



## Ottery St Mary Town Council

Minutes of the ORDINARY MEETING OF Full Council Meeting [In-person] held on **Monday 04 August 2025** at **19:00**. The meeting was held in the **Ottery St. Mary Town Council Offices, 8 Broad Street, Ottery St Mary EX11 1BZ**

Present: Cllrs Johns (Mayor), Dean Stewart, Peter Faithfull, Richard Grainger, Richard Copus, Janice Aherne and Stewart Lucas

In Attendance: Six members of the public and Kerry Kennell, Town Clerk

Minute Taker: Kerry Kennell, Town Clerk

### **C/25/08/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were noted from Cllrs Sneller and Feasey, EDDC Cllr Collins and DCC Cllr Bailey.

### **C/25/08/2 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 Lucas	No interests declared.
Cllr Copus	No interests declared.
Cllr Stewart	No interests declared.
Cllr Aherne	Agenda item 12 – Cllr Aherne declared an 'affects NRI' as a resident of Tipton St John.
Cllr Grainger	No interests declared.
Cllr Johns	It was noted that Cllr Johns is a supporter of the Ottery St Mary Veteran's Society and is EDDC Member Champion for Armed Forces Covenant.
Cllr Faithfull	No interests declared.

### **C/25/08/3 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 if any information relating to the organisations finances was discussed: C/25/08/8.2 To consider (and approve if appropriate) recommendations from the committee.

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#### **C/25/08/4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

Residents living next to Exeter Road and Barrack Road raised concerns about vehicles ignoring speed limits, especially in the area without a pavement and near homes where accidents have occurred. They support the 20mph zone. The Town Council has also advocated for a 20mph zone and will ask DCC whether an average speed camera could be installed from Barrack Road to the crossroads.

#### **C/25/08/5 MINUTES**

To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of 7th July 2025 (*minute refs C25/07/01-C25/07/21*) and to approve the signing of the Minutes by the Mayor as a correct record

The minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting and were signed by the Mayor.

#### **C/25/08/6 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE EDDC AND DCC COUNCILLORS**

(if any)

DCC Cllr Bailey, EDDC Cllrs Johns, Collins and Faithfull sent written reports which are available on the Council website. EDDC Cllr Faithfull read out his report.

The Council would like to formally record their thanks to EDDC for the work to update the play area at the Land of Canaan and DCC for the work to repair the Coleridge Bridge and reinstate the footpath.

#### **C/25/08/7 PLANNING**

##### **C/25/08/7.1 TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF 21ST JULY 2025 (MINUTE REFS P/25/07/11-P25/07/20)**

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting were noted.

#### **C/25/08/8 FINANCE AND STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

##### **C/25/08/8.1 TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 8TH JULY 2025 (MINUTE REFS FSP/25/07/01 - FSP/25/07/17)**

The minutes of the Finance and Strategic Planning Committee meeting were noted.

##### **C/25/08/8.2 TO CONSIDER (AND APPROVE IF APPROPRIATE) RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council:

- make the following grant payments:

Ottery St Mary Primary School PTA	£1,350
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Ottery St Mary Football Club	£3,000
Ottery Carnival and Tar Barrels	£5,000

- the Council write to EDDC to request a lease of land at Land of Canaan as specified on the map – appendix 1.

## **C/25/08/9 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

### **C/25/08/9.1 TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF 21ST JULY 2025 (MINUTE REFS CI/25/07/01-025/07/19)**

The minutes of the Community Infrastructure Committee meeting were noted.

Cllr Stewart updated the Council that a meeting with Callidus and DCC Highways had been productive.

Cllr Stewart reiterated the Council's concern regarding the results of the water testing carried out by ORCA (Otter River Catchment Action). The Council are grateful to the volunteers of this group, Eager Beavers and other organisations working hard to improve the quality of the river. Richard Foord, MP is supporting the campaign.

### **C/25/08/9.2 TO CONSIDER (AND APPROVE IF APPROPRIATE) RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED**:

- that the Council proceed with the installation of three EV charging points at the Station at a cost of £5,781.80 EX VAT.
- that charges should be set to cover the running costs of the chargers in line with other charging points in the area as this is a facility for the parish aimed to encourage residents without a parking space to purchase an electric vehicle. This should not make excessive profit but should cover ongoing running costs.
- that the Council continues with a paid option to deliver their planting strategy for 2026.
- that the Clerk will obtain quotes for planting in September/October and May to include watering.

The Council would like to formally record their thanks to Otter Garden Centre for providing the plants on St Saviours Bridge and for their support providing plants for the planters and hanging baskets within the town.

## **C/25/08/10 OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

### **C/25/08/10.1 TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF 24TH JULY 2025 (MINUTE REFS O/25/07/01-025/07/14)**

The minutes of the Operations Committee were noted.

### **C/25/08/10.2 TO CONSIDER (AND APPROVE IF APPROPRIATE) RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** that:

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- that the portacabins are only used for storage
- that the Council has a youth strategy during the Autumn term and this should be considered by the Finance and Strategic Planning Committee at their next meeting
- that Cllr Grainger is elected as Vice Chair of the Operations Committee

**C/25/08/11 TO CONSIDER RESPONSE TO EDDC LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION SURVEY**

It was AGREED that Cllr Johns and Cllr Aherne will complete the response with the Clerk on behalf of the Council.

**C/25/08/12 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING THE PROPOSAL TO TRANSFER TIPTON ST JOHN CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL TO THORNE FARM, OTTERY ST MARY**

Cllr Aherne advised that a letter was sent from the governors to parents at the end of the Summer term.

**C/25/08/13 TO NOTE THE CURRENT SITUATION REGARDING DEVOLUTION AND MAKE DECISIONS AS APPROPRIATE**

It was AGREED that the Clerk will write to EDDC to advise that in their minutes they are talking about consulting with local town and parish councils but this is not currently happening. The Town Council would be happy to be part of those conversations.

**C/25/08/14 TO REVIEW AND MAKE DECISIONS AS APPROPRIATE REGARDING ADDITIONAL CHRISTMAS LIGHTING**

It was **RESOLVED** to go ahead with additional Christmas lighting at the Museum, to extend in Mill Street to Ottery Office and to include Feniton Park retail unit subject to the property owners permission.

**C/25/08/15 TO CONSIDER NEXT STEPS TO AGREE PROPOSED AREAS FOR INSTALLATION OF 20MPH ZONE OUTSIDE OF THE TOWN AND TO MAKE DECISIONS AS APPROPRIATE**

The Council are waiting for feedback from DCC. DCC Cllr Bailey will chase DCC for a response.

**C/25/08/16 TO REVIEW APPLICATIONS FOR CO-OPTION OF TIPTON ST JOHN WARD COUNCILLOR AND MAKE DECISIONS AS APPROPRIATE**

Cllr Aherne expressed her disappointment that no-one from Tipton St John had put themselves forward for the vacancy and questioned whether the village would be best served by someone not residing in Tipton St John. It was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Sarah Martin as Councillor for the Tipton St John ward. *Cllr Aherne abstained.*

**C/25/08/17 TO CONSIDER COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND MAKE DECISIONS AS APPROPRIATE**

EDDC have been notified by the Clerk of the vacancy left following the resignation of John Green. It was **RESOLVED** that:

Sarah Martin will join the Planning Committee and the Community Infrastructure Committee. Cllr Lucas will join the following Committees: Operations, Finance and Strategic Planning and Community Infrastructure.

Cllr Faithfull will join the Planning Committee subject to confirmation from EDDC that this is acceptable as he is also a member of the EDDC Planning committee.

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**C/25/08/18 CONFIRMATION OF DECISIONS MADE UNDER THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

There were none.

**C/25/08/19 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the approve the July 2025 Receipts and Payments and Reconciliation reports.

**C/25/08/20 TO CONSIDER REPORT FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor sent a written report which is available on the website.

The Mayor remaindered Councillors of the celebrations taking place for VJ Day on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August. At 9am there is a flag raising at the Council Offices, at 11am a memorial service is being held at the Parish Church. There will be a National two-minute silence at midday. From 5.30pm there are events at Millenium Green. At 7pm there will be a torchlit procession from Council Offices to Millenium Green. The event is being organised by Ottery St Mary Veteran's Society and Carnival and Tar Barrels Committee and financed by Ottery St Mary Town Council.

**C/25/08/21 TO CONSIDER REPORT FROM THE TOWN CLERK**

The Clerk had nothing to report.

**C/25/08/22 TO NOTE ANY SPECIFIC CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

The Council noted the response from the Environment Agency in reply to the letter sent by the Council.

It was noted that there has been concerns regarding the road closure from Butts Road to Alfington and whether it was necessary as the road had not actually been closed. This has been reported to DCC.

It was noted that concerns have been raised regarding parking in Pig Lane. DCC discussing proposal and who will pay for it.

**C/25/08/23 TO NOTE ANY REPORTS PREVIOUSLY E-MAILED BY COUNCILLORS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED**

There were none.

**C/25/08/24 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS ON COUNCILLORS BUSINESS**

It was asked whether there was any update on the Coleridge Bridge repairs.

It was **AGREED** that the Council will write to EDDC regarding the proposed development at Salston Manor and reiterate the need for safer pedestrian access. Cllr Grainger and the Clerk will compose the letter.

**C/25/08/25 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: MONDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2025**

Reports & Appendix 1

Meeting concluded at 20.53

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