

Minutes of the meeting of Olney Town Council

Held at The Olney Centre

on Monday 2 September 2019 at 7.30 pm

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

In attendance: Andrea Vincent Town Clerk

Public Forum:

There were a number of people in the public forum two wished to speak.

Both Katrine Rose and Sarah Michoelvic spoke in detail of their support for a Climate Emergency Plan

1. **Apologies for absence,** Deirdre Bethune, John Boardman, (Reason Holidays and family matters accepted)

2. **Declarations of interests on items on the agenda**

Cllr Tenant declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 5 as he is a friend of the teacher requesting the grant

Both Cllr Rawlings and Cllr Rodden declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 5 as they are school governors or associates of school governors.

RESOLVED: Conflicts noted and should a conflict of interest arise during the meeting it would be declared.

3. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12th August 2019**

C R. queried the legal costs and clarification was given that the £4000 paid earlier in the year was for the surrender document for the Football Club.

Any costs relating to the lease are entirely separate.

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes

4. **To consider letter from resident re Safety of Bathing at Olney Riverside**

Discussed widely, there were mixed views about swimming in the river. It was noted that Olney Events run the Raft Race not the Council. That whilst not

encouraging swimming the Council it is clear as land owners of the bank that there is a responsibility and the Council has put up signage and a life buoy on the bank. The parks trust has a water policy which could be investigated.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk write to the resident explaining the above and to email the Slow Swimming group to inform them that their event is agreed in principle if it doesn't contravene the future Water Policy. The Town Clerk was asked to investigate with the Parks Trust and bring a proposal for a Water Policy to full council in due course.

5. To consider a grant application for a school program

Discussed and it was raised that 1/3 of all sec 106 monies go to schools, but clarified that is for capital projects only. Councillors' wanted greater information about the program.

RESOLVED: To invite the teacher applicant to the next meeting with unlimited time to speak and for her to provide information in advance

6. Emergency Plan

RESOLVED: Town Clerk to draft and present to next meeting.

7. Climate Emergency Plan

Discussed between points 3 and 4

CT reported on the work of the working party and proposed that the Council declare a climate emergency. This would be in line with Milton Keynes Council and others.

A wide discussion was had both in support and those who felt that there was not a consensus on there being an emergency. Questions were raised about costing of changes and CT explained this was a policy direction. PG joined the meeting and stated he is on the Sustainability Policy group for Milton Keynes Council and will feed information into OTC.

CT formally proposed that OTC declare a Climate Emergency.

Those in favour 9 those against 2 with one abstention

RESOLVED: to declare a Climate Emergency

8. VE Day Update

There is a need to refresh what we wish to do about marking the day.

The pack with information was distributed in July.

RESOLVED: The Town Clerk is to resend the information from July

9. List of Outstanding Actions

There was discussion about the items on the list, those relating to Recs and Services DE will pursue with the Clerk when appropriate.

Some discussion about ownership of actions and if there should be a system of urgency such as a traffic light system.

10. To approve Exclusive Rights of Burials and Memorials

PG – declared an interest as he had known one of those on the list

RESOLVED: To agree all those on the list

11. To receive reports from Representatives of Outside Bodies

SC – Attends regular meetings about Emberton Park

There was some discussion about large groups at the Park PG explained that MKC are looking to create a strategy for the Park and PLUG will have an important role in that work.

KV – Reported that he has emailed Rosie Armstrong re the Public Rights of way for the Goosey and signage

PG – Reported that MKC are going back to contractors to make good the path on the Goosey. Also, that MKC will be coming out to discuss with OTC about dog fouling, dropped curbs and public protection orders. With regards to the posts at the Goosey a team of Councillors will inspect the works. DE queried the footpath to Western Road where there is no surface water drainage. PG explained MKC will go back to that. KV raised the issue of pollution monitoring and agreed to discuss this out with the meeting.

PG- Reported the posts and the black bin are being reinstated.

JE – Reported from the Olney Community Forum that the PSO had raised the issue of Public Protection orders and the need for signage for enforcement.

GH – Raised the issue of the amount of rubbish on the swimming steps after good weather.

12. To approve the schedule of payments

Queries raised

DE – Payment to Ann Hopkins Smith Charity – relates to rental payment for recreational land

CR – The payment to the company that empty the dog bins

RESOLVED: To approve the schedule of payments

13. Members Matters

JE- Request the removal of the wreaths from the memorial in the Market Place

CT - Raised the matter of bench posts exposed pending the bench repair.

Damaged tree in Johnsons Field and informed the Council that he will take the issue of litter piking in Emberton Park to PLUG

PG – The Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) Bid was wrongly reported in the Phone Box and will be corrected. His view is that he would rather no building in that area.

CT – requested a ½ year update PC agreed to provide an up date

KV – has a collection box for Tony Evans in the office safe for all those who would like to contribute to a gift.

JR + SP expressed their thanks to Tony Evans for his hard work for the Council

DE- Requested an update with GSI maps and clarification on the MKC Landscaping contract SC added that clarification was needed on small pockets of land.

Fireworks, the Olney Group wish to have a firework display on 3rd November on the Rec.

RESOLVED: To give permission to the Olney Group to use the Rec for the display

14.

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 Public and Press pursuant to the above.

All minutes below are confidential and consequently to be printed on Red paper and not to be open to anyone other than the Councillors and the Town Clerk.

15. HR issues related to individuals

DRAFT