



Ottery St Mary Town Council — MINUTES

Full Council — Monday, 3 August 2026

Published: Wednesday, 2 September 2026

Attendance

Present: Nick Sneller, Richard Grainger, Emily Peka, Peter Faithfull, Richard Copus, Dean Stewart

Also present: Kerry Kennell — Town Clerk

Min. C/26/08/001 — 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Vicky Johns (Mayor), Janice Aherne, Sarah Martin and Ben Feasey.

The meeting was Chaired by Cllr Dean Stewart (Deputy Mayor).

Min. C/26/08/002 — 2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were declared by Members.

Min. C/26/08/003 — 3. Exclusion of Public and Press

It was **RESOLVED** that the following agenda item would be discussed in Confidential Session: C/26/08/9.1 - the supporting information in relation to the grant application and C/26/08/10.1 in relation to the outdoor project at the Hub.

Min. C/26/08/004 — 4. Public Participation

Nothing was raised.

Min. C/26/08/005 — 5. Confirmation of Town Council Minutes of 6th July 2026 (minute refs C26/07/01-C26/07/27)

The minutes of 6th July 2026 were **APPROVED** and signed by the Deputy Mayor as a true record of the meeting.

Min. C/26/08/006 — 6. To receive Reports from the EDDC and DCC Councillors

A written report was received from EDDC Cllr Johns.

A written report was received from EDDC Cllr Faithfull.

No report received from EDDC Cllr Collins or DCC Cllr Bailey.

Min. C/26/08/007 — 7. To note the Planning Committee Minutes of 7th July 2026 (minutes refs P/26/07/01-P/26/07/10) and 27th July 2026 (minute refs P/26/07/11-P/26/07/20)

The minutes of 7th July 2026 and 27th July 2026 were **NOTED**.

Min. C/26/08/008 — 8. To note the Minutes of the Community Infrastructure Meeting of 13th July 2027

The minutes of 13th July 2026 were **NOTED**.

Min. C/26/08/009 — 8.1 To consider (and approve if appropriate) recommendations from the Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to allocate a budget of up to £50,000 to the creation of a new Neighbourhood Plan of which £5,000 is available for immediate planning expenses.

Min. C/26/08/010 — 9. To note the minutes of the Finance and Strategic Planning Committee meeting of 14th July 2026

The minutes of the Finance and Strategic Planning Committee of 14th July were **NOTED**.

Min. C/26/08/011 — 9.1 To consider (and approve if appropriate) recommendations from the Committee

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- £7,000 is awarded to the Ottery St Mary Carnival and Tar Barrel Committee. Thanks were noted to the Committee for everything that they do to help and support the Town Council.

the following documents are approved:

- Standing Orders
- Statement of Internal Control
- Debit Card Policy
- Earmarked Reserves Policy
- Subsistence & Mileage Policy

Min. C/26/08/012 — 10. To note the minutes of the Operations Committee Meeting of 27th July 2026

The minutes of the Operations Committee meeting of 27th July were **NOTED**.

Min. C/26/08/013 — 10.1 To consider (and approve if appropriate) recommendations from the Committee

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. *

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the Outdoor project. It was **RESOLVED** that a snagging list will be provided alongside a timescale for resolution.

**The Confidential Session ended. **

It was **RESOLVED** to:

-request the following changes to the SPACE agreement: That the premises must be inspected at end of session and any damage caused must be notified to the Clerk. If damage is caused the costs may be recovered from SPACE.

- that 18 sensors are installed at the Station Hub at a cost of £1776.06 which includes supply and fitting.

Min. C/26/08/014 — 11. To consider concerns with regards to hedgerow removal within the Parish and to make decisions as appropriate

A response from EDDC was **NOTED**. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk will go back to EDDC to ask if the hedgerow replacement notice has been issued yet, and if not when it would be.

Min. C/26/08/015 — 12. To receive an update regarding the proposal to transfer Tipton St John Church of England Primary School to Thorne Farm, Ottery St Mary

Members noted the positive progress being made towards securing a new site for Tipton St John Primary School within the village. An outline planning application is expected to be submitted to East Devon District Council (EDDC) in September. The proposal has been well received by the local community, reflecting strong support for retaining the school within Tipton St John and providing modern safe educational facilities for future generations. It was **AGREED** that this agenda item will be updated accordingly for future meetings as the planning process progresses and further information becomes available.

