

OLNEY TOWN COUNCIL



Olney Town Council, The Olney Centre, High Street, Olney MK46 4EF
Tel: 01234 711679 Email: townclerk@olneytowncouncil.gov.uk Website: www.olneytowncouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the meeting of **Olney Town Council held** at The Olney Centre on **Monday 9th January 2023 at 7pm**

Present: Cllrs Brown (Chairman), Brock, Geary, D. Hall, R. Hall, Prosser, Rowland, Stokes, Tennant, Tyler, Whitworth and Varley

In attendance: Jane Brushwood, Town Clerk, Rob Mungham, Deputy Town Clerk and 4 members of the public

Public Forum: no member of the public wished to speak

OTC23/1/01: Apologies for absence

Resolved: Apologies were received from Cllrs Aldred, Bethune and Rodden

OTC23/1/02: Declarations of interests on items on the agenda

Resolved: Cllr Brown in relation to agenda item 10, as a committee member of a local sports club. Cllr Stokes in relation to agenda item 10 as chairperson of a local sports club. Cllr Tennant in relation to agenda item 10 as a coach of a local sports club and as a member of Caveman Conditioning

OTC23/1/03: To approve the minutes of the OTC Meeting held 5th December 2022

Resolved: Cllr Brown proposed, Cllr Tyler seconded that the minutes of 5th December 2022 be approved. All in favour

OTC23/1/04: To receive a Ward Councillors report

Ward Councillor Hosking provided the requested feedback regarding the MKCC proposal for EV charging points on the Cattle Market car park, reporting that this location had now been removed from the MKCC plan for additional EV charging points, as it would come at the expense of existing parking bays

With reference to the issue of litter on the roadside verges of A509 and A422, MKCC will be publishing a schedule of cleansing to address this matter. Some traffic management will be required for this to take place

Continuing with road updates, Cllr Hosking reported that the recent issues causing closure to West Street, Lime Street and Weston Road had now been resolved and both were re-opened. An emergency closure was now in place on Bridge Street. The defect on the A509 has not been fully repaired and MKCC officers will review this further. This work was aligned with the filling of some potholes locally though, so these have been resolved

MKCC are keen to provide further support, to retailers in the town, remaining mindful of the impact of COVID, with some scheduled direct communication with these organisations

MKCC is currently consulting regarding the budget for the 2023/24 financial year, with a likely increase in Council Tax of 4.99% and increased social housing rents.

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Cllr Hosking closed by reporting that an outline planning application for a further 800 houses had been granted as part of the Milton Keynes East development. This is likely to increase levels of traffic through Olney. Ward Councillors Geary, Hosking and McLean all voted against this proposal

Resolved: Noted

OTC23/1/05: To receive a PCSO's report

PCSO James Andrews sent the crime figures for Olney

Resolved: Noted with thanks to PCSO Andrews

OTC23/1/06: To receive an expenditure report and budget to date

Cllr Brown reported that a small surplus was likely at end of year, based on current projected figures. Expenditure currently showing as significantly over budget is Open Space expenditure, due to additional from the impact of additional visitors in summer to the recreation ground. Cllr Stokes queried a figure of £4289.68 spent on projects. Clerk reported that this relates to a payment held back for the electric supply bollards in the Market Place.

Resolved: Report was noted with no further queries

OTC23/1/07: To receive reports from Councillors who represent at external meetings

Cllr Brown reported the local events celebrating the 250th anniversary of Amazing Grace (AG250) continued, OTC advertise and attend where possible to show support. Cllr Brown thanked those involved with providing a free Christmas lunch on Christmas Day, held at The Olney Centre, to local residents who might otherwise have spent the day alone.

Resolved: Noted

OTC23/1/08: To receive updates on S106 spending

Clerk reported positive meetings regarding the Yardley Manor Community Building. Feasibility report has been received regarding The Olney Centre developments, with an initial timescale for these extensive works to be completed in 2023, with almost all costs being covered by S106 funding, additional grants being sought for the balance. The Kitcheners Centre have been informed of the funds available to them, their management team will negotiate directly.

Resolved: Noted

OTC23/1/09: To receive updates on the recreation ground

CCTV has been upgraded and increased coverage of the recreation ground and car park. Some local sports clubs have added further cameras of their own. The volunteer marshall group has met to discuss learning points from last summer and will meet again in March 2023 to plan ahead for this summer, as well as advertising for new volunteers

Resolved: Noted

OTC23/1/10: To approve the draft Schedule of Charges

Cllrs Stokes and Varley questioned charges for the East Street building, as not consistent with charges for other local facilities and their users. Cllr Brown reported that a definitive decision had not been made with regard the East Street building and these charges could be reviewed by the Recs and Services committee. Cllr Stokes raised the issue of MUGA hire charges being lower than other local facilities of similar size and standard. Cllr Brown

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reported that this should be reviewed throughout the year when clearer comparisons have been researched.

Resolved: Cllr Brown proposed, Cllr Stokes seconded, that the Schedule of Charges be adopted, all in favour

OTC23/1/11: To approve the draft budget for 2023-2024

Cllr Brown reported a forecasted income of £160,114.40, forecasted expenditure of £500,050.00, therefore generating a precept request to Milton Keynes City Council of £339,935.60. This represents a 2.9% increase in the requested precept

Resolved: Cllr Brown proposed, Cllr Varley seconded that the draft budget be approved, all in favour

OTC23/1/12: To approve the precept requirement

Cllr Brown reported a precept request to Milton Keynes City Council of £339,935.60. This represents a 2.9% increase in the requested precept

Resolved: Cllr Brown proposed, Cllr Whitworth seconded to approve the precept requirement, all in favour

OTC23/1/13: Ward Councillors Discretionary Grant

Cllr Geary reported that this grant means that £1000 per Ward Councillor can be spent across all of their parishes for community events. Applications from either OTC or independent organisations and third parties to access this funding should be directed to Ward Councillor McLean

Resolved: Noted

OTC23/1/14: To discuss the updated Johnson's Field play area proposal

Cllr Brown thanked the team from MKCC who had developed this plan. Clerk reported that planning permission would be required, this would facilitate the public consultation process. Cllrs discussed favourably the opportunity to keep members of the public informed with exhibitions/displays of the proposals at The Olney Centre, at Thursday and Farmers Markets, as well as publishing plans in local publications and on social media. Cllrs discussed favourably the provision of a skatepark area to be incorporated into the plans on the site of the existing skate ramp.

Resolved: Cllr Tennant proposed, Cllr Prosser seconded a 28 day public consultation period, all in favour

Resolved: Cllr Stokes proposed, Cllr Whitworth seconded to feedback to MKCC for removal of zipwire and tyre swing to facilitate the development of new skatepark area, all in favour

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

Next Meeting 6th February 2023