

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 4th September 2023 at 7pm**

Present: Cllrs Whitworth (Chair), Bethune, Brock, Cooper, Diamandopoulos, D. Hall, R. Hall, Prosser, Rodden, Rowland, Tennant, and Tyler

Apologies: Cllr Stokes

In attendance: Jane Brushwood, Town Clerk, Rob Mungham, Deputy Town Clerk and 15 members of the public

Open forum: A resident spoke regarding concerns over the proposed development of play equipment on Johnsons Field. The resident explained that, whilst they supported the redevelopment overall, and were pleased to see the removal of the proposed MUGA from the initial plans, they still had concerns about the proposed skatepark. They felt that its proximity to some houses would be very close, approximately 30 metres, and that noise pollution caused by both users and their equipment might be unpleasant for local residents living within that proximity. The resident also spoke with some concern about the potential for anti-social behaviour.

Another resident spoke of his concerns regarding speed of motor vehicles travelling on Weston Road. He has recently conducted a petition of other local residents, who all have the same concern and feel that accidents on that road are inevitable, especially due to the narrow stretches of the road where stationary vehicles are parked. Although not in favour of speed bumps, Martyn Wilkinson requested that Olney Town Council enquire with Milton Keynes City Council to look into traffic calming measures, specifically the introduction of a 20 mph speed restriction zone on Weston Road.

Another resident spoke positively about the revised plans and proposals for the play equipment at Johnsons Field, specifically the skatepark element. He has two sons, 12 and 10 years old, who are both skateboarding enthusiasts. He stated that skateboarding helps many young people to cope with mental health issues and general well-being, as well as their physical fitness. He didn't feel this development was of a large enough size or specification standard to attract larger numbers of visitors from out of the town. Regarding noise pollution, with the right surface material, a skatepark doesn't have to be a noisy venue when in use. He also didn't feel that significant levels of anti-social behaviour would be prevalent, as this development would attract a different group of users to those who gather at the recreation ground and the river, causing associated issues.

Resident had e-mailed the Council, requesting better signage around the recreation ground, regarding dogs not being let off leads and for owners to be responsible for picking up dog excrement. The resident also noted that the provision of dog bins in the town is very good.

Resident had e-mailed the Council asking how the proposed development of the play equipment on Johnsons Field would be maintained and who would fund the ongoing maintenance. The resident also voiced concern about increased traffic and parking issues.

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

OTC23/9/01: Apologies for absence

Resolved: Apologies received from Cllr Stokes

OTC23/9/02: Declarations of interests on items on the agenda

Resolved: Cllr Tennant declared an interest on item 18 as a member of Caveman.

OTC23/9/03: To approve the minutes of the OTC meeting held 3rd July 2023 and the EGM held 13th July 2023

Resolved: Cllr Bethune proposed, Cllr Tyler seconded that the minutes of the OTC meeting held 3rd July 2023 be approved. All voted in favour.

Cllr Tyler proposed, Cllr D. Hall seconded that the minutes of the EGM held 13th July 2023 be approved. All voted in favour.

OTC23/9/10: To receive an update from Cobbs Garden surgery

Representatives of Cobbs Garden surgery and the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board (BLMKICB) reported a series of recent updates on the current situation and future prospects for the development and/or re-location of Cobbs Garden Surgery. These included the recent strong recruitment process which has seen a new GP, a locum, two nurses and a paramedic all be appointed, as well as a target for the surgery to be able to re-open its lists around the end of the year, although not confirmed as yet.

Resolved: Cobbs Garden Surgery partners and BLMKICB were thanked for taking the time to update us and would provide quarterly updates at future meetings.

OTC23/9/04: To receive a Ward Councillor's report

Ward Councillor Keith McLean reported on the following matters.

Firstly, to note that Ward Councillors were very positive about the current plans going forward for Cobbs Garden surgery and looked forward to further positive updates and communications between all parties involved.

Second, it was reported that regrettably the traffic lights at Market Place were not yet fully fixed, despite having earlier in the day being advised that they would be. Cllr McLean believed the issue would be resolved very soon but could not now give a confirmed date for completion.

It was reported that requests had been received by MKCC Ward Councillors for the introduction of several 20 mph speed restriction zones around Olney. These requests were being considered and that if any were to become approved, this would be unlikely to happen until the 2024/25 financial year.

Positive feedback has been received regarding the recent work completed on the stretch of the A509 between Chicheley and Emberton.

It has recently been reported that a small number of services of the number 21 bus route had not always been stopping at all stops on the route. MKCC Ward Councillors were in contact with Red Rose to ensure this was brought to their attention and to minimise the chances of it happening again. The service remains very much on a 'use it or lose it' basis at

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

present and Cllr McLean urged residents to make good use of the service in the coming weeks and months to ensure it has the best chance of being a retained service.

Cllr McLean discussed the proposed 53week closure of the A509 between Tickford roundabout and Junction 14 of the M1. MKCC had been unable to get clarification on why this had changed from an initial proposed closure of 6 months.

Cllr R. Hall asked if Thames Valley Police would monitor any eventual 20 mph speed restriction zones. Cllr McLean reported that they wouldn't.

Cllr Brock asked if average speed cameras had been part of any speed restriction proposals in and around Olney. Cllr McLean responded that they hadn't and that this due to financial restrictions.

Resolved: Noted

OTC23/9/05: To receive a PCSO's report

Cllr Whitworth thanked PCSO James Andrews for his service to Olney and its residents during his time as PCSO for this area and OTC wished him well in his future career with Thames Valley Police as he now embarks upon becoming a constable.

Resolved: Noted

OTC23/9/06: To receive and expenditure report and budget to date

Cllr Rodden requested further detail on the expenditure of circa £100k on The Olney Centre. Town Clerk reported that this included extensive refurbishment of The Olney Centre, to be completed into Autumn 2023. Funding for this project has been received through S106.

Resolved: Noted

OTC23/9/07: To receive reports from Councillors who represent at external meetings

Cllr Prosser reported updates from the Almshouses. Alarm systems have been updated, along with completion of redecoration works and installation of smart meters. The committee are now considering applying for S106 funding to support future projects. All properties are currently occupied, with 17 people on the waiting list, 9 of whom are current Olney residents.

Cllr Bethune attended the recent Park Liaison Users Group meeting regarding Emberton Country Park, where discussions focused on re-wilding of areas.

Cllr Whitworth attended the recent North East Rural Communities Forum meeting, where discussions were centred around current speeding issues.

Resolved: Noted

OTC23/9/08: To receive updates on S106 spending

Town Clerk reported on the ongoing refurbishment in The Olney Centre. The new mezzanine floor, redecoration, installation of new pupil and staff toilets, new office and kitchen space in the pre-school are now complete in time for the new academic year and the return of pupils and staff. Ongoing electric works, removal of radiators, installation of air source heat pumps, solar panels and replacement windows will now continue throughout

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

September and into October. OTC has also supported the Rugby Club with its S106 application for new LED floodlighting.

Resolved: Noted

OTC23/9/09: To receive updates on the recreation ground

Security patrols have continued throughout the summer months, with very few incidents being reported. Security patrols will continue for the weekend of 9th/10th September.

Resolved: Noted

OTC23/9/11: To note the fireworks date on the recreation ground

The date for the fireworks event on the recreation ground has been set for Sunday 5th November 2023.

Resolved: Noted

OTC23/9/12: To note the bleed kits in each OTC and sports club defib cabinet

Town Clerk reported that Olney Town Colts Football Club, via Cllr Stokes had paid for and distributed bleed kits to 7 defib cabinets around town. Locations and further details have been advertised in Olney Phonebox Magazine.

Resolved: Noted

OTC23/9/13: To consider the updated plans for Johnsons Field play area

Resolved: Cllr D. Hall proposed, Cllr Bethune seconded that the revised plan be sent back to MKCC for approval. All voted in favour.

OTC23/9/14: To consider improvements to Dagnall Road play area

Resolved: All voted in favour of the proposed improvements.

OTC23/9/15: To receive an update on the river at Goosey

Town Clerk reported on silting issues at the river at Goosey Island. Non-invasive herbicide can be used to resolve this issue as recommended by Environment Agency. Olney and Clifton Fishing Association are prepared to carry out the work required with OTC funding.

Resolved: Noted

OTC23/9/16: To consider renaming the Farmers Market to Sunday Market

Resolved: No change – to be reviewed

OTC23/9/17: To consider cemetery path surfacing

Resolved: Cllr Prosser proposed, Cllr Bethune seconded that quote 2 for area 1 be accepted. 11 voted in favour, 1 abstention, therefore the motion was passed.

OTC23/9/18: To receive an update on the ex football club building

Resolved: Cllr Tyler proposed, Cllr Bethune seconded that the proposed lease be sent to solicitors representing Caveman Conditioning. All in favour.

Resolved: Development Committee to support council office staff in producing an initial plan to go out to public consultation, for alternative future purposes of the ex football club building once they vacate 20th December 2023 as agreed.

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

OTC23/9/19: To update Council Policies

Resolved: Cllrs Cooper and Rowland to support council office in updating council policies

OTC23/9/20: To consider a Steering Group to use S106 Public Arts fund for projects in the town

Resolved: Cllrs Bethune, Rodden and Whitworth to join a Steering Group with the museum and other members.

The meeting closed at 8.38pm

Next meeting: Monday 2nd October 2023