OLNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the meeting of Olney Town Council Development Committee held on Monday 26th October 2026 at 7pm

Present: Cllrs Tennant (Chair), Bethune, Hillier, Lowe, Prosser, Rodden, Shaw and Stone
Apologies: Cllrs Rowland and Whitworth
Absent: None
Also present: Rob Mungham (Deputy Town Clerk) and nine members of the public

Public forum: Four residents spoke regarding agenda item 8e, relating to an application to install two padel courts at the recreation ground.

The first urged councillors to object to the application, on the grounds of the potential for noise disturbance to neighbouring properties, their residents, and to other sports clubs and their users. They believed that the proximity to residential properties made it an inappropriate location for such a development. They also cited similar applications where similar concerns and objections had been raised.

A second resident and keen padel player stated that he was in favour of the application, believing a padel facility to be a strong asset to the community. They stated that padel was a very inclusive sport, being easy to pick up and learn, with health and fitness and associated wellbeing benefits to be gained. They also felt it was better to have a local facility, rather than current players having to travel out of town to access such facilities.

The third resident spoke on behalf of The Olney Group, reporting that the proposed location for the padel courts is where the fairground is located for the annual fireworks event, and whilst they didn't oppose the application, requested that Olney Town Council work closely with The Olney Group to identify a suitable alternative location for the fairground, ahead of next year's event.

A fourth resident spoke to repeat the benefits of padel that had already been raised by the second resident. They went on to highlight further benefits, including the fact that it was a no-cost location to the council, and that by locating at the recreation ground, it would sit well alongside other existing sports facilities. They reminded councillors that at a recent Joint User Group meeting, there had been no objection from those neighbouring sports clubs. Finally, they believed that their research had shown that issues relating to noise can be offset by developers, making use of appropriate panelling on the canopy roof, and of appropriate glass on the side exteriors.

DEV26/10/1: To receive any apologies for absence
Resolved: Apologies received from Cllrs Rowland and Whitworth

DEV26/10/2: To receive any declarations of interest
Resolved: Cllr Lowe declared an interest in agenda item 8e, as a resident of a neighbouring property to the recreation ground.

DEV26/10/3: To approve the minutes of the Development Committee meeting held on 28th September 2026
Resolved: Cllr Shaw proposed, Cllr Prosser seconded, that the minutes be approved. All voted in favour.

DEV26/10/8: To receive planning applications for consultation from w/c 21st September 2026 to 20th October 2026

A – PLN/2026/1558 The proposed replacement of all the timber windows into double-glazed uPVC **at** 53-55 SILLSWOOD, OLNEY, MK46 5PN
Resolved: No comment

Signed:

B – PLN/2026/1977 Certificate of lawfulness for proposed use of existing recreation ground public toilets (use class F2(b)) for the lawful use by a non-commercial, volunteer-run community organisation **at** OLNEY TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB, EAST STREET, OLNEY, MK46 4DH
Resolved: Support

C – PLN/2026/1796 Demolition of existing link building in corner for replacement with new link, door and window structural opening adjustments and replacement of all windows and doors, raising the height of the stone boundary wall fronting Church Street, installation of Air Source Heat Pump behind raised stone wall, provision of on-plot/off-road parking spaces to rear (East) with re-aligned boundary fencing to rear garden with change of use of a small part of the meadows to private garden **at** THE DOVECOTE, CHURCH STREET, OLNEY, MK46 4AD
Resolved: No comment

D – PLN/2026/2053 Outline application (matters of access, layout, scale, appearance and landscaping reserved) for erection of one dwelling with garage **at** REAR OF, 4A COWPER STREET, OLNEY, MK46 4BW
Resolved: Object

E – PLN/2026/1853 Proposed installation of 2no. double padel courts with rain canopy and lighting **at** Olney Recreation Ground, East Street, Olney, MK46 4DW
Resolved: Support

F – PLN/2026/2102 Retention of existing garage conversion (retrospective) **at** 4 THE PYGHTLE, OLNEY, MK46 5PS
Resolved: No comment

G - PLN/2026/2137 Proposed new windows and doors, new rear access archway formed in original garage and internal alterations **at** 9 SPRING LANE, OLNEY, MK46 5BN
Resolved: No comment

DEV26/10/4: To receive an update on the Green Hill Solar Farm development
Resolved: Noted

DEV26/10/5: To consider precept requirements for the 2026/27 financial year
Resolved: Cllr Tennant proposed, and Cllr Shaw seconded, that a figure of £10,000 be requested for a proposed review of the Olney Neighbourhood Plan. All in favour.

DEV26/10/6: To consider a response to the Milton Keynes City Council Minerals and Waste Local Plan consultation
Resolved: Noted

DEV26/10/7: To consider an update to the Olney Neighbourhood Plan
Resolved: Cllr Tennant proposed, and Cllr Bethune seconded, that work commence on an updated version of the Olney Neighbourhood Plan (either by Development Committee, or by a working group from it), to align with MKCC New City Plan 2050, and that it should propose possible priority development sites specifically for a new doctors surgery. 7 councillors present voted in favour, 1 voted against, therefore the proposal was accepted.

Signed:

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DEV26/10/9: To receive planning application decisions from w/c 21st September 2026 to 20th October 2026
Resolved: Noted

DEV26/10/10: To receive an update on any S106 applications and projects
Resolved: No update

The meeting closed at 8.29pm

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Signed: