

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 2nd March 2026 at 7pm**

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

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

Public forum: A representative of the BOFF committee spoke, providing confirmation of the proposed schedule for the 2026 event, updates on accessibility issues, electric cable protection, and to confirm that they will be liaising with MKCC's Safety Advisory Group earlier in advance of the 2026 event.

A resident spoke of concerns regarding the recently newly occupied former St. John Ambulance Hall on Wellingborough Road, enquiring whether the relevant planning applications had been made for a change of use.

A resident spoke regarding the proposed skate park at Johnson's Field, stating a preference for a skate park over a pump track, citing that skate parks are more inclusive for all potential users, as well as providing greater longevity of use. It was also the resident's belief that investment in a quality assured skate park, rather than a pump track, is more likely to attract the enthusiasts, who are inclined to ensure responsible use of the facility and do not want to be associated with ASB and drug use.

OTC26/3/1: Apologies for absence

Resolved: Apologies were received from Cllr Tyler, Cllr Diamandopoulos was absent.

OTC26/3/2: Declarations of interests on items on the agenda

Resolved: Cllr Rodden declared interest in item 8, as a resident of Weston Road.

OTC26/3/3: To approve the minutes of the OTC meeting held 2nd February 2026

Resolved: Cllr Hillier proposed, Cllr Prosser seconded, that the minutes of 2nd February 2026 be approved. All voted in favour.

OTC26/3/4: To receive a Ward Councillors report

Ward Cllr McLean reported that SABA parking control officers had attended schools in recent weeks, along with PCSOs.

The MKCC budget for the 2026/27 financial year was approved in mid-February.

Many reports have been received of excessive litter on many roadsides in the MK area – the appropriate MKCC team have been asked to provide a schedule of works for the clearance of this. A schedule of works from MKCC Highways department has also been received for the repair of potholes.

Signed:

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Ward Cllr McLean continued by encouraging residents who wish for a postal vote in the upcoming May elections to do so in good time via the MKCC Electoral Services department.

Lawyers for "On Path" the Petsoe End Wind Farm have now observed and approved legal documents, with applications for relevant grant funding now being welcomed towards the end of March.

Finally, Cllr Whitworth, in role as Ward Councillor, reported that an increased police presence would remain in force at the Centre:MK shopping centre, following a tragic incident on Saturday 28th February, but that the centre had now re-opened.

Resolved: Noted

OTC26/3/5: To receive a PCSOs report

Figures provided by TVP for the period 2nd February 2026 - 2nd March 2026; 2 thefts from vehicles and 1 incident of shoplifting.

Resolved: Noted

OTC26/3/6: 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.

OTC26/3/7: To receive reports from Councillors who represent at external meetings

Cllr Lowe reported that she had attended the North East Rural Forum, where the main themes included speeding, potholes, broken manhole covers and shoplifting. Engagement with local shop staff has shown that many incidents of shoplifting remain unreported. Shop staff are keen to report all incidents, but this is not a policy fully supported by store management or head offices of larger chain stores. Regular opportunities for store managers to meet with councillors were offered but most state they wouldn't have time for this.

Cllr Tennant reported his attendance of MKCC's Sustainability Strategy launch event. The strategy predominantly relates to domestic developments and the future of public transport and road networks. The main themes discussed were the economic impact, energy efficiency, impact on the environment, and public engagement. MKCC have also launched their Green Business Fund, enabling businesses to apply for funding to support sustainability projects.

Resolved: Noted

OTC26/3/8: To receive data results from the SIDs

Deputy Town Clerk reported figures as follows for January/February 2026: Yardley Road, 20mph (OMS, travelling southbound) – average speed of 12,434 vehicles was 16.86mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 20.5mph; Weston Road, 30mph (top end, travelling westbound) – average speed of 28,820 vehicles was 27.34mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 32.1mph; Weston Road, 30mph (bottom end, travelling eastbound) – average speed of 28,394 vehicles was 25.67mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 29.6mph.

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Resolved: Noted

OTC26/3/9: To receive an update on the ex football clubhouse and Padel

Town Clerk reported that phase 1 was three weeks in, with much of the interior of the ex football clubhouse having now been gutted, and foundations for the extension dug to the required depth.

Resolved: Cllr Bethune proposed, and Cllr Hillier seconded, that the new building be named Scorers Community Centre, named after three local meadows in close proximity to the recreation ground. 10 councillors present voted in favour, 1 voted against, therefore the motion was carried.

OTC26/3/10: To consider allowing ashes burials for non residents

Resolved: Cllr Bethune proposed, and Cllr Prosser seconded, that the application for non residents ashes to be buried be approved. All voted in favour.

OTC26/3/11: To receive an update on the Olney Community Centre, Winterbottom Way

Town Clerk reported that a new completion target date of 20th March had been set by the developers. Local artists have been asked to submit potential artwork to be purchased.

Resolved: Noted

OTC26/3/12: To receive an update on the Johnson's Field play area and consultation

Cllr Whitworth reported that MKCC continue to work on a final proposal to be submitted as a formal planning application. Town Clerk reported that no further formal consultation periods would occur until such time as a formal planning application is submitted, when residents and councillors would be able to submit responses in the usual manner, via MKCC's planning portal.

Resolved: Noted

OTC26/3/13: To receive an update on the BOFF application 2026

Resolved: Cllr Whitworth proposed, and Cllr Lowe seconded, that the updated event plan be approved. All voted in favour.

The meeting closed at 7.53pm

Next meeting Monday 13th April 2026

Signed: