



## Ottery St Mary Town Council

Minutes of the ORDINARY MEETING OF Full Council Meeting held on **Monday 07 October 2024** at **19:00**. The meeting was held in the **Ottery St. Mary Town Council (8 Broad Street, Ottery St. Mary, Devon, EX11 1BZ)**

Present: Cllrs Richard Grainger (Mayor), Dean Stewart (Deputy Mayor), Peter Faithfull, Vicky Johns, Nick Sneller, Matt Williamson and Janice Aherne  
In Attendance: Kerry Kennell (Town Clerk), DCC Cllr Jess Bailey and one member of the public  
Minute Taker: Kerry Kennell, Town Clerk

### **C24/10/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Green, Copus, Lucas, Feasey and EDDC Cllr Collins.

### **C24/10/02 DECLARATIONS AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

To receive Declarations of interest for items on the Agenda and receipt of requests for new Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) dispensations for items on the Agenda

Cllr Sneller	No interests declared.
Cllr Williamson	Agenda item 13 – Cllr Williamson declared an NRI.
Cllr Faithfull	Agenda item 13 – Cllr Faithfull asked that it be noted that he has attended a meeting regarding Tipton St John Primary School.
Cllr Aherne	Agenda item 13 – Cllr Aherne declared an NRI.
Cllr Johns	Agenda item Cllr Johns declared an Affects NRI as a supporter of the veterans.
Cllr Stewart	No interests declared.
Cllr Grainger	No interests declared.

### **C24/10/03 ADMISSION TO MEETINGS**

In consideration of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted): to agree any items to be dealt with after the public and press have been excluded

There were none.

### **C24/10/04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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To allow members of the public present to submit questions/comments for consideration  
Individual contributions will be limited to 3 minutes

There was nothing raised.

#### **C24/10/05 MINUTES**

To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of 2nd September 2024 (*minute refs C/24/09/01-C/24/09/25*) and Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council of 16th September 2024 (*minute refs C/24/09/26-C/24/09/33*) and to approve the signing of the Minutes by the Mayor as a true record of the meeting.

The minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 were reviewed and signed by the Mayor as a true record of the meeting. The minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024 were reviewed and signed by the Mayor as a true record of the meeting.

#### **C24/10/06 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE EDDC AND DCC COUNCILLORS**

(if any)

EDDC Cllr Faithfull has been attending the Strategic Planning meetings at EDDC. It was noted that neither Cllr Faithfull nor Cllr Johns voted in relation to Site Otry\_01 as they do not sit on the EDDC Strategic Planning Committee but both did speak against the proposal from the Council. Cllr Faithfull confirmed that the shortfall in housing numbers is in addition to the proposed new town.

EDDC Cllr Johns sent a written report. It was noted that Cllr Johns does not sit on EDDC Strategic Planning and changed the wording in her report from 'voted' to 'objected' in relation to Site Otry\_01.

EDDC Cllr Collins sent a written report.

*It was AGREED that DCC Cllr Bailey could give her report when she arrived.*

#### **C24/10/07 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

To note the Minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 (*minute refs P/24/09/01-P/24/09/10*)

The minutes of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 were noted.

#### **C24/10/08 OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

A. To note the Minutes of the 24th September 2024 (*minute refs O24/09/01 - O24/09/17*)

The minutes of 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024 were noted.

It was AGREED that the Clerk will go back to Cardinus to question rebuild values and how they are worked out.

#### **C24/10/09 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENT TAKING PLACE ON WEDNESDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2024 FROM 4PM UNTIL 7PM**

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The Community Engagement event is taking place at the Council Offices. All Councillors were invited to drop in. The event will be advertised to the wider community.

#### **C24/10/10 TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK FROM THE EDDC STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING**

Cllr Grainger attended the EDDC Strategic Planning Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024. No decisions were made – sites were discussed and EDDC 'moved on' unless everyone was in agreement to progress a site. Cllr Grainger put forward the view that Otry\_01 should be considered which provided a strategic solution rather than alternative sites in the parish. In her EDDC capacity Cllr Johns objected to the proposal. Cllr Johns had discovered that other Councils had proposed similar sites but EDDC have clarified that any new sites proposed cannot be instead of the proposed sites but would be in addition to them. It was noted that there is a need for one bedroomed properties in Ottery.

#### **C24/10/11 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE (IF APPROPRIATE) RESCISSION OF MOTION C/24/09/31**

Motion C/24/09/31 is that Otry\_01 will be put forward to EDDC for consideration as a site that should be considered INSTEAD of other sites in Ottery.

*A member of the public joined the meeting.*

There was a lengthy discussion. It was noted that most residents who were present at the Extraordinary Council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> September were impacted by the proposed development. The Neighbourhood Plan which was voted for by 1,305 parishioners in 2017 indicated the views of the wider community. The Council recognise the importance of protecting the green wedge between Ottery St Mary and West Hill. It was **RESOLVED** that motion C/24/09/31 is rescinded. *Cllrs Grainger and Stewart voted against this.*

*DCC Cllr Bailey joined the meeting.*

It was noted that the Council feel that EDDC does need to be more strategic in its solutions to the housing needs across the district

#### **C24/10/12 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE EDDC AND DCC COUNCILLORS**

DCC Cllr Bailey has been speaking to Katherine Moore who is a principal engineer at DCC regarding the Coleridge Bridge. DCC have involved an expert from Exeter University to help with the modelling around the erosion of the pier. DCC are still in discussions with the Environment Agency and have provided some answers to questions raised to try and overcome their concerns. There is a lead time of three months to replace the top of the bridge which cannot be completed until the pier is secured. The Mayor appreciates the involvement of DCC and their Bridges Team to resolve this problem. It was noted that all bridges are inspected by DCC every two years. It was raised with Cllr Bailey about the erosion of wheel chair access and lack of maintenance of the Millenium Bridge.

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Cllr Bailey has asked the DCC Children's Scrutiny Committee to discuss Tipton St John School situation and this has been included on their agenda for 11<sup>th</sup> November. Cllr Bailey highlighted that this had not been discussed by the committee for the last 3 ½ years.

Cllr Bailey will be objecting to development at Salston as the application does not provide a safe walking route to Ottery Town Centre.

Cllr Bailey was asked when the 20mph zone will be implemented.

**C24/10/13 TO CONSIDER THE CONDITION OF THE MILLENNIUM BRIDGE AND TO AGREE NEXT STEPS (IF APPROPRIATE)**

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk write to DCC to request the Millennium Bridge is repainted.

**C24/10/14 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING THE PROPOSAL TO TRANSFER TIPTON ST JOHN CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL TO THORNE FARM, OTTERY ST MARY**

There was no update.

**C24/10/15 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING THE REPAIR OF THE COLERIDGE BRIDGE**

DCC Cllr Bailey confirmed that this is being looked at by the DCC Bridges Team and the Environment Agency.

**C24/10/16 CONFIRMATION OF DECISIONS MADE UNDER THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

- Cllrs Grainger, Stewart and Green gave delegated authority to pay an increased premium of £5,426.46 to the Council insurance company to ensure all property is insured in line with rebuilding costs.
- Cllrs Grainger, Stewart and Lucas gave delegated authority to instruct LHC to organise a public consultation event to cover the Quick Wins Projects and second stage of the Transport Study in association with Callidus at a cost of £3,500 plus VAT.
- Cllrs Grainger, Lucas and Green gave delegated authority to purchase 50 Visit Ottery holders at a cost of £310.00 plus VAT.

**C24/10/17 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

To consider and approve the September 2024 Receipts and Payments and Reconciliation reports.

The Receipts and Payments and Reconciliation Reports for September 2024 were approved.

**C24/10/18 TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR THE COUNCIL TO PAY TOWARDS THE REMEMBRANCE WREATH FOR THE OTTERY VETERANS AND TO PURCHASE A WREATH FOR OTTERY ST MARY TOWN COUNCIL**

It was RESOLVED that the Council will purchase a Remembrance Wreath for the Town Council and pay towards a Remembrance Wreath for the Ottery Veterans. *Cllrs Faithfull and Johns abstained.*

**C24/10/19 TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE JANUARY 2025 FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

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It was **RESOLVED** that the January 2025 Full Council Meeting will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> January.

**C24/10/20 TO CONSIDER THE BEST WAY OF MAKING AVAILABLE THE HISTORICAL INFORMATION RELATING TO THE COUNCIL OVER THE PAST FIFTY YEARS**

There was no update. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk will remove this from the agenda and will put it back on the agenda when there is an update.

**C24/10/21 TO CONSIDER OPTIONS TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS AND ENSURE INFORMATION IS FULLY ACCESSIBLE TO ALL PARISHIONERS**

The report provided by the Clerk was reviewed. It was **AGREED** that a newsletter will be set up which will update residents when Council meetings are taking place. The success of this will be reviewed after three months.

It was **AGREED** that the Clerk will arrange for the herbs around the Library noticeboard to be cut back.

The Clerk will pin details of upcoming meetings to the Facebook page.

**C24/10/22 TO CONSIDER HOW THE COUNCIL COULD IMPROVE THEIR ENGAGEMENT WITH YOUNGER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY (AND MAKE DECISIONS IF APPROPRIATE)**

The Council reviewed the Clerk's report. It was suggested that the Council could liaise with the schools. It was **AGREED** this would be included on the November agenda.

**C24/10/23 TO CONSIDER REPORT FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor attended the EDDC Strategic Planning Meeting. The Mayor opened the Food and Families Festival which was an enjoyable event.

**C24/10/24 TO CONSIDER REPORT FROM THE TOWN CLERK**

The Clerk attended the Police Advocate meeting in September with Cllr Johns which was very informative. She has also attended the DALC AGM with Cllr Johns.

**C24/10/25 TO NOTE ANY SPECIFIC CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

Correspondence has been received regarding the Leat at the top of Ridgeway. When it is overgrown people drive into it. This will be highlighted to the new DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer.

Cllr Johns has received an email regarding World Otter Day. Cllr Johns will liaise with the Events Committee.

Cllr Faithfull was present at the first dig of Feniton Flood Alleviation Scheme.

**C24/10/26 TO NOTE ANY REPORTS PREVIOUSLY E-MAILED BY COUNCILLORS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED**

There was none.

Cllr Aherne raised that the pavement in Tipton St John is still generating complaints despite being looked at by EDDC Streetscene. The Clerk will ask them to look at this again.

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**C24/10/27 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS ON COUNCILLORS BUSINESS**

Cllr Williamson has been contacted by residents who are concerned about the amount of water on the roads. The Clerk will publish a reminder about how parishioners can report blocked culverts and surface water to DCC Highways.

It was AGREED that the Clerk will gather some information regarding the possibility of the Town Council employing a parish lengthsman for inclusion on the November agenda.

Cllr Faithfull suggested that sand should be available within the parish to fill sandbags in an emergency. It was AGREED that it should be investigated whether there is a possibility of storing sand.

**C24/10/28 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: MONDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2024**

Reports & Appendix 1

Meeting concluded at 20.50.

Signed Mayor:	
Date:	

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