

OSMTC EMERGENCY MEASURES

Having been a councillor in Ottery for 29 years I am very well aware of how our democratic processes should work. A key part of our democracy is that the public should be able to see their elected representatives making decisions on their behalf.

Because of the unprecedented situation in which we find ourselves, unfortunately it is now necessary to change that key principle for a temporary period.

The health and wellbeing of the people of our parish is the absolute priority for Ottery St Mary Town Council. The Town Council has been very proactive in working with the Ottery Help Scheme in making arrangements to look after our vulnerable people; very grateful thanks are due to OSMTC Councillors Vicky Johns, Stewart Lucas and Dean Stewart, and Devon County Councillor Claire Wright, and the other people who have worked hard on this important initiative. We are also very grateful for the huge amount of expert work provided by OSMTC's CEO Chris McIntyre and her assistant Liz Graveney.

Because of the emergency it is necessary to close the Town Council offices to the public, and also to suspend the normal meetings at which council business is transacted. We very much hope to get back to our normal way of working as soon as it is safe to do so.

Full details of revised processes, and decisions made by OSMTC can be found on the council website

Roger Giles
Mayor of Ottery St Mary Town Council
23 March 2020