

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 2nd February 2026 at 7pm**

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

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

Public forum: A resident spoke requesting that councillors consider again the prospect of applying for a 20mph speed limit on all side roads within Olney.

Cllr Whitworth read a “thank you” card from a resident, praising organisers and volunteers of the Christmas Day 2025 lunch and thanking Olney Town Council for the use of the facilities.

OTC26/2/01: Apologies for absence

Resolved: Apologies were received from Cllrs Rowland, Stone and Tyler

OTC26/2/02: Declarations of interests on items on the agenda

Resolved: None

OTC26/2/03: To approve the minutes of the OTC meeting held 1st December 2025

Resolved: Cllr Chennells requested an amendment regarding agenda item 7, stating that documents had been viewed before lunch, not after. Cllr Prosser proposed, Cllr Lowe seconded, that the amended minutes of 1st December 2025 be approved. All voted in favour.

OTC26/2/4: To receive a Ward Councillors report

Ward Cllr McLean reported that the most significant outcome of the recent proposed MKCC budget for the 2026/27 financial year was the proposed reduction in staffing within the highways department. He stated that a reduction of 7 roles was likely, although some of these roles were current long-term vacancies that had not been filled.

He continued with news of the new owners of the Petsoe End Windfarm Fund having agreed a grant scheme with the MK Community Foundation, with circa £35k in the fund.

Applications for grants were being welcomed from March 2026.

MKCC’s Customer Service complaints system had changed process, with the recent e-mail service being replaced with an online form to be completed.

MKCC’s New City Plan 2050 is still in its consultation period, which has recently been extended due to an administrative error.

The Newport Pagnell waste tip is still scheduled to close in Autumn 2026, but MKCC have provided assurances that this won’t happen before the new facility at Wolverton is opened.

Ward Cllr McLean concluded by reiterating his ongoing work with MKCC’s highways

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department regarding more accurate signage for the advance warning signs when proposed roadworks are due to take place, trying to ensure that dates and times are always included.

Ward Cllr passed on both his and Ward Cllr Geary's appreciation of the work that Ward Cllr Whitworth has done, acknowledging her recent announcement that she will not be standing for re-election to the role in May.

Cllr Whitworth, in her capacity as Ward Cllr, added to the agenda item with three updates relating to transport and roads. Firstly, she was pleased to note the recent announcement from MKCC and Grant Palmer Transport regarding the future of the 41 bus service, stating it was good news for residents.

Second, news that MKCC would be sending an officer to observe and report back on the Whirly Pit crossing, which has been raised as a concern by residents.

Finally, Cllr Whitworth confirmed that reported potholes that now have white markings around them form part of a schedule of works by the highways maintenance team, but that if any of them have worsened since first reported, then residents should report them again. The resurfacing of Aspreys is scheduled for 2026/27.

Ward Cllr McLean added one final point, for the consideration of Olney Town Council's Development committee. He had been made aware of a planning application relating to the installation of solar panels on the Yardley Manor community building, stating that it was his opinion that for a roof space of that size, more solar panels should be installed than are currently being proposed.

Resolved: Noted

OTC26/2/5: To receive a PCSOs report

Figures provided by TVP for the period 1st December 2025 – 2nd February 2026; 2 assaults without injury, 2 burglaries of a business, 1 residential burglary, 2 public order offences, 3 incidents of shoplifting, 2 thefts, 2 thefts from vehicles.

Resolved: Noted

OTC26/2/6: To receive an expenditure report and budget to date

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

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

OTC26/2/7: To receive reports from Councillors who represent at external meetings

Cllr Prosser reported that she and Cllr Chennells had attended the Alms Houses Trustees quarterly meeting, where discussion regarding the issue of needed refurbishment, including replacement windows, dominated proceedings. Grant funding is being sought to support some of the cost of this. There is currently one vacant property, which is soon to be allocated to a new resident.

Resolved: Noted

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OTC26/2/8: To receive data results from the SIDs

Deputy Town Clerk reported figures as follows for November/December 2025: Yardley Road, 20mph (Yardley Manor, travelling southbound) – average speed of 47,161 vehicles was 22.43mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 28.3mph; Aspreys, 30mph (Hollow Wood end, travelling southbound) – average speed of 45,345 vehicles was 25.56mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 29.4mph; Aspreys, 30mph (Foxhill end, travelling northbound) – average speed of 26,167 vehicles was 23.35mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 27.8mph.

Deputy Town Clerk continued with reported figures as follows for December 2025/January 2026: Yardley Road, 20mph (OMS, travelling northbound) – average speed of 25,537 vehicles was 20.25mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 24.3mph; Weston Road, 30mph (top, travelling eastbound) – average speed of 47,949 vehicles was 25.03mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 29mph; Weston Road, 30mph (bottom, travelling westbound) – average speed of 36,945 vehicles was 23.61mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 27.9mph.

Resolved: Noted

OTC26/2/9: To receive an update on the ex football clubhouse and Padel

Town Clerk reported that Building Control were satisfied with the proposed plans and schedule of works in place, with work due to commence formally from week commencing Monday 9th February 2026, for a proposed project schedule of 6 months.

Resolved: Noted

OTC26/2/10: To consider submitting a request to MKCC for a TPO

Cllr Lowe expressed her concerns regarding the way in which the request was currently drafted for submission, requesting a re-drafted version to be presented to council for consideration.

Resolved: Noted

OTC26/2/11: To approve the Draft Schedule of Charges for 2026/27

Resolved: Cllr Shaw proposed, and Cllr Prosser seconded, that the proposed Schedule of Charges be approved, with one amendment made, to include a charge of £50 for the cost of scattering ashes (to include a named plaque) in the cemetery. All voted in favour.

OTC26/2/12: To approve the Draft Budgets 2026/27

Resolved: Cllr Shaw proposed, and Cllr Chennells seconded, that the proposed budget be approved. All voted in favour.

OTC26/2/13: To approve the Precept Requirement

Resolved: Cllr Bethune proposed, and Cllr Prosser seconded, that the proposed Precept Requirement be approved. All voted in favour.

OTC26/2/14: To receive the interim audit report

Resolved: Noted

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OTC26/2/15: To advise the dates for Riverfest 2026 Sunday 5th July and Motorama Sunday 14th June

Resolved: Noted

The meeting closed at 7.39pm

Next meeting Monday 2nd March 2026