

OLNEY TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of **Olney Town Council held** at The Olney Centre on **Monday 1st August 2022 at 7pm**

Present: Cllrs Brown (Chairman), Bethune, Geary, Hall, Prosser, Stokes, Varley and Whitworth

In attendance: Jane Brushwood, Town Clerk, Rob Mungham, Deputy Clerk, WC Hosking and 10 members of the public

Public Forum: A resident from the Fishing Club stated that he was impressed with the council after last Tuesday's meeting and felt that only the police could do anything to resolve the issues at the rec. He stated that to charge for parking at the East Street car park would be the worst decision for the sake of 16 days of problems, the rest of the year will result in complaints and won't stop irresponsible parking.

Another resident reported the state of the blocked drains in Long Lane and asked if the proposed 4 wheeled bins per house is coming into force. Ward Councillor Geary was allowed to respond that they had written about it in the Phonebox some months ago that it had been trialed for some 2 years in other parts of MK, there are other options available but concerned residents need to discuss their options with MKC. It had proved to be very successful in other parts of MK and the country.

OTC22/08/1: Apologies for absence, received from Cllrs Aldred, Brock, Rodden, Rowland and Tennant, and Ward Councillor McLean.

OTC22/08/2: Declarations of interests on items on the agenda

No declarations of interest were received.

OTC22/08/3: To approve the minutes of the OTC Meeting held 4th July 2022

Resolved: Cllr Varley proposed, Cllr Brown seconded that the minutes of 4th July be approved, all in favour.

OTC22/08/14: To review proposals on the recreation ground

Cllr Brown recommended to bring item 14 forward to allow the invited guest to speak. Matt Croft from Napier introduced his company as owner of many car parks since 2006 have been managing for other owners. The company submitted a basic proposal that would see them invest in repairing the area, installing the necessary equipment to generate an income for the town, they would be responsible for the running costs, attending and litter picking the car park. They would require a 5year fixed term contract to cover the set-up costs, trial the project for the long term. Based on 365 days pa, using coin or card machine or pay by phone, exemptions can apply, OTC to manage logins on-line, Napier are happy to do a trial period.

Resolved: Cllr Stokes proposed, Cllr Whitworth seconded that in the short term we charge for parking on hot summer days, 5 in favour, 3 abstentions

Resolved: Cllr Brown further proposed, Cllr Stokes seconded that R&Ss take on the task to manage the project, all in favour except 1 abstention.

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Cllr Stokes reported that as a short term solution, volunteers to set up at the main entrances to discourage visitors from taking alcohol and bbqs, security has increased their patrols, pictorial signs have been created to further explain the rules. Some visitors did put back items in their car, we need to stop the problem at source. It is a town problem and once RA is in place it's hoped that the town will contribute.

It was reported that cctv will be installed early September, the sports clubs have opted in for additional cameras which reduces the cost for everyone and covers from East Street to the river.

Clerk to contact JUG to obtain their fixtures lists and remind everyone that the gate must be kept closed at all times or marshalled if there is a real need to use it.

OTC22/08/4: To receive a Ward Councillors report

Ward Cllr Hosking thanked the mayor for the first opportunity in his 8 years as a Ward Councillor to report to Olney Town Council.

Last month the road closures were highlighted at the A509 from J14 would be in place until March 2023, they had been working with Highways to implement longer working days, thereby reducing the closure time required.

The Whirly Pit roundabout works are planned for 15th August to improve visibility and pedestrian safety, there would be day time closures and traffic lights by night to finish in around 2 weeks.

The new waste and recycling bins are expected to be in place in Olney around Autumn 2023, for some residents 4 bins will not be suitable, MKC will work with residents for a best solution.

Cllr Hosking was asked if parking at the electric vehicle points will be enforced yet, he replied no, there is just the need to install them first.

Cllr Brown thanked Cllr Hosking for intervening to ensure there was just one election, rather than the possible 2 that may have happened.

Cllr Hosking further confirmed that alternative options for the 4 wheeled bins could be boxes or shared bins for smaller properties or brown bags for garden and food waste.

OTC22/08/5: To receive a PCSO's report

No report was available.

OTC22/08/6: To receive an expenditure report and budget to date

The reports were to be forwarded by the clerk

OTC22/08/7: To receive reports from Councillors who represent at external meetings

The clerk attended the PLUG meeting and reported that an ecologist had conducted extensive very interesting studies.

The mayor and some councillors had attended the launch of AG250 at the Cowper & Newton Museum, celebrating 250 years of Amazing Grace, it was the start of lots of interesting events.

OTC22/08/8: To review the updated Standing Orders

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Resolved: Cllr Brown proposed, Cllr Bethune seconded that each committee to make their own recommendations for the number of members for the May 2023 meeting and accept the amendments as discussed, all in favour.

OTC22/08/9: To review the Employment Policy and Procedures

Resolved: Cllr Brown proposed, Cllr Whitworth seconded that the Employment Policy and Procedures be accepted, all in favour

OTC22/08/10: To receive updates on S106 spending

It was reported that the MUGA is on track for installation in September.

One quote had been received for the resurfacing of the track to the allotments, which fell within the S106 funding allowance, further quotes were needed.

OTC22/08/11: To consider requesting Speed Cameras from the CIF.

Resolved: Cllr Brown proposed, Cllr Whitworth seconded that the clerk apply to the CIF for SIDs to be purchased once the next agenda has been set.

OTC22/08/12: To receive a report on weeds in gutters

Clerk had discussions with MKC waste services, who would deal with weeds in the gutters, they are trialling various ways to tackle the problem and avoiding using weedkiller. The street cleaners can do some by using a hoe, but often cars are in the way. They suggest getting volunteers.

Clerk also talked to MKC highways who advised that a major cost is getting the team out to Olney, when they arrive, they cannot access drains because of cars parked over or around them. They suggested closing one side of the High Street on one day and the other the next.

Resolved: Cllr Brown proposed, Cllr Whitworth seconded to support Highways to implement the drainage works, all but 1 in favour.

OTC22/08/13: To review proposal from the Allotment Association

Cllr Brown read a summary of information from BALC, 12 months notice would have to be given to all plot holders, GDPR is an issue, we would still have liabilities and legal obligations but should it go ahead, we would need to put a break clause in and take back if necessary.

Resolved: Cllr Brown proposed, Cllr Geary seconded that Cllr Varley take the lead with Cllr Whitworth and office to discuss further.

OTC22/08/15: To receive an update on the Astro Project

Cllr Stokes requested the item be taken after item 17 due to sensitive information coming to light.

OTC22/08/16: To review the skatepark proposal

Cllr Stokes has been in discussions with residents, there are plenty of team sports available within the town and skate parks are also used by families and now an Olympic event.

The location will need planning permission, consulting with residents, depending on type, possible soundproofing.

Resolved: Cllr Stokes proposed, Cllr Varley seconded that the office to be authorised to investigate further costs, location, running costs and fund raising, within the S106 limitations, and return with a proposal, all in favour.

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OTC22/08/17: 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 Brown proposed, Cllr Bethune seconded that the public be excluded, all in favour

The meeting closed at 9.05pm