



Ottery St Mary Town Council

Minutes of the ORDINARY MEETING OF Full Council [In-person] held on **Monday 02 June 2025** at **19:00**. The meeting was held in the **Ottery St. Mary Town Council**

Present: Cllrs Vicky Johns (Mayor), Dean Stewart, Peter Faithfull, Richard Grainger, Nick Sneller and Janice Aherne

In Attendance: DCC Cllr Jess Bailey, Kerry Kennell, Town Clerk and two members of the public

Minute Taker: Kerry Kennell, Town Clerk

C/25/06/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were noted from Cllrs Green (Deputy Mayor), Copus, Feasey and EDDC Cllr Beth Collins.

C/25/06/2 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 Faithfull	Agenda item 14 – Cllr Faithfull declared an 'affects NRI' as he is an EDDC Councillor.
Cllr Aherne	Agenda item 13 – Cllr Aherne declared an 'affects NRI' as a resident of Tipton St John.
Cllr Sneller	No interests declared.
Cllr Grainger	No interests declared.
Cllr Stewart	No interests declared.
Cllr Johns	Agenda item 14 – Cllr Johns declared an 'affects NRI' as she is an EDDC Councillor.

C/25/06/3 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

It was **RESOLVED** that the following agenda items would be discussed in Confidential session: C/25/06/10 TO CONSIDER SHOP FRONT FUND APPLICATIONS AND MAKE DECISIONS AS APPROPRIATE and C/25/06/11 TO CONSIDER COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION AND MAKE DECISIONS AS APPROPRIATE.

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C/25/06/4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

A member of the public asked when the working group considering safer cycle and pedestrian access would be meeting. It was noted that a meeting will be held later this month. Interested parties are being invited to the meeting and it was agreed that the two residents of Salston Barton will be invited rather than setting up their own meeting with DCC.

The Planning Committee will review the application at Strawberry Lane for sixty-five houses as it was advised that additional supporting information has been added.

The members of the public left the meeting.

C/25/06/5 MINUTES

To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of 12th May 2025 (*minute refs C25/05/01-C25/05/36*) and to approve the signing of the Minutes by the Mayor as a correct record

The minutes of 12th May 2025 were approved as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Mayor.

C/25/06/6 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE EDDC AND DCC COUNCILLORS

(if any)

Reports were noted from EDDC Cllr Johns, EDDC Cllr Collins and EDDC Cllr Faithfull.

DCC Cllr Bailey advised that she is expecting work to start on 30 June on the Coleridge Bridge. It is due for completion by 12 September. Cllr Bailey has been interviewed by BBC News regarding Straitgate and after all this time it is great news that the building of the quarry is not going ahead. Cllr Bailey attended the Annual Council Meeting at DCC. Cllr Bailey is now Chair of Health & Adult Care Scrutiny Committee – the only committee scrutinising health provision in Devon. Cllr Bailey attended the meeting at Newton Poppleford and saw a presentation about Climate Resilient Otter Catchment (CROC). DCC made an unsuccessful bid to EDDC to fund a feasibility report into the proposed three sites for Tipton St John Primary School. Cllr Bailey has requested an urgent meeting with the leader of DCC and the school to make progress. Cllr Bailey has also flagged this issue to Richard Foord again. There is no news from DCC regarding devolution.

C/25/06/7 PLANNING

C/25/06/7.1 TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF 19TH MAY 2025 (MINUTE REFS P/25/05/11-P25/05/21)

The minutes of 19th May 2025 were noted.

C/25/06/7.2 TO CONSIDER (AND APPROVE IF APPROPRIATE) RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE

To receive an update from the East Devon Enforcement team on issues that had been escalated to them

There was no update.

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C/25/06/8 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

C/25/06/8.1 TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF 20TH MAY 2025 (MINUTE REFS CI/25/05/01-025/05/19)

The minutes of 20th May 2025 were noted.

C/25/06/8.2 TO CONSIDER (AND APPROVE IF APPROPRIATE) RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE

There were none.

C/25/06/9 OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

C/25/06/9.1 TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF 22ND MAY 2025 (MINUTE REFS O/25/05/01-025/05/17)

The minutes of 22nd May 2025 were noted.

C/25/06/9.2 TO CONSIDER (AND APPROVE IF APPROPRIATE) RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** that the updated SPACE agreement is signed by the Council.

Under s.1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the council resolved to exclude the press and public from the meeting since publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

C/25/06/10 TO CONSIDER SHOP FRONT FUND APPLICATIONS AND MAKE DECISIONS AS APPROPRIATE

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following grants:

Studioaire	£540
Ottery St Mary Football Club	£500
Gorunya	£246.58

C/25/06/11 TO CONSIDER COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION AND MAKE DECISIONS AS APPROPRIATE

It was **RESOLVED** to approve a community grant of £750 to Girl Guiding.

The Confidential Session ended.

C/25/06/12 TO APPROVE THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2025

It was AGREED that the approval of the accounts will be deferred to allow for a discussion with the accountant who is currently unwell. The Finance & Strategic Planning Committee will then review the accounts prior to approval by the Council.

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C/25/06/13 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING THE PROPOSAL TO TRANSFER TIPTON ST JOHN CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL TO THORNE FARM, OTTERY ST MARY

DCC made an unsuccessful bid to EDDC for funding to carry out a feasibility report on the three sites for the Tipton St John School.

C/25/06/14 TO NOTE THE CURRENT SITUATION REGARDING DEVOLUTION AND MAKE DECISIONS AS APPROPRIATE

Discussions are taking place at EDDC and DCC but the new cabinet positions have only just been sorted out.

C/25/06/14.1 TO REVIEW ASSETS OWNED BY DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND EAST DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND CONSIDER WHICH ASSETS THE COUNCIL WOULD BE INTERESTED IN TAKING OVER

It was AGREED that the Finance and Strategic Planning Committee should review this in more detail. It was AGREED that EDDC councillors Collins, Faithfull and Johns and DCC Cllr Bailey will be asked to keep the Council updated regarding any meetings they attend where devolution is discussed.

C/25/06/15 TO CONSIDER PROVIDING THE COUNCILLORS WITH AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE TO ACCESS COUNCIL INFORMATION AND MAKE DECISIONS AS APPROPRIATE

It was noted that some councillors only have access to a mobile phone which can make accessing the supporting information difficult. It was AGREED that the Clerk will seek a price per device for an android tablet which includes a screen protector, stand, IT support and insurance.

C/25/06/16 TO CONSIDER NEXT STEPS TO AGREE PROPOSED AREAS FOR INSTALLATION OF 20MPH ZONE OUTSIDE OF THE TOWN AND TO MAKE DECISIONS AS APPROPRIATE

DCC Cllr Bailey will chase up DCC for an update regarding the 20mph zone areas put forward for Wiggaton, Tipton St John and Fenny Bridges.

DCC Cllr Bailey will chase DCC to arrange a meeting with DCC Highways to discuss anomalies in the 20mph scheme implemented in the tow.

C/25/06/17 CONFIRMATION OF DECISIONS MADE UNDER THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Cllrs Johns, Green and Stewart gave delegated authority to sign the PlayZone offer letter. Cllrs Johns, Grainger and Copus gave delegated authority to update the Terms of Reference for the Planning Committee to say: Membership: **7** members plus the Mayor and Deputy Mayor whom shall be ex-officio, with full voting rights. A quorum will consist of **3** members.

C/25/06/18 FINANCIAL MATTERS

To consider and approve the May 2025 Receipts and Payments and Reconciliation reports

The May 2025 Receipts and Payments and Reconciliation reports were approved.

C/25/06/19 TO CONSIDER REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor attended the Annual Parish Meeting last week which was well attended. It was suggested that a new format for the meeting is tried for 2026 where local organisations

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have stands to promote themselves. The Council will be having a table at this year's Food and Families Festival. All Councillors were encouraged to attend and help man the table if they are available.

C/25/06/20 TO CONSIDER REPORT FROM THE TOWN CLERK

The Clerk's report was noted.

C/25/06/21 TO NOTE ANY SPECIFIC CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Cllr Faithfull advised that following on from the Annual Parish Meeting the barriers have been removed from the ditch at Millenium Green.

C/25/06/22 TO NOTE ANY REPORTS PREVIOUSLY E-MAILED BY COUNCILLORS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED

Report from Cllr Aherne was noted.

C/25/06/23 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS ON COUNCILLORS BUSINESS

It was noted that offensive graffiti has been drawn on trees at Head Weir. Concerns were raised by councillors as to how this was reported on social media by the police, the clerk will relay these concerns to the police.

It was noted that work has started on the planters throughout the town. A concerned resident had expressed their concerns to two councillors and the Clerk. These were noted and it was reiterated that all discussions leading to the instruction of a company to carry out the planting was held in the Environment, Local Development and Commerce Committee meetings and Full Council, all of which are public meetings with their minutes available on the Council website. The Council will review how best to maintain the planters on an ongoing basis later this year. The hanging baskets for those businesses with a shop front in the town centre that have requested one are now available. Some businesses have chosen to purchase additional baskets.

C/25/06/24 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: MONDAY 7TH JULY 2025

Reports & Appendix 1

Meeting concluded at 20.47

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