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 7th September 2026 at 7pm

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

In attendance: Jane Brushwood, Town Clerk, Rob Mungham, Deputy Town Clerk, and 8 members of the public

Public forum: A resident spoke regarding their frustration at the lack of ongoing opportunities for the Rec Working Group to continue their early work, feeling that the group's actions have become managed by Olney Town Council, rather than working collaboratively alongside them.

A resident spoke of their frustrations at the lines of communication between Olney Town Council and the Rec Working Group, especially the issue of the group's own Terms of Reference being changed at an early stage, and some information requested apparently not being made available to the group.

A resident spoke regarding an objection to the draft minutes of the recent Recs and Services committee meeting, believing a specific phrase to have been incorrectly included and that a recording of the meeting proved that it hadn't been stated. They believed the inclusion of the phrase to also be misleading about the tone of the meeting and requested that the phrase be removed from the draft minutes, before approval being given at the next Recs and Services meeting.

A resident spoke regarding land at Warrington Road, subject to Milton Keynes City Council Planning Enforcement Case ENF/2026/0274, relating to the unauthorised use of the land as a crane depot. They urged Olney Town Council to state a point of view of objection to the continued misuse of this land, and to the disrespect shown by the landowner towards the land itself, as well as the town and people of Olney.

A resident spoke to request a policy review by Olney Town Council, relating to the use of its community centres by specific age groups.

OTC26/9/1: Apologies for absence
Resolved: Apologies were received from Cllrs Cooper, Rowland and Shaw

OTC26/9/2: Declarations of interest on items on the agenda
Resolved: None

OTC26/9/3: To approve the minutes of the OTC meeting on 3rd August 2026
Resolved: Cllr Stone proposed, Cllr Prosser seconded, that the minutes be approved. 7 voted in favour, 3 against, 2 abstentions, therefore the minutes were approved.

OTC26/9/4: To receive a Ward Councillors report

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Ward Cllr Tyler reported that construction on circa 930 homes in Tickford Fields was soon to commence. He went on to note that a new and revised National Planning Policy Framework came into effect recently, and that there were some concerns that a likely impact of some of the changes would be that it would become easier for some planning applications to bypass local planning committees, with more being directed straight to planning officers. Finally, Ward Cllr Tyler reported that the bike track and trees on the Yardley Manor development had received maintenance and upkeep recently and hoped that this would continue between now and their eventual handover to Olney Town Council.
Resolved: Noted

OTC26/9/5: To receive a PCSO's report
Crime statistics for the period 05/07/2026-07/09/2026 had been provided to councillors by PCSO Hobson as follows: 2 public order offences, 1 incident of verbal abuse, 2 incidents of harassment, 11 incidents of theft/shoplifting/robbery/burglary/attempted burglary, 1 incident of fraud, 3 assaults, 3 dangerous dogs, 1 count of environmental anti-social behaviour, and 3 incidents of criminal damage/damage to vehicles.
Resolved: Noted

OTC26/9/6: To receive an expenditure report and budget to date
Resolved: Cllr Chennells proposed, and Cllr Prosser seconded, that the expenditure reports be approved. All voted in favour. Cllr Chennells proposed, and Cllr Diamandopoulos seconded, that the budget to date be approved. All voted in favour.

OTC26/9/7: To receive reports from Councillors who represent at external meetings
Resolved: None

OTC26/9/8: To receive data results from the SIDs
Deputy Town Clerk reported figures as follows for June/July 2026: Yardley Road, 20mph (Yardley Manor, travelling northbound) – average speed of 36,208 vehicles was 21.27mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 25.1mph; Bridge Street, 30mph (travelling northbound) – average speed of 262,045 vehicles was 23.6mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 29.7mph; High Street, 30mph (travelling southbound) – average speed of 115,585 vehicles was 18.48mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 23.3mph. Deputy Town Clerk also reported figures as follows for July/August 2026: Yardley Road, 20mph (Yardley Manor, travelling southbound) – average speed of 52,501 vehicles was 22.44mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 28.4mph; Bridge Street, 30mph (travelling southbound) – average speed of 184,211 vehicles was 24.22mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 28.8mph; High Street, 30mph (travelling northbound) – average speed of 147,541 vehicles was 21.2mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 25.4mph.
Resolved: Noted

OTC26/9/9: To receive an update on Rec Community Centre and Padel
Town Clerk reported that works on the Rec Community Centre are now complete, with a number of user groups already making bookings, and open day scheduled for Saturday 19th September. Positive feedback has already been received regarding the new public toilets as well. Town Clerk reported no planning application has yet been submitted relating to a Padel Court development.

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Resolved: Noted

OTC26/9/10: To receive an update on the river pollution and seasonal problems
Cllr Whitworth reported that e-coli levels in the river are recorded as rising but remain within acceptable norms. Electroconductivity levels are high. OTC has published further information and warnings regarding pollution levels, to ensure residents are well informed. Regarding seasonal problems at the recreation ground, Cllr Whitworth reported that OTC has had additional bins in place for a number of weeks now, additional signage in place, and that the council's CCTV has also continued to assist Thames Valley Police in identifying perpetrators of some incidents related to anti-social and criminal behaviour. It was also reported that Spartan Protection would no longer be working for OTC.
Resolved: Cllr Whitworth proposed, Cllr Prosser seconded, that the Rec Working Group Chair meet with Town Clerk and town mayor to collaborate on a specification of the role and work required from a new security firm, on which to subsequently gain quotes, before being appointed. All voted in favour.

OTC26/9/11: To advise of Olney Fireworks event 1st November 2026
Resolved: Noted

OTC26/9/12: To consider allowing ashes burial for non-residents
Resolved: All voted in favour

OTC26/9/13: To advise on the council's current situation on contracts
Cllr Chennells reported that OTC has appropriate contracts in place for suppliers who provide regular or routine services for the council, with the exception of Spartan Protection, where a current contract could not be found, but that did not necessarily mean it didn't exist. Cllr Chennells continued to report that where suppliers are appointed on an irregular basis, relevant letters or e-mails of engagement were evidenced and witnessed.
Resolved: Noted

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

Next meeting Monday 5th October 2026

Signed: Cllr D Whitworth 5th October 2026