

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 6th July 2026 at 7pm**

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

In attendance: Jane Brushwood, Town Clerk, Rob Mungham, Deputy Town Clerk, Ward Councillor McLean, PC Govier, PCSO Braddish, PCSO Ormston and 8 members of the public

Public forum: A resident spoke regarding progress made since the last meeting on responding to issues surrounding anti-social behaviour at the recreation ground, firstly thanking Cllrs Lowe, Rodden and Bethune for initiating the Rec Working Group, which had held its first meeting. He stated that this meeting had provided constructive and positive dialogue between councillors and residents and revealed shared goals. He referred to the report produced as a result of the meeting as a strong starting point for potential resolutions. Finally, he urged OTC to continue to work with residents and authorities alike on the issues contained within the report, and the varied proposals that it had prompted.

OTC26/7/1: Apologies for absence

Resolved: Apologies were received from Cllr Tyler.

OTC26/7/2: Declarations of interest on items on the agenda

Resolved: None

OTC26/7/3: To approve the minutes of the OTC meeting on 1st June 2026

Resolved: Cllr Hillier proposed, Cllr Prosser seconded, that the minutes be approved. 11 voted in favour, 2 abstentions, therefore the minutes were approved.

OTC26/7/5: To receive a PCSO's report

PCSO Braddish reported the following crime statistics: 5 assaults, 1 burglary (business), 4 criminal damage, 1 drug offense, 7 public order, 4 shoplifting, 2 thefts. There were also almost thirty reports of other incidents not crime related, such as anti-social behaviour, suspicious persons, and suspicious vehicles. PCSO Braddish informed those present of a Bike Marking event due to be held at the East Street car park on Friday 24th July. PCSO Braddish closed by confirming that this was his last OTC meeting as a PCSO, as he is taking on a detective role within TVP. Cllr Whitworth thanked PCSO Braddish for his time, efforts and commitment to Olney and the rural surrounding area.

Resolved: Noted

OTC26/7/4: To receive a Ward Councillor's report

Ward Cllr McLean echoed the thanks to PCSO Braddish and wished him well in the new role. He continued his opening remarks with sad news of the passing of a fellow MKCC ward councillor, after a short illness, with a special meeting of MKCC being convened for Friday 24th July.

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The air quality monitoring unit that has been in place in Olney since 2008 would soon be removed. The acceptable limit of poor air quality has not been exceeded since 2014. In a MKCC meeting due to be held on Tuesday 7th July, a vehicle removal policy is likely to be approved, with further information regarding enforcement to follow. Ward Cllr McLean closed by informing OTC that he would be taking new TVP Chief Inspector Lucy Bottomley for a ride-around of Olney and the surrounding rural areas, as well as thanking Cllr Whitworth for keeping MKCC and TVP well informed of developments with the multi-agency meetings regarding issues at the recreation ground.

Resolved: Noted

OTC26/7/12: To consider co-opting a new councillor

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

OTC26/7/10: To receive an update on the river pollution and seasonal problems

Cllr Whitworth reported that electroconductivity levels had risen into unacceptable levels of the low 900s, with acceptable norms being between 50 and 800. An e-coli reading of 132 cfu per 100ml, which is positive, but warned of complacency here, as this was the first sample of a new type of reading. The upper Great Ouse is the second most polluted in the UK. OTC continues with advice against swimming in the river.

Cllr Whitworth thanked the Rec Working Group for their early work here, the resident meeting already held, and the subsequent report for OTC consideration.

Resolved: Cllr Chennells proposed, Cllr Diamandopoulos seconded, that the Rec Working Group's Terms of Reference be adopted. 13 votes in favour, 1 abstention, therefore the motion was carried.

Cllr Chennells proposed, Cllr Shaw seconded, that power be delegated to the clerk to spend up to a total of £5000 on additional waste bins, additional signage, and hashed road markings at the entrance to the recreation ground lane. All voted in favour.

Cllr Lowe proposed, Cllr Bethune seconded, that river pollution data be published on OTC website. All voted in favour.

Cllr Bethune proposed, Cllr Lowe seconded, to create a WhatsApp group for the regular recreation ground volunteer litter pickers. All voted in favour.

Cllr Shaw proposed, Cllr Hillier seconded, that the Rec Working Group continue to work on condensing further proposals, and report back to future full council meetings. All voted in favour.

OTC26/7/6: To receive an expenditure report and budget to date

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

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

Cllr Whitworth recently attended a pupil awards ceremony at Ousedale, Olney campus, where more than 100 students were receiving awards. The current school leadership remain keen for the school and its students to engage in community events. Cllr Whitworth thanked

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council staff and councillors for their help at the recent open day at the Olney Community Centre, Winterbottom Way, which was well attended by interested residents. She also thanked the resident steering group for their continued work.

Resolved: Noted

OTC26/7/8: To receive data results from the SIDs

Deputy Town Clerk reported figures as follows for May/June 2026: Yardley Road, 20mph (OMS, travelling northbound) – average speed of 25,071 vehicles was 19.57mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 23.8mph; Aspreys, 30mph (Hollow Wood end, travelling southbound) – average speed of 43,938 vehicles was 25.22mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 29.1mph; Aspreys, 30mph (Foxhill end, travelling northbound) – average speed of 48,819 vehicles was 24.25mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 28.7mph.

Resolved: Noted

OTC26/7/9: To receive an update on the ex football clubhouse and Padel

Town Clerk reported that works continue at pace, and contractors remain positive about a completion date in August. A planning application for the padel court proposal is still yet to be submitted.

Resolved: Noted

OTC26/7/11: To receive an update on the Johnson's Field play areas

Cllrs were presented with plans for the development of play equipment on the south side of Johnson's Field, which MKCC state works are set to commence later in July.

Resolved: Noted

OTC26/7/13: To decide Land Transfer options at Yardley Manor

Cllrs were presented with three options for proposals relating to community centre and associated land ownership, as well as landscape maintenance and management plans.

Resolved: Cllr Bethune proposed, Cllr Prosser seconded, that OTC take ownership of the community centre and associated land, as well as responsibility for landscape maintenance and management, whilst finding outsourced maintenance of play equipment and flood attenuation ponds as required. All voted in favour.

OTC26/7/14: To consider having no meeting in August

Resolved: Cllr Chennells proposed, Cllr Rodden seconded, that full council meet in August, 12 voted in favour, 3 abstentions, the motion was carried.

The meeting closed at 8.39pm

Next meeting Monday 3rd August 2026