

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

Draft Minutes of the meeting of **Olney Town Council held** at The Olney Centre on
Monday 3rd April 2023 at 7pm

Present: Cllrs Whitworth (Chair), Bethune, Geary, Prosser, Rodden, Rowland, Tyler and Varley

In attendance: Jane Brushwood, Town Clerk, Rob Mungham, Deputy Town Clerk and 2 members of the public

OTC23/4/01: To elect a Chairman

Resolved: Councillor Rowland nominated Councillor Whitworth. With no further nominations and no objections, Councillor Whitworth accepted the nomination, signed the acceptance of office document, and took up the position of Chair.

Public Forum: Resident James Cooper spoke of his concerns regarding the lack of progress on a new doctor's surgery and the recent issue of not enough school places for the pupils in catchment, specifically at Ousedale School.

OTC23/4/02: Apologies for absence

Resolved: Apologies were received from Cllrs Brock, D. Hall, R. Hall, Stokes and Tennant

OTC23/4/03: Declarations of interests on items on the agenda

Resolved: None

OTC23/4/04: To approve the minutes of the OTC Meeting held 6th March 2023

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

OTC23/4/05: To receive a Ward Councillors report

Ward Councillor Geary started by responding to the issues brought up by resident James Cooper, reminding residents and OTC that, at the time of the Olney Neighbourhood Plan being accepted, OTC chose to accept housing developments and expansion and that it was not, as some may suggest, forced upon OTC by MKCC or central government.

Specifically on school places at Ousedale School, Cllr Geary reported that this is due to a birth blip, not due to expansion. Currently 26 children from the catchment area's surrounding villages have not been given places at Ousedale but ward councillors and Ben Everitt MP are working with Ousedale School to find a resolution to this in time for September's new academic year. Cllr Geary encouraged OTC's Olney Development Group to request information from MKCC regarding the allocation and subsequent spending of S106 funding on education.

Cllr Geary also reminded OTC and residents that MKCC never agreed to fully fund a new larger surgery, instead committing S106 funding, which remains the case. The majority of funding was originally due to come from the Integrated Care Board and the Clinical Commissioning Group, but with the passing of time, that funding source has become more

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difficult to secure. Ward Councillors remain fully committed to promoting the provision of a new doctors surgery fit for purpose and reflecting Olney's current and potential growth.

Cllr Geary moved on to the issue of the pedestrian crossing on the High Street. Whilst the safety audit has been carried out and completed, the publishing of the report is currently embargoed due to the pre-election period (purdah), as some believe it may be used as an election campaign issue. This is likely to cause a delay in publication of at least 6 weeks.

Updating on the Aldi site on Warrington Road, Cllr Geary reported that remains of a Roman period mosaic had been found during an archaeological survey. Any resolution of how these are now preserved, moved or displayed is now in the hands of the developers, in consultation with relevant experts, and planning applications for this will need to be submitted in the usual way, with comments from interested parties then allowed to be submitted in the usual way also. Cllr Geary encouraged OTC to send a representative to any eventual MKCC planning meetings regarding this matter.

Cllr Bethune pointed out that OTC's Neighbourhood Plan was in fact based on advice from MKC to put in place a plan and not risk being subjected to less suitable developments, without provision for a surgery, which was expected to be in place before the housing.

Resolved: Noted

OTC23/4/06: To receive a PCSO's report

Resolved: Crime figures were noted

OTC23/4/07: To receive an expenditure report and budget to date

One significant expense was noted, circa £24k to Phoenix Surfacing, for the allotment lane resurfacing, which will be reclaimed via S106 funding.

Resolved: Report was noted

OTC23/4/08: To receive reports from Councillors who represent at external meetings

A number of councillors recently attended training on the subject of Charing. Cllr Whitworth and Clerk attended the Parish Forum, where the Bucks Fire Officer advised of significant increases in call outs last summer. OTC have ordered 'Let Us Through' signage to support responsible parking awareness in East Street and surrounding roads to ensure emergency vehicles have consistent levels of access to the area.

Resolved: Noted

OTC23/4/09: To receive updates on S106 spending

Clerk reported that the allotment lane has now been resurfaced, with work on the surrounding pathways around the MUGA continuing and likely to finish this week. Final non-slip surfacing works on the MUGA, as well as the sports line-markings, will be completed week commencing Monday 10th April. Clerk informed OTC that S106 funding should now be available to fund the rebuilding of the collapsed portion of stone wall in the pre-school playground as part of the overall refurbishments.

Resolved: Noted

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OTC23/4/10: To receive updates on the recreation ground

The volunteer marshal group met in mid-March, with another meeting now scheduled for the end of April, with the aim of commencing marshalling from mid-May onwards. Volunteer request adverts placed in the April edition of the Olney Phonebox Magazine, and posters will be distributed to local retailers this month.

Resolved: Noted

OTC23/4/11: To receive an update on the plans for the Coronation celebrations in Olney

Cllr Rowland reported that two public meetings had taken place to engage with the public over suggestions and plans. Clerk has completed applications for grant funding and is hopeful of these being accepted, with this funding to help pay for bunting and flags. On Coronation Day itself Sat. 6th May, the Baptist Church will be open and showing the event on a big screen. Sunday 7th May will see various streets holding street parties for The Big Lunch event. Monday 8th May, a bank holiday, will see The Big Clean Up event, with separate litter picks by the Brownies and a volunteer group led by Ward Cllr Hosking. The local Guides would be cleaning street name signs, whilst Scouts would be cleaning other road signs in the local area.

Resolved: Noted

OTC23/4/12: To consider the funding request from FoLiO towards children's entertainment

A request from FoLiO for £100 towards children's entertainment in the summer holidays.

Resolved: Cllr Bethune proposed, Cllr Prosser seconded that the request be granted. All in favour

OTC23/4/13: To receive suggestions of applications for the Accessibility Fund

Resolved: OTC to collate public suggestions for funding and apply accordingly to MKCC

OTC23/4/14: To consider merging Planning and ODG Committees

Councillors placed on record thanks to outgoing councillor and Planning Committee Chair, Trevor Aldred.

Resolved: Cllr Bethune proposed, Cllr Varley seconded that Planning and ODG Committees be merged into the Development Committee. All in favour.

The meeting closed at 7.42pm

Next meeting: Monday 15th May 2023

Signed: