

# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 at 7pm**

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

**Apologies:** Cllrs Brock and Tennant

**In attendance:** Jane Brushwood, Town Clerk, Rob Mungham, Deputy Town Clerk and 16 members of the public

**Open forum:** Resident spoke regarding concerns over the Milton Keynes City Council proposals for redway cycle paths, amended parking in High Street, and the introduction of a 20mph speed limit throughout Olney. He felt it would have a detrimental impact on local businesses and retailers, cause congestion on High Street and around Market Place and that the proposed one way systems on East and West Street were the wrong directions. He felt that it would be more appropriate for the relevant authorities to enforce the current speed restrictions and hoped that Olney Town Council would take the lead on proposing the de-trunking of High Street.

A resident of West Street also spoke regarding issues and concerns regarding the Milton Keynes City Council proposals, as well as voicing concerns regarding the additional vehicle access points proposed on West Street that feature in the proposals for the redeveloped convent site.

Resident and local retailer also spoke regarding the concerns of changes to parking on High Street caused by the proposals from Milton Keynes City Council. They echoed earlier comments from the previous two residents, as well as raising the issue of reduced parking spaces being available under the proposals, which they believed would have a detrimental impact on businesses and retail outlets.

A resident of High Street, whose property has rear access from West Street, spoke about concerns regarding the proposed redevelopment of the convent site on West Street. The main concern was for the provision of the lime trees that currently line the southern boundary of the convent site and that it was understood that should the development proceed, pollarding would be necessary, which would greatly affect the views of neighbouring properties. The resident also voiced concerns that the proposals for High Street would involve the possible removal of some of the trees lining High Street.

### **OTC23/10/01: Apologies for absence**

**Resolved:** Apologies received from Cllrs Brock and Tennant, it was noted that Cllr Tennant was representing Olney Town Council at the MKCC City Planning meeting.

### **OTC23/10/02: Declarations of interests on items on the agenda**

**Resolved:** Cllrs Bethune and R. Hall declared an interest in agenda item 14 as members of the BOFF committee. Cllr Bethune on item 13 as a resident of the High Street.

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## **OTC23/10/03: To approve the minutes of the OTC meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Resolved:** Cllr Bethune proposed, Cllr Prosser seconded that the minutes of the OTC meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 be approved. All voted in favour

## **OTC23/10/11: To receive a presentation from David Coles on St. Joseph's development**

David Coles (architect) and Chris Green (town planner) presented to council early plans for the proposed redevelopment of the convent site on West Street. Current proposals include the removal of two current buildings, to be replaced with 11 domestic dwellings, accessed by several entrances from West Street. It was emphasised that these early proposals were not at a formal planning stage, nor had planning application yet been submitted. Efforts have been made initially to keep the domestic dwellings style in keeping with existing neighbouring properties on West Street and on St. Joseph's Close. They were grateful for resident feedback which has already been received and they had taken particular note of concerns regarding potential alternative access from Long Lane, as well as concerns regarding the potential loss of trees.

**Resolved:** Noted

## **OTC23/10/12: To receive a report from Community First Responders**

CFR Steven Hickman addressed councillors to highlight the work of CFRs, of which 3 volunteers currently operate within Olney and Newport Pagnell. They have amassed over 1200 hours of service this year, both responding to medical situations that are reported, as well as attending public events locally. They are funded through charitable donations and fundraising events to cover the costs of all equipment, staff training and vehicles. They are able to conduct defib training, CPR and bleed kit awareness training and are currently seeking fundraising opportunities and further volunteer recruitment.

**Resolved:** Noted

## **OTC23/10/04: To receive a Ward Councillor's report**

Ward Councillor Debbie Whitworth reported on the following matters on behalf of herself and Ward Councillors Peter Geary and Keith McLean.

Cllr Geary has written to the Chief Executive of Milton Keynes City Council regarding the disappointment at the extended closure of the A509, London Road, between Tickford Roundabout and Junction 14 of the M1. The closure is currently scheduled to last for 18 months, with the exception of two statutory short periods of time in September 2024 and around Christmas/New Year of 2024. Ward Councillors await a response. Ward Councillors are also seeking improved signage of this closure, but MKCC have so far declined to alter it.

Seven bus routes remain on a 'use it or lose it' basis, including the 21 and 41 services. Residents are encouraged to continue to make use of these services, which will support the justification for their continued provision after the 6 months' funding has ended.

The first month of replacement wheelie bins, new waste and recycling sacks and waste collections has now passed. There are still properties without their new bins and/or sacks,

Signed: Cllr Tennant

6<sup>th</sup> November 2023

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and some collections have been delayed or missed altogether in this opening month. The ability of residents to report these issues has also been mixed. The new service providers have now had their 1 months' grace period and will now face the prospect of penalty charges for missed collections.

The proposed 20mph speed restriction throughout Olney continues to be considered, with data collection currently in place on various roads around the town. This data will inform the next stage of proposals and plans for residents to be consulted on.

The proposals for the cycle and redway scheme on High Street, Olney, have produced a largely negative responses from residents and it now appears unlikely that this scheme will progress to the next stage of the planning process. Residents and businesses can continue to provide their feedback up until 15<sup>th</sup> October.

**Resolved:** Noted

## **OTC23/10/05: To receive a PCSO's report**

**Resolved:** Noted

## **OTC23/10/06: To receive an expenditure report and budget to date**

Cllr Rodden requested further detail on the expenditure of circa £200k 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

## **OTC23/10/07: To receive reports from Councillors who represent at external meetings**

**Resolved:** None attended

## **OTC23/10/08: To receive updates on the recreation ground**

**Resolved:** Nothing to report.

## **OTC23/10/09: To receive updates on S106 spending**

Town Clerk reported that refurbishment works in The Olney Centre continue, with replacement windows and air source heat pumps now installed. Pre-school stairway and replacement windows are scheduled for the October half term week. The council office is due to be refurbished in the next two weeks, with the installation of solar panels yet to be scheduled.

East Street Community Centre volunteer staff have been supported in their application for S106 funding.

**Resolved:** Noted

## **OTC23/10/10: To receive an update on the S106 Public Arts steering group**

Town Clerk and Cllr Whitworth attended a meeting with the Public Arts representative from Milton Keynes City Council. It was discussed that the purpose was to provide enhanced visual art opportunities within the town, via public engagement and through commissioned artists.

Signed: Cllr Tennant

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**Resolved:** Noted

## **OTC23/10/13: To consider a response to the cycleway proposal**

**Resolved:** Cllr Bethune proposed, Cllr Tyler seconded that, having listened to the responses of residents and businesses within the town, the proposal be rejected. 10 councillors voted in favour, 1 abstention, the motion was passed.

## **OTC23/10/14: To receive a request from BOFF for 2024**

BOFF Committee requesting to have use of Market Place following Thursday Market on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September, in order that the marquee be set up. A new comedy night event would then take place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September, with the usual BOFF event scheduled for Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September.

**Resolved:** Cllr Stokes proposed, Cllr Cooper seconded that the request was granted. All voted in favour.

## **OTC23/10/15: To revisit committee members and consider budget requirements**

**Resolved:** Cllrs Cooper and Stokes to join Olney Centre Management committee. Cllr R. Hall to join Finance committee. Committee chairs were reminded that budget requirements for the 2024/25 financial year should be an agenda item for discussion at each committee's next scheduled meeting.

## **OTC23/10/16: To receive an update on the astro turf project**

Cllr Stokes reported that the astro turf project between Ousedale School (Olney campus) and Olney Town Colts Football Club is due to commence construction on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October, with an anticipated build project of 15/16 weeks, meaning an anticipated opening in February/March. It is a circa £800k funded project. Ousedale School would have use during the school day, with OTCFC being a primary partner club for weekday evening and weekend use, along with other community groups also being able to hire the facility.

**Resolved:** Noted

The meeting closed at 8:02pm

Next meeting: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023