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 5th October 2026 at 7pm

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

In attendance: Jane Brushwood, Town Clerk, Rob Mungham, Deputy Town Clerk, Ward Councillor Tyler and 7 members of the public

Public forum: A resident spoke on the bins at the recreation ground and that they were now more aware of which bins were the responsibility of Olney Town Council (OTC), and which were Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC).

A resident spoke on behalf of the Big Olney Food Festival organising committee, providing feedback from the 2026 event. The use of concrete blocks to weigh down the marquee more securely had been received positively. Emergency vehicle access had been maintained for the entirety of the weekend and was required on a couple of occasions. Police presence alongside existing security had proved successful, and there had also been parking enforcement officers in action at times. Improved and more suitable accessible cable ramps had been used, and all dropped kerbs remained accessible for the duration of the event.

Cllr Whitworth spoke briefly to inform those present of the recent passing of Cllr Cooper, and a minutes' silence was observed.

OTC26/10/1: Apologies for absence
Resolved: Apologies were received from Cllrs Tennant and Rowland. Cllr Diamandopoulos was absent.

OTC26/10/2: Declarations of interest on items on the agenda
Resolved: None

OTC26/10/3: To approve the minutes of the OTC meeting on 7th September 2026
Resolved: Cllr Prosser proposed, Cllr Chennells seconded, that the minutes be approved. All voted in favour.

OTC26/10/4: To receive a Ward Councillors report
Ward Cllr Tyler, reported that a large crack on Aspreys paving was due to be fixed soon, as well the grinding down to a stump of a dead tree along Aspreys. He went on to report that the tip in Newport Pagnell remained scheduled to close in January 2027, with the impending opening of the new facility in Wolverton. Ward Cllr Tyler reported the High Street zebra crossing close to One Stop, that potential options for alterations had been costed and that a final decision on a preferred outcome was due from MKCC. Cllr Tyler ended his report by reiterating that Ward Councillors and relevant other members of MKCC were keen to re-engage with any proposed rescheduling of a multi-agency meeting regarding seasonal issues at the recreation ground.
Resolved: Noted

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OTC26/10/5: To receive a PCSO's report
Crime statistics for the period 07/09/2026-04/10/2026 had been provided as follows: 1 assault, 1 count of anti-social behaviour, 1 drink/drug-driving offence, 1 harassment via text messaging, 1 public order offence, 2 incidents of shoplifting and 2 thefts from vehicles.
Resolved: Noted

OTC26/10/6: To receive an expenditure report and budget to date
Resolved: Cllr Hillier proposed, and Cllr Shaw seconded, that the expenditure reports be approved. All voted in favour. Cllr Shaw proposed, and Cllr Prosser seconded, that the budget to date be approved. All voted in favour.

OTC26/10/7: To receive data results from the SIDs
Deputy Town Clerk reported figures as follows for August/September 2026: Yardley Road, 20mph (OMS, travelling southbound) – average speed of 21,145 vehicles was 17.01mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 21.1mph; Weston Road, 30mph (top end, travelling westbound) – average speed of 45,792 vehicles was 27.85mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 32.8mph; Drift Way, 30mph (travelling westbound) – average speed of 57,090 vehicles was 22.26mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 25.2mph.
Resolved: Noted

OTC26/10/8: To receive an update from Mark Butterfield on the river pollution and seasonal problems
Mark Butterfield reported that the upper Ouse remains the second most polluted river in the United Kingdom. Nitrate/phosphate levels remain consistently bad, but e-coli levels less so, with ammonia currently recorded at reasonable levels, but climbing. He reported frustration that it appeared cheaper for water companies to accept and pay fines imposed, rather than pay for improvements needed to the infrastructure of systems. He continues to liaise with and attend meetings with Anglian Water and the Environment Agency. He concluded by asking OTC to consider more robust signage at the recreation ground, with firm warnings to deter people from entering the water, as well as not allowing their dogs to enter the water. He suggested leafleting locally, and to consider the use of multi-lingual versions of signage and/or leaflets, as many of the visitors to the recreation ground in the summer months attend from outside of Olney, and don't always have English as a first language.
On the matter of seasonal problems at the recreation ground, Cllr Whitworth reported that OTC and the Rec Working Group continue to work through the proposals of the group, with the next main issue to be resolved being the provision of security presence at the recreation ground in the busier months, typically May through to September.
Resolved: Cllr Whitworth proposed, Cllr Prosser seconded, that OTC explore further the employment and training of individuals to the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS). All voted in favour.

OTC26/10/9: To consider being part of the Giant Tree Circle
Resolved: Cllr Prosser proposed, Cllr Bethune seconded, to join the initiative. All voted in favour.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm

Signed: Cllr D Whitworth 2nd November 2026