

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 **Dickens of a Christmas Committee** held at The Olney Centre on **Monday 16th February 2026 at 6pm**

Present: Cllrs Bethune (Chair), Hillier, Prosser, Whitworth, Trevor Aldred and Gill Parker

Apologies: None

Absent: Colin Dooley, Mike Kennedy

In attendance: Rob Mungham (Deputy Town Clerk)

DoaC26/2/01: Apologies for absence

Resolved: None

DoaC26/2/02: Declarations of interests on items on the agenda

Resolved: None

DoaC26/2/03: To approve the minutes of the DoaC meeting held on 20th October 2025

Resolved: Cllr Hillier proposed and Cllr Prosser seconded that the minutes of the DoaC meeting held on 20th October be approved. All voted in favour.

DoaC26/2/04: To discuss wash up matters from Dickens 2025

Deputy Town Clerk reported that approximately 50 stalls had ended up attending the event, down on previous years, and as a result only the Market Place site was used for locating traders and their stalls, with the North End site unused at this year's event. This had inevitably produced a mixed response, with some informal feedback suggesting disappointment at a smaller event, but some informal feedback suggesting that customers preferred all stalls being together. On the day itself, weather had been favourable for setting up and until midday, but a second heavy downpour of rain at approximately 2pm saw customer numbers reduce. Informal feedback from traders on the day provided the usual mix of some that experienced strong sales, some lower than expected, and some as expected.

Trevor Aldred reported that the Lions Craft Fayre at The Olney Centre had recorded a slight reduction in footfall, but that stallholders and traders were largely unaffected and that the day overall was a positive one.

Gill Parker and Cllr Prosser reported that the church and church hall had experienced record high numbers, with breakfast sold out earlier than usual. The tree festival had more entries than ever before, and numbers attending the brass and dance performances had filled the church.

Cllr Whitworth reported positive feedback from local shop owners, as well as those from local restaurants, pubs and cafes, who experienced positive footfall throughout the day.

It was noted that Cllr Whitworth's VIP luncheon for six local community volunteers had been a popular change in tradition, and had been very well received by those invited.

Resolved: Noted

Signed:

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DoaC26/2/05: To consider arrangements for the 2026 Dickens of a Christmas event

Resolved: Cllr Bethune proposed, and Cllr Prosser seconded that, dependent on applicant numbers, and dependent on the mix of products being sold, the 2026 event should see a return to locating predominantly Sunday market traders at the North End site. 5 voted in favour, 1 abstention, and so the motion was passed.

DoaC26/2/06: To select a date for the 2026 Dickens of a Christmas event

Resolved: Cllr Bethune proposed, and Cllr Whitworth seconded, that Sunday 6th December 2026 be the date for the 2026 Dickens of a Christmas event. All voted in favour.

The meeting closed at 6.38pm

Signed: