

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 6th March 2023 at 7pm**

Present: Cllrs Brown (Chairman), Bethune, Brock, D. Hall, R. Hall, Prosser, Rodden, Rowland, Stokes, Tennant and Tyler

Absent: Cllr Aldred

In attendance: Jane Brushwood, Town Clerk, Rob Mungham, Deputy Town Clerk and 9 members of the public

Public Forum: A resident spoke regarding concerns that, with Cobbs Garden Surgery no longer taking on new patients and not being able to fill vacant GP positions, the need for a new 'health hub' in Olney is urgently required in order to cater for the town's growing population. Further to this, concerns that progress on the proposed new 'health hub' on land at East Street has stalled due to a lack of financial support for the project. The resident requested that Olney Town Council write to Milton Keynes City Council to convey concern.

Two young residents then spoke eloquently about their support for the proposed redevelopment of Johnsons Field, specifically the provision of skateboarding facilities. Both spoke about the benefits to them of skateboarding, both physically and for their mental health and that they were glad to see the provision of skateboarding facilities in the initial proposals.

OTC23/3/01: Apologies for absence

Resolved: Apologies were received from Cllrs Geary, Varley and Whitworth

OTC23/3/02: Declarations of interests on items on the agenda

Resolved: Cllr Stokes declared interest on agenda item 10, as the Chairperson of a local sports club

OTC23/3/03: To approve the minutes of the OTC Meeting held 6th February 2023

Resolved: Cllr Bethune proposed, Cllr Prosser seconded that the minutes of 6th February 2023 be approved. All in favour

OTC23/3/04: To receive a Ward Councillors report.

Ward Councillor Hosking reported that Milton Keynes City Council's 'Bins on Tour' event was well attended recently at The Olney Centre. It prompted a lively discussion and offered residents an opportunity to ask questions. Those in attendance were respectful to the representatives of MKCC, regardless of their overall opinion of the scheme. Cllr Hosking reminded OTC and Olney residents that the bins scheme will be happening, and that MKCC will continue to work hard to accommodate the needs of residents who don't have the relevant storage or access for the bins and require coloured sacks instead.

Cllr Hosking informed OTC Stage 3 Road Safety Audit will be conducted imminently at the pedestrian crossing on the High Street near One Stop retail outlet. MKCC is very aware that

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this crossing point could be made safer but will await the outcome of the audit before making any further proposals.

The section of road between the A509 Chicheley Hill roundabout down to Sherington High Street will be closed overnight during the week commencing 27th March, allowing for the safe clearance of litter on the roadside verges and in the undergrowth of hedgerows. Other works will also be completed while the road is closed.

Ousedale School has reported that it has been oversubscribed with applications for September 2023's Year 7 entry. As a result, approximately 30 pupils within catchment have not been offered places at either Olney or Newport Pagnell campuses. This is the first time that this has happened. Cllr Hosking recommended that Olney Town Council remain mindful of this issue, as the school's capacity may not be able to meet the demands of the town's growing population.

A retail forum and networking event for local retailers will be held at Olney Rugby Football Club on Monday 13th March. The event is being organised by Collaborate MK and sponsored by the MKCC Ward Councillors as part of their ongoing support of the town's retail, hospitality and leisure sectors.

Cllr Hosking informed OTC that MKCC had set their budget for the 2023/24 financial year, including a 4.99% increase in council tax, but disappointingly no provision for new rural bus services.

A recent community litter pick was well attended, with over 30 bags of litter collected. Cllr Hosking reported that this was to be repeated on the first Saturday of April as well, and that the problem of litter would be much alleviated by this continued commitment. Cllr Hosking also thanked The Cherry Tree for its hospitality to the volunteer group after their litter pick.

Cllr Hosking thanked David Phillipson and the Pancake Race organising committee for another successful, well attended event in February. Volunteers, sponsors and participants were also thanked and congratulated for their efforts in making the event a success story for the town and one that attracted national media coverage. Congratulation to Cllr Bethune for completing it and to Eloise Kramer for winning the race in just 65 seconds.

Resolved: Noted

OTC23/3/05: To receive a PCSO's report

Cllr Tyler asked for clarification over the reporting of poorly parked vehicles outside of schools. PCSO Andrews confirmed that this should be reported to Milton Keynes City Council. Cllr Rodden asked about whether there were significant vehicle speeding issues presently being reported to the police. PCSO Andrews reported that there are talks within the Thames Valley Police force about Community Speedwatch being supported more closely by TVP again and would be updating Olney Town Council accordingly. Clerk invited PCSO Andrews to the next Recreation Ground Marshals volunteer meeting to support volunteer marshals in their role.

Resolved: Crime figures were noted

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OTC23/3/06: To receive an expenditure report and budget to date.

No unexpected expenditures this month. OTC still expects to return a small surplus for the 2022/23 financial year. An expenditure in the region of £16,000 is now expected to be spent on the substantial repairs and rebuilding of the stone wall in the pre-school playground area. Clerk reported that OTC are hopeful of funding this through Section 106 funding.

Resolved: Report was noted

OTC23/3/07: To receive reports from Councillors who represent at external meetings.

Cllr Stokes and Clerk attended a meeting between the Football Association, the Football Foundation, local councillors and turf specialists, promoting how local councils and the sports governing bodies can work together to maximise local facilities. Sports clubs and local councils are being encouraged to apply for grants through these bodies for the increased provision and maintenance of sports pitches and associated facilities.

Cllrs Brown and Prosser attended the Pancake Race and thanked the organising committee for the success of the event. Cllr Brown congratulated Cllr Bethune on her participation in the race itself. Cllr Brown felt it was a very well-run event, which was a good advert for the town.

Cllrs Brown, Brock, Hall, Prosser and Whitworth attended the opening of the Olney Community Fridge, located at The Olney Centre. Donations are being welcomed from all for this much needed service to avoid food waste.

Resolved: Noted

OTC23/3/08: To receive updates on S106 spending.

Cllr Brown reported that resident feedback to the Johnsons Field redevelopment has been collected and collated by the OTC office and this will be fed back to MKCC so that it can be incorporated into their final proposals for the planning application. Clerk reported that the resurfacing project of the allotment access lane, the path around the multi-use games area and the entry/exit road to the East Street car park is due to commence on Wednesday 8th March, also including the re-marking of parking bays, including disabled parking bays.

Resolved: Noted

OTC23/3/09: To receive updates on the recreation ground, including parking issues and river pollution.

The volunteer marshal group are due to meet on Friday 17th March to plan ahead for this summer, with new volunteers being advertised for before and after this meeting ahead of the summer months.

Resolved: OTC to engage with MKCC regarding increased parking enforcement during the summer months, when parking issues are most likely to arise. Cllr Stokes requested a Joint User Group meeting to encourage users to help marshalling. OTC to contribute to the cost of water sampling taken by Olney and Clifton Fishing Association. Samples taken so far confirm that water pollution is a problem and OTC to put up signage discouraging public from entering the river.

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OTC23/3/10: To consider the requests to use areas for parking for Rugby 7s and Olney Open Gardens events.

Resolved: Cllr Brown proposed, Cllr Brock seconded that Olney Rugby Football Club be permitted to use the nursery pitch at East Street for car parking, weather dependant and not overnight, for the Rugby 7s event. All in favour.

Resolved: Cllr Tennant proposed, Cllr Rowland seconded that a fee of £5 per vehicle be charged by the Rugby Club to cover for additional work required to repair the pitch. 4 voted in favour, 1 voted against, there were 6 abstentions. The proposal was approved. How the club collected this was up to them.

Resolved: Cllr Brown proposed, Cllr D Hall seconded that Olney Open Gardens be allowed to use the nursery pitch at East Street for car parking. 7 voted in favour, 0 voted against, and there were 4 abstentions. The proposal was approved.

Resolved: Cllr Tennant proposed, Cllr Tyler seconded that a fee of £5 per vehicle be charged by Olney Open Gardens to cover for additional work required to repair the pitch. 4 voted in favour, 4 voted against, and there were 3 abstentions. Cllr Brown used his casting vote and voted against the proposal as this event was fund raising for charity.

OTC23/3/11: To note receipt of the Ward Councillor's grant allocation.

Resolved: Cllr Brown thanked Ward Councillors for their Coronation grant allocation of £150 towards flags and bunting.

OTC23/3/12: To receive the interim audit report.

Resolved: Report was noted with thanks to Deputy Clerk and the office.

OTC23/3/13: To receive an update on the plans for the Coronation celebrations in Olney.

Resolved: Public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 8th March.

OTC23/3/14: To sign a resolution to participate in the Sister City programme with Olney, Illinois.

Resolved: Noted with no objections. Cllr Brown signed the resolution on behalf of OTC.

OTC23/3/15: To consider a request for signage on Aspreys.

Resolved: Ward Cllr Hosking to raise the issue with MKCC, as signage is their responsibility.

Cllr Brown confirmed that this would be his final meeting as Olney Town Councillor, due to no longer living in the area, thus making him ineligible to stand as a councillor any longer. Cllr Brown thanked fellow councillors and wished them well in the future.

Councillors thanked Cllr Brown for his hard work and efforts during his time as a councillor, and in more recent times as mayor of the town.

The meeting closed at 8.26pm

Next meeting: Monday 3rd April 2023

Signed: Cllr D Whitworth

3rd April 2023