Min. C/26/08/016 — 13. To discuss the River Otter and Fluxton Sewage Plan and make recommendations as appropriate

This will be carried forward to the next meeting.

Min. C/26/08/017 — 14. To receive an update regarding the Coleridge Pre-School building and make recommendations/decisions as appropriate

A meeting has been arranged with DCC and will take place in due course.

Min. C/26/08/018 — 15. To note the current situation regarding Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution, and to consider making a representation on behalf of the parish

The Council considered the current situation regarding Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution and whether to make a representation on behalf of the parish regarding the proposed Councils for Devon.

It was **NOTED** that under the Government's local government reorganisation announcement, West Hill and Aylesbeare would fall within the Exeter unitary authority, while Ottery St Mary would be placed within the Devon Council unitary authority. It was **NOTED** that this division would sever the established community ties between West Hill, Aylesbeare and Ottery St Mary, ties which had been recognised by the Boundary Commission during its 2023 review of parliamentary constituencies. Initially, West Hill and Aylesbeare had been included within the proposed Exmouth and Exeter East constituency, while Ottery St Mary was placed in Honiton and Sidmouth. However, following representations highlighting the close links between these communities, the Boundary Commission revised its proposals, subsequently moving West Hill and Aylesbeare into the Honiton and Sidmouth constituency alongside Ottery St Mary. It was **NOTED** that Cllr Bailey had written to Devon County Council (DCC) to highlight that the proposed reorganisation scheme did not follow the outcome of that review.

The Council considered whether the correct process had been followed in arriving at the current proposals and discussed whether to support a judicial review of that process. Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to write in support of a judicial review by DCC, without formally allying the parish with any other body or party in that process. *Cllr Sneller and Cllr Faithfull abstained.*

Min. C/26/08/019 — 16. To receive an update regarding the Night Bus survey and to make decisions as appropriate

It was **NOTED** that there was no update to report on the Night Bus survey at this time. Due to a change of staffing at Honiton Town Council, the item will be carried forward to the next meeting.

Min. C/26/08/020 — 17. To receive an update regarding the survey for a 20mph zone outside of the town and to make decisions as appropriate

It was **NOTED** that there was no update to report regarding the survey for a 20mph zone outside of the town.

Min. C/26/08/021 — 18. To review the Strategic Plan and make decisions as appropriate

It was **NOTED** that a meeting would be arranged with Cllr Feasey, the Mayor and the Chairs of each committee to agree the best way to move the Strategic Plan review forward.

Min. C/26/08/022 — 19. Confirmation of decisions made under the scheme of delegation

It was **NOTED** that Cllr Johns, Cllr Stewart, Cllr Grainger and Cllr Feasey had **AGREED** to a temporary solution regarding access to the PlayZone/Petanque Club at Strawberry Lane whilst a longer-term solution is sought.

Min. C/26/08/023 — 20. Finance Report / Budget Monitoring

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the July 2026 Receipts and Payments and Reconciliation report for all accounts, excluding CCLA. It was **NOTED** that the CCLA report would be reviewed at the September meeting.

Min. C/26/08/024 — 21. Mayor's Report

The Mayor's written report was received. It was **NOTED** that the report had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting.

Min. C/26/08/025 — 22. Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was received. It was **NOTED** that Richard Foord would be holding a community meeting at TSJ the following day (Tuesday 4 August 2026) from 6.30 pm until 7.30 pm.

It was further **NOTED** that the Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) Annual General Meeting would be held on Wednesday 7 October 2026. The Clerk advised that a reduced registration fee of £50 was available for bookings made by 9 August 2026, after which the fee would increase to £60.

Min. C/26/08/026 — 23. Correspondence Received

Correspondence regarding poor parking at Tumbling Weir Way was reviewed. It was **AGREED** that the Council would write to wholeheartedly support the proposal put forward by the resident, requesting that double yellow lines be installed in front of the drop kerbs as a minimum, in order to prevent vehicles parking on the junction.

Min. C/26/08/027 — 24. To note any reports previously e-mailed by Councillors of Meetings attended

It was **NOTED** that there were no reports from councillors of meetings attended.

Min. C/26/08/028 — 25. Matters Raised by Members Not Otherwise on the Agenda

There were no matters raised by members under this item.

The meeting closed at 20:47.

Signed: _____

Chair of the Full Council

Date: _____