

OLNEY TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of Olney Town Council held at The Olney Centre on Monday 3rd February 2020 at 7.00pm

Present: Jeremy Rawlings, Deirdre Bethune, John Boardman, Stephen Clark, Paul Collins, Desmond Eley, Joanne Eley, Peter Geary, Graham Harrison, Malcolm Messenger, Dr Sally Pezaro, Colin Rodden, Chris Tennant, Kevin Viney.

In attendance: Andrea Vincent (Town clerk), Sarah Kennedy (Deputy Town Clerk)

Public Forum:

- A resident thanked OTC for putting Olney Sustainable Futures Group and Climate Emergency Group on the agenda.

OTC were informed of events they are going to be involved in, including Pancake Day. An Eco fair (refer Item 7).

Rewilding work continues with the help of the community. They now have 300 + members.

The rugby club is in discussions for a more sustainable strategy within their business model e.g. reducing use of plastic, ride sharing, solar panels and an energy audit will take place.

Discussions will continue. Any future decisions/strategies/plans will be submitted to Recs and Services meetings for further discussions/approval.

- An Olney resident raised concerns about the volume of traffic parking on kerbs in and around the East Street/Coneygere area especially at weekends. He suggested that the area should be patrolled on a regular basis.

He also raised the issue of housing affordability in Olney. He spoke of the affordable housing in Carlton.

Cllr Tennant and Cllr Geary pointed out that such schemes do exist in Olney and Sherington. Francis Jackson development will have affordable housing and a percentage of this will be available for local residents.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Debbie Whitworth

2. Declarations of interests on items on the agenda

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- Cllr Dr Sally Pezaro declared a personal interest in Item 11 as a member of Riverfest Committee
- Cllr Desmond Eley declared a personal interest as a member of Olney Rugby Club

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6th January 2020

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes once alterations were made.

4. To receive a statement from the Mayor

'Some Councillors have breached the code of conduct by discussing confidential matters with individual members of staff and with others. They have commented disrespectfully and incorrectly on member colleagues and staff by name outside the realm of confidential Council business. Some councillors have also been miss representing Council Policies and Decisions. This is a detriment to the Council as a whole and must cease.

Any reports including individuals' details will be placed on their personnel file which is appropriate.

In the same vein I have instructed Town Clerk to speak to staff to remind them that they are not to discuss council matters or individual councillors in or outside work in such a way as to be to the detriment of the Council (3.5 in the Handbook) as this will result in disciplinary action.'

RESOLVED: Any comments to be discussed with Mayor Cllr Rawlings directly

5. To agree date for the Town Meeting

RESOLVED: 24th April Friday, 7pm

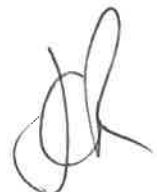
6. To approve the budget proposed by the Finance Committee for the new financial year

Cllr Collins presented the draft budget for FY 2020/21.

In the new financial year OTC will look at each area of revenue and benchmark against other councils.

RESOLVED: Budget approved for 2020/21. Finance Committee to ensure that we have clarity on the availability of Section 106 funds from April 2020.

7. **To discuss the Eco Fair proposal from the Climate Sustainability FB Group**
An Eco-Fair is in the process of being organised in The Olney Centre with a proposed date of Saturday April 18th. This will be a free event for Olney and surrounds which will involve various activities e.g. information on climate plans, waste and recycling, grow your own etc., repair station, food. The library will also be approached to be asked to participate.
RESOLVED: Approved subject to a working group being set up (OTC and Climate Sustainability FB Group) to discuss structure of proposal and present to OTC at March OTC meeting.
8. **To discuss the local business sponsorship**
The Town Clerk presented a letter from Michael Graham Estate Agents enquiring about local sponsorship opportunities for council-run events and has offered to assist with additional marketing.
RESOLVED: Noted
9. **To discuss the request from the Lions for Motorama 2020**
RESOLVED: Approval for access to the Market Place and adjacent roads from Saturday June 13th (late pm) through to Sunday 14th June 6.00pm
10. **To discuss the request from the Olney 7's**
Town Clerk has received an email from the Chairman of Olney Rugby Club with a request to use Doffs field for overnight camping and the Nursery Field for car parking for the Olney 7's event on 20th June 2020.
RESOLVED: Approved
11. **To discuss the request from the Riverfest 2020 group**
RESOLVED: Use of fields is approved pending immediate removal of a raft from last year's raft race.
12. **To receive a letter of thanks from the Lions**
RESOLVED: Noted



13. To discuss the OTC VE day plans

RBL Chairman attended the meeting to discuss current plans for VE day May 8th 2020.

Cllr Clark suggested that the beacon should be lit as has happened in previous years.

Cllr J Eley said that that the Secretary of the Church is waiting to see what OTC are planning. She suggested bringing forward the armed forces lunch day.

RESOLVED: All parties work together; OTC (through Town Clerk), Church, RBL and report back to Council next OTC meeting.

14. To receive a report from the Town Clerk

Town Clerk report dated 3rd February 2020.

RESOLVED: Report noted

15. To agree the Town Clerk Management process

Town Clerk to be managed by 3 Councillors with no conflict/ties to other.

Mayor needs to be separate to be independent.

RESOLVED: Cllr Pezaro agreed to be the 3rd Councillor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JR' or similar, located in the bottom right corner of the page.

16. To approve Exclusive Rights of Burial and Memorials

RESOLVED: approved

17. To receive reports from Representatives of Outside Bodies

Cllr Geary MK East stakeholder group - SPD adopted at meeting this week. Funding – will be in budget 11th March.

18. To approve the schedule of payments

Olney Town Council
Expenses by Supplier Summary
January 2020

	<u>Total</u>
Adept Telecom	48.82
Allotment Association	6,000.00
Andrew Griffin	99.00
Aqua Jet Maintenance Services Ltd	182.50
Bucks LGPS	2,158.53
Buildbase Civils & Lintels	75.41
C T Wilson & Son	42.30
Carlton House Club	60.75
CF Corporate Financial Limited	84.63
Dave Boddy Electrical	1,311.80
DT Fixing Services Limited	185.00
Dyno	130.00
ESPO	318.77
ESPO Energy	1,472.60
Ethos (formerly Walters)	105.98
Greg Hardie Roofing	280.00
Haines Watts	400.00
HMRC PAYE	1,765.12
ICT Partners Europe Ltd	270.00
J & H Craig	590.00
JRB Enterprise Ltd (Mutts Buts)	391.00
Katara Ltd	27.00
M K Occupational Health Ltd	150.00
Marcus Young Landscapes Ltd	830.00
MKALC	118.00
MKC	157.50
Mr George Moss	240.00
Mr Tim Hoy	98.00
Mrs Leanne Ward	3,432.00
Office Furniture Online	732.00
Staffing Salaries	8,278.64
Napier Parking Ltd	153.35
SLCC	319.00
South Central Ambulance Service	480.00
Total Gas & Power	428.65
Wards of Olney	3,360.00
TOTAL	<u><u>3,360.00</u></u>
	£ 32,741.25

RESOLVED: approved



19. Members Matters

- Cllr Harrison highlighted the parking issues at Timpson's Row at weekends when football is held at the Rec pointing out that the road signs make little difference to deterring parking in and around the street.
- Cllr Harrison said the new LED lights have failed up on Aspreys and Cllr Geary suggested that this could possibly be the sensors in the lights and not the bulbs. This needs to be reported to MK Council to look into.
- Cllr Geary – reports 2050 impacts on this area. Idea to have on agenda for next meeting. Town Clerk to send link round to everybody to read and look at it prior to meeting. Need to be looked at. Need to write a response. Map Inc. for potential areas before April.
- Cllr Rodden bench at top of Weston road has been removed will be put back after restoration.
- Cllr D Eley - Electrics Market Place. Cllr D Eley to call Eon.
- Cllr Rodden – toilets on Market Place in need of air freshener.
Cllr D Eley - £40/50k do the public wish for money to be spent elsewhere
Feedback from public on projects required.



- Cllr Viney – grass cutting in cemetery. Is there a plan in place to recruit an additional member of staff for summer months? Town Clerk explained that existing groundsman staff will be cutting grass in cemetery. Any other queries to go to Recs and Services meetings.
- Cllr D Eley attended a meeting with the Cricket Club and gained specific, detailed knowledge on how ground should be treated and requirements for fertilisers. Cross linked for bio diversity plans with Fiona to adjust biodiversity plan accordingly. JUG (Joint users' group) to take place and agenda to also include CCTV installation at Rec.
- Cllr D Eley – Caveman Conditioning now have planning permission. Solicitors to start negotiations on lease.
- Cllr S Clark – Resident has lots of archival material which holds lots of historical links in Olney. Currently stored at residents house. A secure facility for documents needs to be sourced. Possibilities raised were Emberton Historical Society or the archive located at the Museum in Milton Keynes.
- Cllr D Eley Steel container to be purchased to be put next to the compound. This will be an agenda item at the next Recs and Services meeting.

20. To consider exclusion of Public and Press Representatives pursuant to the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 on the basis that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

RESOLVED: To exclude the press and public on the grounds of the confidential business to be transacted.

21. To discuss an HR expenditure request

- Town Clerk informed Cllrs of an increase in Deputy Town Clerks working hours
- HR committee have contracted a HR Consultancy firm, Crispin Rhodes to assist OTC with day to day HR operational matters.

- Town Clerk to send around details of training courses. Cllrs to contact Town Clerk if they wish to attend.

Hawkins
9/3/20