

# OLNEY TOWN COUNCIL



## Minutes of the meeting of Recs & Services held via MS Teams Monday 19th October 2020 at 7.00pm

**Present:** Cllrs' Desmond Eley, Jeremy Rawlings, Stephen Clark, Paul Collins, Peter Geary, Colin Rodden, Graham Harrison, Paul Collins

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

### Public Forum

**There was one item from a member of the public.**

- 1) I understand there is a Recs and Services Committee meeting to be held on Monday 19th October and I would like to put a request forward for an additional dog bin to be sited in Church Street please.

When dog walkers have completed a walk across the meadows and come onto Church Street via the gate at the Mill House and past St Peter & Paul's Church, there isn't a dog bin on the route at all until you reach the one situated at the side of Willow Veterinary Practice (which you have to cross the road for). I have seen dog walkers putting their dog waste bags in the normal waste bins outside Michael Graham Estate Agents which isn't ideal. If one could be situated somewhere along Church Street that would be very helpful and it would also be easily accessed by the dog waste bin disposal team. I am aware that there is a bin if you pass through the church yard before you reach High St South, however if you continue to walk along Church Street there isn't a bin available. I hope this request will be granted.

**Resolved:** Dog Bins are going to be discussed at Item 6.

### 1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Messenger

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

NB During the meeting if it becomes apparent that you have an interest in an item being discussed this must be declared immediately.

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**Resolved:** None declared

**3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**Resolved:** Approved.

**4. To discuss the maintenance and redecoration of The Olney Centre with a view to adopting a planned maintenance schedule.**

Cllr Eley proposed that the office make operational decisions on urgent repairs e.g. Pre-school roof and plan for Room 2 (prime wedding venue room) to be redecorated and to then provide a planned maintenance schedule at the next Recs & Services meeting. Cllr Clark seconded the proposal.

If the scheduled works estimated costs exceeds £10,000.00 the schedule will go to an OTC meeting for approval.

Cllr Collins added that within this year's budget we have £20,000.00 allocated for maintenance. In addition, we have other reserves (for The Olney Centre) which currently stands at £43,000.00.

**Resolved:** Approved

**5. To discuss the play areas in the town and to receive a report on the ownership of the individual areas.**

Cllr Eley pointed out that S106 monies is scheduled to be used in providing additional facilities to the Johnson field and Whirly Pits play areas. We have put in a request to MKC to understand how much S106 monies we have to spend and are now awaiting a response.

Cllr Geary stated the responsibility for maintenance, repair and inspections of play areas is that of MKC.

The Town Clerk said that a meeting is scheduled with the Strategic Landscape and Countryside Manager from MKC along with another representative from MKC who can answer any questions OTC have with regards to the spending of S106 monies.

Cllr Clark discussed the play area at Dagnell Road and the poor state of the equipment. No swing seats remain on the swing frame and the playground has

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been in this condition for some time. Cllr Clark reported these issues via email to MKC and has never had a response. Cllr Clark requested that next time an inspection is carried out, that this play area be looked at.

**Resolved:** Awaiting meeting with MKC will then report back to Recs & Services

**6. To receive a map of dog bins in the Town and to review where there may need to be others (in newer areas of the town?) together with costings.**

Cllr Clark supported the idea of installing an additional bin in the Church Street location and suggested responding to the local resident (see public forum comment) by sending a map of other bins in proximity to assist.

Cllr Geary suggested putting an additional bin near to Sainsbury's/Osiers Way due to the new developments in that area of town. S106 monies could contribute to the costings.

The Town Clerk suggested asking local businesses e.g. vets, to sponsor a new dog bin.

**Resolved:** Cllr Eley proposed to put in additional bins when S106 money becomes available. Existing bins to be utilised as is and monitored. Cllr Rawlings seconded the proposal and the motion was carried unanimously.

It was also suggested that the dog bin map be put onto OTC's website. There is a dog bin map on the website under 'facilities'.

**7. To review the Colts request of OTC as landlord to put in a planning application for further flood lights (as resolved at OTC Full Council October meeting)**

Cllr Eley, prior to this meeting, sent some background information for this item to Cllr Tennant (Chairman of Development) and Cllr Clark (Chairman of Planning) for feedback.

The Colts are seeking feedback from OTC prior to submitting a planning application to MKC.

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Cllr Rodden queried whether the local residents have been consulted regarding the plans and suggested that existing pitches in other locations need to be utilised to maximum capacity.

Cllr Rawlings supports the lights but only if they pointed away from houses. He was concerned about further light pollution in the town.

Cllr Geary suggested that the light pollution issues will be expertly assessed by the planning team at MKC.

The Town Clerk said that a resident in Timpson's Row had emailed asking that someone from the Colts contact him to discuss various aspects re the lights. He has some professional knowledge in lighting.

Cllr Clark stated that the Planning Committee will also be reviewing this application and if necessary, will request additional conditions to be added. Any planning comments will be submitted at a later stage.

Cllr Harrison declared an interest (as a resident of Timpson's Row) on this item, although is not personally affected. He requested that the lights face away from Timpson's Row.

**Resolved:** Cllr Eley proposed to agree in principal and that The Colts to go head and apply for planning. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Clark. The proposal was agreed.

Town Clerk to forward email about the lights to The Colts for further follow up.

### 8. To review the allotment agreements

Cllrs' Eley and Harrison declared an interest in this item having spouses that are allotment holders.

The Town Clerk proposed that any allotments with over 40 poles will be reduced from October 2021. In addition, the maximum that any one allotment holder can have is 30 poles to reduce the waiting list. 12 months' notice has been given to those that this affects.

**Resolved:** Cllr Eley seconded the proposal. Agreed unanimously.

### 9. To review the future use of the allotment field land

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Cllr Eley pointed out that, as yet, there has been no council resolution for the use of the allotment field land.

The Colts have requested to have a couple of additional junior training pitches on this field. Cllr Eley pointed out that for match pitches MKC look stringently at the parking facilities. He was not sure whether the same applies for training pitches.

The Town Clerk added that there has also been a proposal from the Allotment Association that the field also be used as an orchard. Cllr Eley pointed out that there is plenty of room to accommodate both.

Change of use for the land is required in the form of a planning application.

All Cllrs' expressed concern over the lack of car parking facilities for the proposed additional football pitches.

**Resolved:** Cllr Eley proposed to investigate the planning conditions on the field and to gauge MKC views and comments on parking. To then liaise with the Development Group to lead on the strategic planning.

### 10. To discuss obtaining a full tree survey.

The Town Clerk pointed out that the reason for obtaining a full tree survey is to be covered by our insurers and to minimise any potential risk.

**Resolved:** Cllr Eley proposed that OTC gain 3 quotes to carry out a full tree survey within the areas of land that OTC own and then to discuss in detail once we have this information. Cllr Rawlings seconded the proposal. All Cllrs' voted in favour.

### 11. To discuss the compound roof maintenance quote

**Resolved:** To go ahead with the repairs to the compound roof once 3 quotes have been reviewed and approved by the Recs & Services Committee. Immediate action has been taken to clear the roof of leaves and debris because the leak that this has caused is affecting the electrics within the compound.

### 12. To discuss the chipper and evaluate its usefulness and the possible purchase of a shredder.

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The chipper we currently have is inappropriate for the work that is currently carried out by the Ground Staff. It has been considered to trade our chipper for a shredder. One quote received is £8000.

Cllr Geary suggested looking at the capacity and gaining quotes for a mounted shredder. He offered also to meet with suppliers to consider the options. He also suggested that we consider looking at hiring the equipment as opposed to purchasing it.

**Resolved:** Cllr Eley proposed to gain additional quotes and investigate alternative options to bring back to Recs & Services for a resolution.

Cllr Clark suggested that a Recs & Services reconvene in the near future to resolve the issues in a timely manner. Cllr Eley agreed that needs to be the case and the he and the Town Clerk will put together a date for the next meeting once some of the actions have been completed from this meeting.

### **13. To review the management of EROB's in the Cemetery**

The Town Clerk explained that to transfer of Exclusive Rights of Burial is a lengthy administrative process for the office that we do not currently charge for. Many other Councils charge for this service.

**Resolved:** Cllr Eley proposed to charge £100 for this service. All Cllrs agreed.

### **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 contracted.**

**Resolved:** Cllr Clark seconded the proposal. All in favour.

Cllr Eley closed the public part of the meeting.

### **15. To update on Legal matters pertaining to leases**

A report was received on the progress with the lease for the former Football Club Building.

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A report on the licence for the Pre-School at the Olney Centre was received

**Resolved:** a) To continue to work with the legal team to facilitate the swift resolution on the Former Football Club Building b) To create a 5-year licence for the Pre-School in partnership with the Pre-School to begin on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, based on RPI rate increase.

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Signed: Cllr D Eley, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2020