

OLNEY TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of Olney Town Council held at The Olney Centre on Monday 4th July 2022 at 7pm

Present: Cllrs Brown (Chairman), Aldred, Bethune, Brock, Geary, Prosser, Rodden, Stokes, Varley and Whitworth

In attendance: Jane Brushwood, town clerk and 4 members of the public

Public Forum: No members of the public wished to speak.

OTC22/07/1: Apologies for absence, received from Cllrs Geach, Hall, Rowland and Tennant, and Ward Councillors McLean and Hosking.

OTC22/07/2: Declarations of interests on items on the agenda

No declarations of interests were received

OTC22/07/3: To approve the minutes of the OTC Meeting held 6th June 2022 and the Extraordinary Meeting held 13th June 2022

Resolved: Cllr Brock proposed, Cllr Whitworth seconded, that both sets of minutes be approved, all in favour.

OTC22/07/4: To receive a Ward Councillors report

Cllr Geary thanked council for the opportunity to attend in the capacity of Ward Councillor, it's the first time in 14 years that they have been formally invited, as other parishes meet on the first Monday of the month, all three WCs would not always be able to attend.

With regards to the path from Yardley Manor estate to Ousedale School, the works do include the streetlights to be sited at the back of the path but as the lights must remain useable and the new columns are not yet available, it was considered the best use of labour to take this temporary approach, WC's will ensure the job is completed satisfactorily.

The work to acquire the site for an increased doctor's surgery is progressing, it is commercially sensitive but looking positive, further updates will be given at the next meeting. MKE will be an issue to Olney for the next 15 years, in the next few weeks the A509 between the M1 and the double roundabout will be closed for 2 weeks, then again around October for 6 months, WCs have challenged the need for this and will keep updating.

OTC22/07/5: To receive a PCSO's report

Unfortunately, one isn't available, Cllr Brown updated council that he and the clerk had attended a very positive meeting with the neighbourhood team, who confirmed that they have 1 PC and 3 PCSOs to cover all the rural areas from Newport Pagnell to the county boundaries, they advised employing and training a member of OTC's own staff to police the town, the necessary requirements are being forwarded and an update will be issued.

OTC22/07/6: To receive an expenditure report and budget to date

Resolved: the reports were noted

OTC22/07/7: To receive reports from Councillors who represent at external meetings

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Parishes Forum - was attended by Cllr Brown and Cllr Whitworth who reported that Adele Wearing stated that public transport no longer received any government funding, MK Connect was growing with 50/50 reports of its approval, the number 21 bus has problems. The wheelie bin replacements are being set up; they are happy to come to the market to introduce the scheme.

North East Community Forum – was also attended by Cllr Whitworth who reported that the new interim Head of Highways, Graham Cox was there to encourage all parishes to set up Speedwatch. Letters are sent to drivers who break the speed limit, additionally, relevant data will trigger the deployment of the speed vans in appropriate places, truvelo strips will be the next means of data collection.

It was also agreed that a SABA member would report into the office to get an indication for the areas most in need of management.

PLUG – was attended by Cllr Bethune who reported that Emberton Park are continuing to re-wild areas. They are to trial shutting two gates to prevent traffic from driving all the way round, with the fishermen only to have access. It was also reported that the park manager, Sam Flowers, was awarded for saving someone's life, he is a great asset to the park.

OTC22/07/8: To review the updated Standing Orders

Resolved: Cllr Varley proposed that as two versions were being updated, they be combined and the result be brought back to council in August, all in favour.

OTC22/07/9: To review the Employment Policy and Procedures

Resolved: To be taken to HR 18th July then back to FC in August, all in favour.

OTC22/07/10: To review the updated Risk Assessment

Cllr Aldred was thanked for all the work he put into this document, he would continue to review, identify and translate for each committee or office to action.

Resolved: Cllr Brown proposed, Cllr Whitworth seconded, that council adopt the document, formally reviewing it every 6 months, all in favour.

OTC22/07/11: To receive the S106 proposals and to decide the policy on proceeding.

Resolved: Cllr Brown proposed, Cllr Geary seconded, that each committee scrutinise proposed S106 spending, for ratification at Full Council, all in favour.

OTC22/07/12: To review committee memberships

Cllr Prosser will attend further committees to decide which she would like to be a member of. Cllr Geach requested to be a member of all committees.

Resolved: Cllr Brown proposed, Cllr Geary seconded, that Cllr Prosser report back which she would like to join and Cllr Geach be a member of all committees.

OTC22/07/13: To discuss the recreation ground

Large numbers of visitors create problems that won't go away, we need to learn to manage it or even capitalise on it. Charge for parking inappropriately, charge for food vendors to create revenue to cover for costs of clearing up, for increased security attendance from 6pm.

Resolved: Cllr Brock proposed, Cllr Bethune seconded, that the white lines be repainted in the car park to encourage correct usage of the spaces, all in favour.

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OTC22/07/14: To confirm grant applications agreed by Finance committee

Resolved: Cllr Brown proposed, Cllr Brock seconded, to approve the application from the pre-school, all in favour.

OTC22/07/15: 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 Varley proposed, Cllr Whitworth seconded, that public and press be excluded from the meeting, all in favour.

OTC22/07/16: An update on personnel matters

Rob Munham has been appointed as Deputy Clerk, we were lucky enough to have several excellent applicants who we would be happy to work with, but Rob stood out and we're looking forward to him starting 1st August.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Next Meeting 7pm 1st August 2022