

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 1st December 2025 at 7pm**

Present: Cllrs Whitworth (Chair), Chennells, Diamandopoulos, Hillier, Lowe, Prosser, Rodden, Rowland, Shaw, Stone and Tennant

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

Public forum: A resident spoke requesting that Christmas trees put up on houses in and around Olney's town centre and High Street be kept in better condition when stored. Offered support to the council in future years with this.

OTC25/12/01: Apologies for absence

Resolved: Apologies were received from Cllrs Bethune and Tyler

OTC25/12/02: Declarations of interests on items on the agenda

Resolved: None

OTC25/12/03: To approve the minutes of the OTC meeting held 3rd November 2025

Resolved: Cllr Prosser proposed, Cllr Hillier seconded, that the minutes of 3rd November 2025 be approved. All in favour.

OTC25/12/4: To receive a Ward Councillors report

Ward Cllr Whitworth read a report on behalf of Ward Cllr McLean, stating that a consultation is being run by Bucks and Milton Keynes Fire Authority regarding the proposed reduction in on-call fire engines and closure of two fire stations, urging residents to offer their representations by 28th January 2026.

It was also reported that Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC) is currently running a consultation relating to the New City Plan 2050, and that this would close on 22nd December. There is, however, no new information regarding where any 'New Town' would be located if sited within Milton Keynes, as proposed by national government.

MKCC leader Peter Marland is to step down from this role at the next local elections in May 2026, when all 60 MKCC seats will be contested.

Cllr Whitworth also provided her own Ward update, starting with news that Nationwide Building Society had submitted plans to MKCC planning department for proposed repair and refurbishment of the Olney branch, following recent damage caused by a ram-raiding attempt. Nationwide had also recently committed to keep branches open until 2030.

Cllr Whitworth also reported that the former St John Ambulance building was now being proposed for new use as a place of worship and had received some concerns from residents regarding potential traffic and noise related issues.

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MKCC have assessed four locations for double yellow lines in Olney, namely along parts of Yardley Road, Fairfield Close, East Street and Palmers Road, and are now considering the implementation of these, with a statutory consultation period until 18th December 2025.

Thames Valley Police are providing a presentation on scams and security for vulnerable residents in the community on Tuesday 2nd December at The Olney Centre.

Cllr Whitworth concluded by updating on dropped kerbs in Olney. A recent request at the junction of Dingleberry and West Street had been approved and actioned by MKCC, with the following locations also submitted and now on a waiting list: Hipwell Court, Hoppers Hill, Paxton Close, Silver Street and St Joseph's Close.

Resolved: Noted

OTC25/12/5: To receive a PCSOs report

Figures provided by TVP; 1 assault without injury, 1 criminal damage, 1 dangerous dog, 2 public order offences, 7 incidents of shoplifting, 1 theft and 1 theft from a vehicle.

Resolved: Noted

OTC25/12/6: To receive an expenditure report and budget to date

Resolved: Cllr Shaw proposed, Cllr Prosser seconded, to approve the expenditure report. All voted in favour.

Cllr Shaw proposed, Cllr Chennells seconded, to approve the budget to date. All voted in favour.

OTC25/12/7: To receive reports from Councillors who represent at external meetings

Cllr Diamandopoulos reported that she had attended a nature recovery evening at MKCC, as well as an exhibition related to the campaign to end violence against women.

Cllrs Chennells and Prosser had attended the Alms Houses Trustees Christmas lunch at The Swan Inn for their residents, prior to that they attended a private viewing of documents at the Cowper and Newton museum.

Cllr Rowland reported back from the local flood prevention working group meeting, noting that the group would eventually require some storage for related equipment.

Cllr Tennant had recently attended a councillor briefing regarding the New Towns taskforce, as Milton Keynes has been identified as a potential location for 1 of the 12 new towns to be created in the UK. Any new town is likely to add 10-20k houses to the 60k already identified in MKCC's New City Plan 2050, as well as a new motorway junction.

Cllr Lowe has completed the shoplifting survey with local retailers, the results of which confirm that shoplifting is being under-reported to TVP. It is estimated that 180-250 incidents of shoplifting occur in a month, but 57% of retailers don't report any incidents to the police. Further awareness and training regarding the DISC initiative will be provided, in addition to meeting with the local PCSO.

Resolved: Noted

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OTC25/12/8: To receive data results from the SIDs

Deputy Town Clerk reported figures as follows for October/November 2025: Yardley Road, 20mph (Yardley Manor, travelling northbound) – average speed of 27,845 vehicles was 21.37mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 25.0mph; Aspreys, 30mph (Hollow Wood end, travelling northbound) – average speed of 58,591 vehicles was 26.51mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 30.7mph; Aspreys, 30mph (Foxhill end, travelling southbound) – average speed of 42,703 vehicles was 23.59mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 28.2mph.

Resolved: Noted

OTC25/12/9: To receive an update on river water testing

Cllr Whitworth reported that recent heavy rainfall has seen river levels increasing, to a point where they are too high for fly-testing to be conducted safely. Electroconductivity readings have dropped to 550, which sits in the okay bracket. Ammonia levels now show a good status. Phosphate and nitrate readings remain poor. Olney and Clifton Fishing Association are looking into securing the use of a Hanna meter and hopeful that MKCC might fund this.

Resolved: Noted

OTC25/12/10: To receive an update on the Yardley Manor development

Town Clerk reported that the community building progress remains on track for completion in February, despite recent rainfall. Landscaping improvement works also continue but work on the ponds has slowed down due to the recent rainfall. Repair work to the playground equipment is scheduled to take place in the next week.

Resolved: Noted

OTC25/12/11: To receive an update on the ex football clubhouse and Padel

Town Clerk reported that an additional £70k of S106 funding had been secured towards the refurbishment project.

Resolved: Noted

OTC25/12/12: To receive an update from the tree working group

Cllr Tyler had provided an update to councillors in advance of the meeting, nothing further to report.

Resolved: Noted

OTC25/12/13: To consider requesting that all of Olney be designated 20mph

Resolved: Cllr Tennant proposed, and Cllr Whitworth seconded, that no such request be made, but that further research is conducted into the identification of any additional appropriate localised 20mph zones. 10 councillors voted in favour, 1 against, the motion was carried.

OTC25/12/14: To consider a request from BOFF

Resolved: Cllr Tennant proposed, and Cllr Prosser seconded, that the dates requested be agreed in principle, but that further specific event information be requested from the BOFF organising committee. All voted in favour.

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OTC25/12/15: To advise of CCLA takeover

Resolved: Cllr Shaw, having attended an online webinar, felt assured that OTC's investments were more secure and more likely to continue to provide a good return. Cllr Shaw also reported that, in accordance with the last Finance Committee meeting, another savings account had been opened, in order to spread the risk.

OTC25/12/16: To consider Remembrance Day 2026

Resolved: Cllr Prosser proposed, and Cllr Hillier seconded, that a lamplight of peace be purchased, at a cost of £55, to support and participate in the event. All voted in favour.

OTC25/12/17: To consider additional Christmas decorations

Resolved: Cllr Diamandopoulos proposed, and Cllr Chennells seconded, not to extend the Christmas decorations beyond the High Street to the Lavendon Road. All voted in favour.

OTC25/12/18: To review the draft Schedule of Charges and Budget 2026-27

Resolved: Noted – to be finalised by Finance Committee based on 3.6% increase and brought back to Full Council in February.

The meeting closed at 7.58pm

Next meeting Monday 5th January 2026