

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 7th July 2025 at 7pm**

Present: Cllrs Whitworth (Chair), Bethune, Chennells, Hillier, Prosser, Rodden, Rowland, Tennant and Tyler

Absent: None

In attendance: Jane Brushwood, Town Clerk, Rob Mungham, Deputy Town Clerk, Ward Councillor McLean, PCSO Ormston and 5 members of the public

Prior to the meeting, a one-minute silence was observed, to remember the twentieth anniversary of the 7/7 bombings in London in 2005, honouring the memory of those affected by the tragic events.

Public forum: A resident spoke of their concerns regarding vehicles speeding on Weston Road, questioning the locations approved by Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC) for the speed indicator devices (SIDs). He also spoke of resident complaints regarding noise levels created and requested that councillors present consider Weston Road for a 20mph zone.

A resident spoke of the continued breaches of the Public Space Protection Order at the recreation ground. Having spoken to some of the visitors to the recreation ground, she believed that additional signage nearer to the bathing steps may be of benefit and provided a visual example to be considered.

OTC25/07/01: Apologies for absence

Resolved: Apologies were received from Cllrs Diamandopoulos and Shaw

OTC25/07/02: Declarations of interests on items on the agenda

Resolved: Cllr Bethune declared a personal interest in agenda item 16

OTC25/07/03: To approve the minutes of the OTC meeting held 2nd June 2025

Cllr Rodden questioned how the minutes of meetings were presented. Cllr Whitworth explained to councillors present that the minutes were presented in accordance with the standards expected, which council staff had been trained in. The council's minutes also form part of the annual external auditing processes, which had raised no issues.

Resolved: Cllr Prosser proposed, Cllr Hillier seconded, that the minutes of 2nd June 2025 be approved. All in favour.

OTC25/07/05: To receive a PCSO's report

PCSO Ormston attended in the absence of PCSO Braddish. PCSO Ormston reported a range of crime statistics, dating back to our last update in April, as well as reiterating the need for residents to avoid using social media to think they have reported issues, and instead report crimes using 101 and the online reporting system, as this will create a log of the criminal activity and help Thames Valley Police to deploy their resources accordingly.

Resolved: Noted

Signed:

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OTC25/07/11: To consider co-option applications

Resolved: Cllr Whitworth proposed, and Cllr Rodden seconded, that Sarah Lowe be co-opted. All in favour. Cllr Chennells proposed, and Cllr Rodden seconded, that Alan Stone be co-opted. All in favour. Cllrs Lowe and Stone took their place at the table.

OTC25/07/4: To receive a Ward Councillors report

Ward Cllr McLean reported that he had requested to the MKCC Highways team that any published road closure information be as accurate as possible, especially regarding timings of overnight closures.

Also, on the subject of roads, he reported that he remained hopeful that the A509 would be re-opened as a means of accessing Junction 14 of the M1 as close to the end of August as possible.

The Milton Keynes International Festival starts in on 18th July, with a wide range of events linked to the arts.

Ward Cllr McLean announced that at the next MKCC full council meeting, he would be proposing a motion for an initiative called 'Restoring pride in Milton Keynes', focusing on the clearing of litter and graffiti to be given a higher profile within communities in and around Milton Keynes.

Finally, the report on new towns from Sir Michael Lyons has proposed a new town to be considered for development within the city boundaries, with further information pending.

Ward Cllr Whitworth reiterated PCSO Ormston's request for residents to report to Thames Valley Police, rather than on social media, about criminal activity, as this is helping to raise the need for increased police presence and attendance to Olney.

Ward Cllr Whitworth concluded by providing an update on the outcome of the sheltered housing warden service consultation, potentially affecting residents of Clifton Court. 47% of tenants chose to share wardens, 34% chose to retain current service levels but incur and increased cost, with 19% choosing to stop the service altogether. Each scheme will receive 18.5 hours of support per week, with tenants contributing to any additional costs in a means-tested manner.

Resolved: Noted

OTC25/07/06: To receive an expenditure report and budget to date

Resolved: Cllr Hillier proposed, Cllr Prosser seconded, to approve the expenditure report. All voted in favour. Cllr Rodden proposed, Cllr Rowland seconded, to approve the budget to date. All voted in favour.

OTC25/07/07: To receive reports from Councillors who represent at external meetings

Cllr Whitworth reported on attending a number of local events in recent weeks, including the Flower Festival at the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, the Cherry Fair, the Armed Forces tea, as well as various events relating to the 700th anniversary at the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul. All had been well attended by the Olney community.

