

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 1st June 2026 at 7pm

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

In attendance: Jane Brushwood, Town Clerk, Rob Mungham, Deputy Town Clerk, Ward Councillor Geary and 38 members of the public

Public forum: A resident spoke regarding concerns at anti-social behaviour on the bank holiday at the recreation ground, and associated problems of parking on Austen Avenue and Carey Way. They requested that councillors consider using the nursery field football pitch, or the East Street Community Centre field as additional car parking.

Another resident spoke to raise their own concerns regarding recent events at the recreation ground, raising matters such as parking, litter, drug use, vehicles on the fields, public disorder, violence, and access for emergency service vehicles. They highlighted that these issues have the potential to cause accidents, injury and potentially worse. They felt that more could still be done with regard to additional bins and security, as well as requesting greater enforcement of illegal behaviour from the relevant authorities. They requested that councillors ensure that visible action is taken, with measures put in place soon to alleviate the issues raised and, therefore, the concerns of residents.

A resident spoke regarding some of the incidents witnessed on the bank holiday, stating that the situation had escalated from approximately 4.30pm onwards. Groups from outside of the town had been arriving, seemingly in organised gatherings via social media. They witnessed the buying and selling of drugs, openly alongside vehicles on residential streets. They felt that further control measures could be put in place for future forecasted scenarios like this.

A resident spoke briefly to state that they were angry at Olney Town Council for not acting on these matters for the past 5/6 years.

A resident stated that whilst they were also angry at recent events and the influx of problems that they brought, negative comments towards the council and its councillors are neither helpful or constructive. Having previously served on the town council, they understood the limited nature of councillors' powers. They acknowledged that some measures to discourage law breaking and anti-social behaviour had been attempted by the town council, but that it was unrealistic of residents to expect councillors themselves to be in attendance or to attempt self-policing measures. This should be down to the authorities, and that residents have a responsibility to report the issues to the relevant authorities. They also emphasised that drug use within the town was not a recent phenomenon.

Cllr Whitworth concluded the public forum by confirming the council's own concerns regarding anti-social behaviour and law breaking within the town. A multi-agency meeting with MKCC and TVP has been requested urgently and confirmed that the focus of the discussion would be enforcement, parking and traffic management, and police patrols.

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

OTC26/6/1: Apologies for absence

Resolved: Apologies were received from Cllr Tyler.

OTC26/6/2: Declarations of interest on items on the agenda

Resolved: None

OTC26/6/3: To approve the minutes of the OTC meeting on 11th May 2026

Resolved: Cllr Prosser proposed, Cllr Hillier seconded, that the minutes be approved. All voted in favour.

OTC26/6/4: To receive a Ward Councillors report

Ward Cllr Geary reported that following the recent ward councillor elections, that MKCC was now run by Liberal Democrat councillors, with Labour councillors in a supporting role, as no overall majority was achieved by any single party. Ward Cllr Geary continued by responding briefly to the concerns of residents in the public forum, stating that Ward Councillors were supportive of Olney Town Council's request for a multi-agency meeting, and would appreciate the opportunity to be invited to be present at the meeting.

Resolved: Noted

OTC26/6/14: To consider co-opting a new councillor

Resolved: Cllr Tennant proposed, Cllr Lowe seconded, that the application be accepted. All voted in favour. Newly appointed Cllr Carlisle took their place at the table accordingly.

OTC26/6/5: To receive a PCSO's report

Resolved: No report received and no PCSO present

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

Resolved: Cllr Shaw proposed, Cllr Prosser seconded, to accept the expenditure report. All voted in favour. Cllr Shaw proposed, Cllr Chennells seconded, to accept the budget to date. All voted in favour.

OTC26/6/7: To receive reports from Councillors who represent at external meetings

Cllr Prosser reported that she had recently attended a social evening put on for residents of the alms-houses, including a presentation to the retiring Ann Hopkins Smith Trust secretary, following 15 years of service.

Resolved: Noted

OTC26/6/8: To receive data results from the SIDs

Deputy Town Clerk reported figures as follows for April/May 2026: Yardley Road, 20mph (OMS, travelling southbound) – average speed of 21,312 vehicles was 17.38mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 21.8mph; Aspreys, 30mph (Hollow Wood end, travelling northbound) – average speed of 58,216 vehicles was 26.46mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 30.6mph; Aspreys, 30mph (Foxhill end, travelling southbound) – average speed of 46,032 vehicles was 23.63mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 28.3mph.

Resolved: Noted

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

OTC26/6/9: To receive an update on the ex football clubhouse and Padel

Town Clerk reported that contractors continue to work to the original scheduled timetable for works being completed on the ex football clubhouse, and that the Padel court proposal was nearing the planning application submission stage.

Resolved: Noted

OTC26/6/10: To receive an update on the river pollution and seasonal problems

Cllr Whitworth reported that electroconductivity was recorded as having risen to high levels (900s), with phosphate and nitrate readings also up on the previous set of data. No ammonia issues were recorded, which is positive, and e-coli readings were 0, although the validity of these recordings has been questioned already by those collecting them.

Cllr Whitworth re-iterated the need for and importance of the upcoming multi-agency meeting with MKCC and TVP, following the recent anti-social behaviour and associated issues on the bank holiday weekend, with clear communication to residents of any outcomes and subsequent actions to follow.

Resolved: Cllr Lowe proposed, Cllr Bethune seconded, that a Volunteer Workforce working group be set up, and to arrange first meeting as soon as possible. All voted in favour. Cllrs Rodden and Rowland to join.

OTC26/6/11: To consider allowing ashes burial for non residents

Resolved: Cllr Prosser proposed, Cllr Lowe seconded, that the applications be accepted. All voted in favour.

OTC26/6/12: To advise of the OCC WW open day

Town Clerk reported that an open day would be organised for the Olney Community Centre at Winterbottom Way, and welcomed ideas for the event, as well as voluntary support from councillors with the event. Site developers Vistry would also be supporting the event and it is hoped will provide some funding. Cllr Tennant noted that it was important to mark the opening of the new facility, after the lengthy process involved of it getting to this stage.

Resolved: Noted

OTC26/6/13: To consider changing the day for the Annual Town Meeting

Resolved: Cllr Chennells proposed, Cllr Bethune seconded, that the Annual Town Meeting be changed to a Monday. All voted in favour.

The meeting closed at 8.16pm

Next meeting Monday 6th July 2026