Cllr Paul King who sadly passed away in 2022. This award went to Blooming Oundle for the wonderful floral displays in the town.

7. **Finances Update** – Unaudited end of year figures for 2023 - 2024 were shared.

	31 March 2023	31 March 2024
	£	£
1 – Balances bought forward	445,731	439,873
2 – Annual Precept	521,738	550,775
3 – Total other receipts	126,356	143,823
4 – Staff Costs	244,524	264,951
5 – Loan interest/capital repayments	22,793	22,793
6 – All other payments	386,635	326,679
7 – Balances carried forward	439,873	520,048
8 – Total value of cash and short-term investments	452,828	457,588
9 – Total fixed assets plus long term investments & assets	2,674,803	2,693,593
10 – Total borrowings	410,463	405,637



## EXPENDITURE



### 8. Future of the Cemetery

The Mayor informed the meeting that the Estates committee have been consider the future of the Cemetery. The fees are quite low and will be fixed this year, however they may increase in the future. Potentially we could see the end of full burials and only have cremations available. There are 4 or 5 years left for full burials. Thoughts are welcome from members of the public.

### 9. Benefield Road Car Park Trial

The car park is private land and owned by OTC, but we do not have any legal powers over parking. There was an abandoned vehicle and in the car park and cars were being sold in it but there was nothing the council could do. We have introduced some terms and conditions notifying people how long they can park in the car park and what they can't do. We are doing it to be able to get some power back when looking after the car park. The residents in the area will be informed before the signs are installed.

### 10. Path Warden

Tony Hoyle – Path warden for 3 years. He is required to walk the public rights of way at least once a year and report any issues. During the early part of this year many parts of the network were waterlogged, but most are back to normal now. His remit does not include footways alongside roads and streets.

Last year he mentioned the statutory duty on NNC for maintaining the Definitive Map of public rights of way they were failing in this duty due to lack of resources. This year they have two officers dealing with the modification orders.

The 'Local Access Forum' is a statutory body established to provide advice about public rights of way to the local authority, which has a duty to provide administrative support. Kier is running with service on behalf of NNC however there are some concerns that they are not providing an effective service by failing to provide the minutes of quarterly meetings in good time. Complaints have been raised and brought to the attention of the responsible NNC Councillor, and Tony will continue to keep the Town Council informed. He has also raised his concerns about the bridleway from the end of Ashton

Road and the potential for misuse during the construction works for the development between St Christopher's Drive and the A605 with NNC.



Within the parish boundary (pink) there are eight footpaths (orange) and two bridleways (green).

#### 11. **Nature Recovery Programme**

A short video was played explaining the Rockingham forest vision. Mr Clive Humphreys, who in on the Nature Recovery working party informed the meeting that they have been considering a natural corridor through Oundle from Benefield Road down towards Ashton road. It is a large area that could encourage plenty of wildlife. He also mentioned the good work the Wildlife group are doing in the Churchyard at St Peters.

#### 12. **Fletton Field Update**

Mr Clive Humphreys informed the meeting that the plan for Fletton Field is still going to happen when OTC takes ownership of it. It has been confirmed that the transfer is almost complete and should happen in the next few days. The FFA (Fletton Field Association) have been working with Oundle School to get the stone wall repaired that will not cause any damage to the Willow tree.

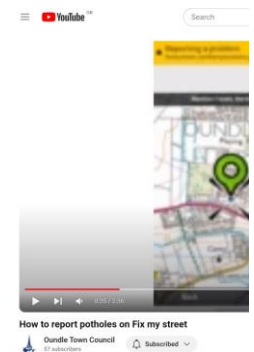
#### 13. **Northants CALC (Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils) – Lesley Sambrook Smith – Health and Wellbeing Survey**

She informed the members of the public about a pilot programme to look at health and wellbeing in Oundle and in Thrapston. She explained that she requires residents to complete the survey to enable NCALC to apply to the National Lottery for funding. NCALC will then look to employing a person to work in Oundle to improve health and wellbeing.

#### 14. **Fix my Street – App**

# FixMyStreet– key messages

- DO report as many issues as possible, and best to use **the app** inc the pin location function.
- **Photos** are great
- "pin" accurately for speedy response
- Urgent action (2 hours) - FixMyStreet does offer a phone number too.
- If it doesn't happen when promised, re-report – and we can highlight directly.



## 15. Q&A

### **PC Declan Morgan and PCSO Artur Pereira attended the meeting.**

They have 2 priorities for Oundle – road safety and drug misuse. We were encouraged to complete the police survey to let them know what is important to us. We were also informed about an initiative we can be involved in where we will be emailed notifications about what is going on in the Oundle area.

David Cashmore – VA (Volunteer Action) Chair of Trustees

He informed the meeting that VA offer a community car scheme and have 5 employees that work from Fletton House. They cover Oundle, Thrapston and 50 villages in East Northants Council area. They have 456 active members and 66 volunteer drivers who give their time freely. In the last year 12,300 individual journeys have been made covering 132,000 miles by the volunteer drivers.

They also run a befriending service with 150 members in Oundle. They have also taken over the service in Corby. They are also looking to take over the lunch club in the Summer holidays and will also be doing day trips to a garden Centre in July. Volunteers are needed for the befriending service and driving. He thanked the Oundle Community and Oundle Town Council for their support.

1. The Mayor informed the meeting that Link will be carrying out a cash review of Oundle and surrounding area and he has a Teams meeting with Link next week to discuss the outcome.
2. The Mayor had a Greenway project meeting yesterday with NNC to join the upper Nene Valley Thrapston to Peterborough. NNC are committed to be as sustainable as possible and will keep pushing. The Greenway will be suitable for cyclists and walkers.

3. Cllr Reichhold is working with NNC and the ICB to improve the Doctors surgery in Oundle. He has the support of our MP Tom Pursglove.
4. Does the council have any comment on the Thursday market and how to improve it. The Mayor informed the meeting that we are working hard to replace stalls and keep stall holders on the market.
5. Concerns that plan for Fletton Field is not moving forward and the field is in poor condition?  
Once OTC owns the field we will have access and start work on the vision. Paths will be mowed.
6. Car park on Benefield road – Concerns that parking restrictions being implemented for one car and there has not been any consultation with residents of Benefield Road.
7. QVH – wonderful facility but it needs improving.  
QVH Trustees are working to improve the building a working party has been set up to consider the improvements.
8. The car parks could be managed better. Co-op car park has 2-hour limit, long stay car park is full of Fairline staff.
9. Highest council tax rate in the country when will the council consider getting rid of buildings  
The Joan strong centre is heavily used by Scouts and Cubs. Fletton House has many services in it, ballet school and is the registry office. We always looking at our assets and how we can give better value for taxpayers.
10. The Bridleway from Ashton Road to Herne Road – used to be called the Donkey Racetrack can we start calling it this again?

Meeting ended 9.23pm