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Cllr Bethune reported back from the Park Liaison User Group (PLUG) meeting at Emberton Country Park, promoting the upcoming 60th anniversary events over the weekend of 12th and 13th July, including live music performances, fair, and emergency services displays.

Resolved: Noted

OTC25/07/08: To receive data results from the SIDs

Deputy Town Clerk reported figures as follows for March 2025: Yardley Road, 20mph (outside Yardley manor estate, travelling northbound) – average speed of 35,162 vehicles was 21.42mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 25.5mph; Aspreys, 30mph (Foxhill end, travelling southbound) – average speed of 45,047 vehicles was 24.54mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 28.9mph; Aspreys, 30mph (Hollow Wood end, travelling northbound) – average speed of 57,729 vehicles was 26.66mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 30.8mph.

Resolved: Noted

OTC25/07/09: To receive an update on river water testing

Cllr Whitworth reported that Mark Butterfield and his team had continued to monitor river water. River water levels are currently very low, with little flow. Electroconductivity levels are just within an acceptable limit of near to 1000. Phosphate readings remain above acceptable levels, as do nitrate levels. Reed growth is currently high. Weil's disease remains prevalent.

Resolved: Noted

OTC25/07/10: To receive an update on the Yardley Manor development

Town Clerk and Cllr Whitworth reported from a recent meeting with representatives of developer Vistry Homes, MKCC and residents from Yardley Manor steering group. Many issues relating to trees, landscaping, drainage and the play park have progressed well in the last month. Further drainage works continue as part of the ongoing schedule of works. Vistry Homes have experienced further delays with construction of the agreed community building, with a new completion date of February 2026. Olney Town Council made clear this further delay was unacceptable.

Resolved: Cllr Tyler proposed, and Cllr Bethune seconded, that OTC request that MKCC calculate the S106 funding interest that has accrued, to be reclaimed from Vistry Homes until completion of the community building project. All voted in favour.

Cllr Rodden proposed, and Cllr Tyler seconded, that OTC request that MKCC report back on the viability of any legal action that could be taken against Vistry Homes, via the original development contract, guarding against further delays to completion of the project. 9 voted in favour, 2 against, so the motion was carried.

OTC25/07/12: To consider the artwork for the arches at the Market Place bus shelter

Resolved: Cllr Prosser proposed, and Cllr Hillier seconded, that the proposed artwork be purchased. All voted in favour.

OTC25/07/13: To consider engaging summer security at the recreation ground

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Resolved: Cllr Tennant proposed, and Cllr Prosser seconded, that security patrols be employed at the recreation ground. All voted in favour.

OTC25/07/14: To receive an update on the Johnsons Field play area

MKCC are still awaiting S106 transfer confirmation, this will determine the funding available, which will determine the specification and extent of the project.

Resolved: Noted

OTC25/07/15: To receive an update on the ex football clubhouse

Town Clerk reported that grant funding secured amounts to circa £100k at present, which would enable the new public toilet block to be developed, ahead of the full refurbishment of the rest of the building.

Resolved: Cllr Tennant proposed, and Cllr Prosser seconded, that Town Clerk look into proceeding with the building project for the new public toilets. All voted in favour.

OTC25/07/16: To consider paying for wellness sessions free to the community

Resolved: Cllr Prosser proposed, and Cllr Chennells seconded, that wellness sessions be paid for and provided as part of Tuesday's Come and Connect sessions. All voted in favour.

OTC25/07/17: To approve a resident's request to take a wreath from Olney to lay at the Menin Gate

Resolved: Cllr Chennells proposed, and Cllr Stone seconded, that a wreath be laid at the Menin Gate. All voted in favour.

OTC25/07/18: To advise of erosion at Goosey Island

Town Clerk reported that recent erosion meant that for safety reasons, a section of fencing would require moving.

Resolved: Noted

OTC25/07/19: To consider setting up a Tree Preservation Order working group

Resolved: Cllrs Rodden and Tyler to lead on setting up a working group and to report back to council as appropriate

OTC25/07/20: To consider not meeting in August unless urgent

Resolved: Cllr Whitworth proposed, and Cllr Hillier seconded, that no meetings, except Development Committee, to meet in August, unless urgent matters arise.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Next meeting Monday 1st September 2025

Signed: