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 2nd November 2026 at 7pm**

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

In attendance: Jane Brushwood, Town Clerk, Rob Mungham, Deputy Town Clerk, Ward Councillor Geary, PCSO Hobson and 8 members of the public

Public forum: A resident spoke at their concern that a multi-agency meeting has still not happened, regarding the seasonal problems and issues experienced at the recreation ground. They feel that ensuring the security of the location will take further planning than is currently happening, and that the Recreation Ground Working Group is not being fully utilised to support this. They noted that it was pleasing to have seen a steadily increased police presence at the recreation ground and in the town generally and hoped this would be maintained into next year.

A resident spoke regarding the 21 bus service. Despite being pleased that Grant Palmer had taken on the Red Rose service, they expressed concern that the change in timetable was not suitable for students travelling to Ousedale campus in Newport Pagnell. They also expressed concern that the new service might be more expensive than previous.

OTC26/11/1: Apologies for absence
Resolved: Apologies were received from Cllrs Rowland and Tyler

OTC26/11/2: Declarations of interest on items on the agenda
Resolved: None

OTC26/11/3: To approve the minutes of the OTC meeting on 5th October 2026
Resolved: Cllr Hillier proposed, Cllr Prosser seconded, that the minutes be approved. All voted in favour.

OTC26/11/4: To receive a Ward Councillors report
Ward Cllr Geary spoke regarding the One Stop crossing. The importance of improving the lighting at this location has been acknowledged as essential - this would form part of the revised plans for the redesigning of the crossing and the approach to it.

The issue of the 21 bus service was nearing resolution, with Grant Palmer taking on the service from Red Rose. Ward Cllr Geary noted the concerns of the resident in the public forum and would take this concern back to those responsible.

Finally, it was reported that the raised section of the A509 that bypasses Sherington would be closed for further investigative works, and that this closure would take place overnight on 7th and 8th December. Any eventual outcome and further scheduled works will not take place until the new financial year.
Resolved: Noted

Signed:

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OTC26/11/5: To receive a PCSO's report
Crime statistics for the period 01/09/2026-31/10/2026 had been provided as follows: 7 road related incidents, 8 reports of suspicious persons, 1 count of criminal damage, 6 assaults, 2 counts of shoplifting, 2 reports of anti-social behaviour, 4 thefts, 1 drug/drink driving related incident, 2 road traffic accidents and 1 suspicious other.
PCSO Hobson reminded councillors and residents that PCSO contact details are published in the Phonebox Magazine. PCSO Hobson urged shopkeepers to report all incidents of shoplifting on the DISC system and reminded residents not to leave items of value in their vehicles.
Resolved: Noted

OTC26/11/10: To receive a report from Chris Londy on setting up and Emergency Community Hub
Chris Londy, Head of Emergency Planning at MKCC, presented councillors with a Community Emergency Hub support pack, providing updated details of procedures that could be implemented when dealing with initial responses to emergency situations, such as fire, flood, cyber attacks, etc. Councillors present welcomed the support pack.
Resolved: Cllr Chennells proposed, and Cllr Whitworth seconded, that the town clerk make enquiries into the installation of a generator at one of the council-run community buildings, that we adopt the scheme and arrange training. All voted in favour.

OTC26/11/15: To receive an update from Cobbs Garden Surgery
Dr Chris Herman reported that investigative work continues into improving the provision of healthcare within the Olney community, following recent setbacks relating to both the identification of suitable sites/locations, and the allocation of funding to support such a project.
Resolved: Noted

OTC26/11/6: To receive an expenditure report and budget to date
Resolved: Cllr Shaw proposed, and Cllr Rodden seconded, that the expenditure report be approved. All voted in favour. Cllr Hillier proposed, and Cllr Prosser seconded, that the budget to date be approved. All voted in favour.

OTC26/11/7: To receive data results from the SIDs
Deputy Town Clerk reported figures as follows for September/October 2026: Yardley Road, 20mph (OMS, travelling northbound) – average speed of 27,862 vehicles was 18.92mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 23.5mph; Weston Road, 30mph (top end, travelling eastbound) – average speed of 52,250 vehicles was 25.31mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 29.2mph; Drift Way, 30mph (travelling eastbound) – average speed of 87,808 vehicles was 27.5mph, with 85% of speeds recorded at or below 32.8mph.
Resolved: Noted

OTC26/11/8: To receive an update on the river pollution and seasonal problems
Cllr Whitworth reported that phosphate and nitrate recordings are still poor, with recent rainfall likely to make the situation worse, given road and field run off. Cllr Whitworth reminded councillors present that at last month's council meeting that robust and bilingual

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signage and leaflets had been recommended, as well as recommending that adults and animals alike are advised to refrain from entering the river.
Regarding seasonal problems at the recreation ground, Cllr Whitworth reported that an advert to employ seasonal wardens had been placed in the Phonebox Magazine, whilst the town clerk reported that quotes had been received for extended provision of CCTV covering more of the recreation ground had been received.
Resolved: Cllr Shaw proposed, Cllr Tennant seconded, to approve the installation of additional CCTV and that the town clerk explore further CCTV options, covering both solar and trenched mains power options. All voted in favour.

OTC26/11/9: To consider altering the Complaints Policy wording
Resolved: Cllr Prosser proposed, and Cllr Hillier seconded, that the revised wording be adopted into the Complaints Policy. All voted in favour.

OTC26/11/11: To consider the Schedule of Charges 2027-28
Resolved: Cllr Bethune proposed, and Cllr Tennant seconded, to accept the Schedule of Charges 2027-28 subject to further committee considerations. All voted in favour.

OTC26/11/12: To consider the Draft Budget 2027-28
Resolved: Cllr Shaw proposed, and Cllr Whitworth seconded, to accept the draft budget, with amendments for the provision of approved spending on a revised Olney Neighbourhood Plan, and additional allocation of funding for the provision of security at the recreation ground and subject to further committee considerations. All voted in favour.

OTC26/11/13: To consider the request from Olney Cricket Club for advertising boards
Resolved: Cllr Whitworth proposed, and Cllr Hillier seconded, to approve the request. All voted in favour.

OTC26/11/14: To advise of the dates for BOFF 2027
Resolved: Dates of Friday 10th September 2027 through to Monday 13th September 2027 were noted.

OTC26/11/16: To discuss the future of Goosey
Resolved: Cllr Chennells proposed, and Cllr Bethune seconded, that a 12month tenancy be offered to the new interested party, subject to stockproof fencing being installed, and that it remains accessible to the public. Meanwhile, clerk to investigate rewilding possibilities for 12months time. All voted in favour.

The meeting closed at 8.44pm

Signed:

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