

# 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 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7pm**

**Present:** Cllrs Tennant (Chair), Bethune, Brock, Cooper, Diamandopoulos, Prosser, Rodden, Rowland, Stokes and Tyler

**Apologies:** Cllrs D. Hall, R. Hall and Whitworth

**In attendance:** Jane Brushwood, Town Clerk, Rob Mungham, Deputy Town Clerk and 6 members of public

As the both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor were absent, Cllr Tennant offered to Chair the meeting, all approved.

**Open forum:** Resident spoke for Caveman, asking for an extension to the lease that's not yet been signed.

Resident spoke for Mobbs Close asking for a delayed decision, as they are seeking advice.

Resident spoke of concerns that another 250 houses were going to be requested as site E extension, despite being told that the Neighbourhood Plan would give protection until 2031.

### **OTC23/11/01: Apologies for absence**

**Resolved:** Apologies received from Cllrs D Hall, R Hall and D Whitworth.

### **OTC23/11/02: Declarations of interests on items on the agenda**

**Resolved:** Cllr Stokes declared an interest on agenda item 10 as Chair of the club in the adjacent building. Cllr Tennant declared an interest in agenda item 10 as a member of the club using the building.

### **OTC23/11/03: To approve the minutes of the OTC meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023**

**Resolved:** Cllr Stokes proposed, Cllr Cooper seconded that the minutes of the OTC meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 be approved. All voted in favour.

### **OTC23/11/04: To receive a Ward Councillor's report**

WC Geary went to the MKCC meeting on planning to extend to 2050 with housing growth requirements of 63 thousand houses within the boundary, Olney needs to be part of that to help shape and understand, it's a big issue for the rural communities and may well result in new communities being formed.

Cllr Tennant advised that he was also at that meeting and has summarised it to councillors. Development Committee have chosen to instigate the opportunity to get together with other rural communities.

Cllr Geary also mentioned that any wheelie bin problems should be reported to them. As the nights get darker, any street light problems are more apparent and should be reported.

**Resolved:** Noted

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## **OTC23/11/05: To receive a PCSO's report**

PCSO Arlene Ormston was thanked for covering Olney in addition to her villages, it was also noted that there was a good police presence at the fireworks event, which was appreciated.

**Resolved:** Noted

## **OTC23/11/06: To receive an expenditure report and budget to date**

**Resolved:** Noted

## **OTC23/11/07: To receive reports from Councillors who represent at external meetings**

Cllr Prosser reported that the Alms Houses trustees maintenance schedule is progressing well, the wheelie bins were a problem there, with 12 properties trying to get rid of them was proving difficult. All residents are well.

Cllr Stokes reported attending the preschool AGM, it continues to be well supported and well run and they are very grateful to the council for the works undertaken.

Cllr Cooper and clerk attended the AGM for BMKALC (Bucks and Milton Keynes Association for Local Councils) and collected a Long Service Award for Cllr Bethune, which was presented to her; Cllr Bethune was thanked for her 45 years of service to the town.

A resident requested support to make replica Roman coins for all the children in Olney, all agreed.

**Resolved:** All items noted

## **OTC23/11/08: To receive updates on S106 spending**

Cllr Stokes reported that the astro pitch project was well underway.

There was little evidence of construction at the Yardley Manor community building.

Cllr Tennant reported that council had been in discussions with a developer and MKCC's S106 department to build a Lido. This was one on the main requests from the NP questionnaire.

Clerk reported that refurbishment works in The Olney Centre continue, the main item to be completed is the solar installation.

**Resolved:** Noted

## **OTC23/11/09: To receive a report on the river water pollution**

Mark Butterfield from Olney and Clifton Fishing Club presented to council the findings of their water pollution testing and confirmed they are working with Environment Agency and OTC. The back river at the Goosey is almost solid with silt. They now have a qualified weed controller able to use the EA recommended products. The river is not far off fish kills with traces of E-Coli.

**Resolved:** To set up a working group, Cllrs Cooper, Rodden, Rowland and Tyler to join the Fishing Club in approaching MKCC, EA, DEFRA and the MP. Group to report back to Full Council each month.

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## **OTC23/11/10: To receive an update on the ex football club**

At the EGM in June, council agreed to Caveman's request to extend the lease to December 2023. Solicitors were instructed, there was no meeting in August, so September meeting was the first opportunity for councillors to approve the lease. In October, council solicitors informed us that the tenant would sign the lease and pay the agreed rent if he was allowed to stay until March 2024.

Concern was noted that the building is not safe, the last survey recommended the back wall be removed.

Concern was also noted if this continues to be delayed and extended indefinitely.

**Resolved:** Cllr Brock proposed, Cllr Rodden seconded to the extend to the lease until March 2024 on a full repairing and insured lease and the tenant pays all bills, 7 in favour, 2 against. Clerk to request solicitors enable the building to be available 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

Cllr Brock further proposed, Cllr Cooper seconded that following the results of the NP questionnaire, plans are put in place for the building by the January meeting, all in favour.

## **OTC23/11/11: To consider access gate from Mobbs Close.**

Despite this item having been taken to 2 R&S meetings, it was requested that this item be deferred.

**Resolved:** Cllr Stokes proposed, Cllr Tennant seconded that this item be deferred again, all in favour.

## **OTC23/10/12: To consider refacing the town clock.**

**Resolved:** Clerk to request a contribution from DCA then take to Finance meeting.

## **OTC23/10/13: To consider D Day anniversary 2024**

**Resolved:** Councillors voted unanimously to fully endorse the lighting of the beacon for the D Day 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024

## **OTC23/10/14: To consider recommendations from BMKALC**

**Resolved:** Councillors voted unanimously to support the Early Day Motion as recommended by BMKALC.

The meeting closed at 8:30pm

Next meeting: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023