



Ottery St Mary Town Council — MINUTES

Full Council — Monday, 5 October 2026

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Attendance

Present: Mayor Vicky Johns (Chair), Cllr Janice Aherne, Cllr Ben Feasey, Cllr Nick Sneller, Cllr Richard Grainger, Cllr Peter Faithfull, Cllr Richard Copus, Deputy Mayor Dean Stewart

Absent: Cllr Mark Hobson

Also present: Kerry Kennell — Town Clerk, Jessica Bailey — Cllr

Members of the public present: 10

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Janice Aherne: declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item C14 26-27 — To receive an update regarding the proposal to rebuild Tipton St John Church of England Primary School — Agenda item C/26/10/75 – Cllr Aherne declared an 'affects NRI' as a resident of Tipton St John.

C/26/10/061 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were noted from Cllrs Martin and Peka.

C/26/10/062 Declarations of Interest

It was **NOTED** that the Full Council meeting of 5 October 2026 was held at Tipton St John Community Hall.

Cllr Aherne declared an interest described as 'affects NRI' in agenda item C/26/10/75, as a resident of Tipton St John. No further declarations of interest or requests for dispensations were received.

C/26/10/063 Exclusion of Public and Press

It was **RESOLVED** that the following agenda items would be discussed in Confidential Session: Agenda item 12 To note the Minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting of 2nd October 2026 (minute ref HR/26/10/01 - HR/26/10/08) and Agenda item 15 To receive an update regarding the Coleridge Pre-School building and make recommendations/decisions as appropriate.

It was **AGREED** that these items be deferred until the end of the meeting to allow members of the public to remain in attendance for the majority of the meeting.

C/26/10/064 Public Participation

Representatives from the Sidmouth Road Development Action Group spoke in relation to application 25/2468/MOUT which has gone to appeal. The group wanted to know how the Council would be moving forward with regards to the hearing. Cllr Grainger confirmed this will be discussed by the Council. It was **NOTED** that anyone who has objected does have an opportunity to update their comments. As Chair of the Ottery St Mary Town Council Planning Committee Cllr Grainger will aim to speak at the hearing. It was asked how a property owner can get members of the Town Council or EDDC on site to view their garden to see first hand the impact that the proposed development would have. The property owner was advised to email the Clerk.

A resident highlighted the need for a 20mph speed limit through the village. This was raised when Richard Foord,

MP held a meeting in the village. The Town Council has registered interest in reducing the speed limit in the village and is waiting to hear back from DCC regarding the cost to do this. It was explained that the 20mph speed limit in the town centre was paid for by DCC but any further speed limit reductions would need to be paid for by the Town Council.

C/26/10/065 Confirmation of Town Council Minutes of 7th September 2026 (minute refs C26/09/01-C26/09/28)

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2026 (minute references C26/09/01–C26/09/28) were received. It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be approved as a true and correct record, and they were duly signed by Mayor Vicky Johns in her capacity as Chair.

C/26/10/066 To receive Reports from the EDDC and DCC Councillors

No report received from EDDC Cllr Collins.

EDDC Cllr Johns sent a written report.

EDDC Cllr Faithfull reported that at the cabinet meeting EDDC had agreed to support DCC morally but not financially with their judicial review into the proposal for Local Government Reorganisation in Devon. Edenserv are now carrying out waste and recycling collection in East Devon. A boundary review for Cranbrook has taken place. Progress continues to be made on the emerging Local Plan. Cllr Faithfull also provided an update from the Housing Review Board and raised matters relating to council housing.

DCC Cllr Bailey reported that submission of the outline planning application for the new Tipton St John Primary School is expected imminently. It remains unclear what future use, if any, will be made of the existing school site once the new school is operational. Cllr Bailey also provided an update on adult social care financial assessments. Concerns have been raised regarding delays in Devon County Council completing financial assessments for individuals requiring care. The backlog has been highlighted through the Care Quality Commission's inspection of the Council's adult social care services, and has resulted in some residents receiving substantial retrospective invoices. A series of meetings is being held to better understand and address these issues. Councillors were asked to notify Cllr Bailey of any concerns raised by residents. An update was also provided on local maternity services. Maternity care has been suspended in North Devon. A vote of no confidence was made by consultants at North Devon District Hospital against the executive board responsible for the hospital during the ongoing maternity services crisis. Cllr Bailey advised that she continues to scrutinise the situation closely. There was no further update on Local Government Reorganisation.

C/26/10/067 To confirm dates for Councillor Surgeries

It was **RESOLVED** the surgeries should be held in December, March, June, September. The first surgery will be held in December at the Council Offices.

C/26/10/068 To consider applications for the Town ward Councillor vacancy and to co-opt to fill the vacancy as appropriate

Four co-option applications were considered. It was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Mark Hobson onto the Council. The Council noted their thanks to the other candidates that put themselves forward and remind the parish that there an election in May 2027.

C/26/10/069 To note the Planning Committee Minutes of 14th September 2026 (minute refs P/26/09/01-P26/09/10) and 28th September 2026 (minute refs P/26/09/11-P/26/09/20)

The minutes of 14th September 2026 and 28th September 2026 were **NOTED**.

C/26/10/070 To consider the following planning application: 26/1887/FUL — Full

The Council considered planning application 26/1887/FUL submitted by Mr Lawrence Arnold of Arnold Ramos Ltd, 1 Silver Street, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1DB, relating to the installation of a roof light automatically opening vent window on the south east elevation.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the application subject to the provision of a conservation grade roof light.

C/26/10/071 To note the Minutes of the Operations Committee Meeting of 24th September 2026 (minute refs O/26/09/01-O/26/09/19)

The minutes of the Operations Committee Meeting of 24 September 2026 (minute references O/26/09/01–O/26/09/19) were **NOTED** .

C/26/10/072 To note the Minutes of the Community Infrastructure Meeting of 28th September 2026 (minute reference CI/26/09/01-CI/26/09/22)

The minutes of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) meeting held on 28th September 2026 (minute references CI/26/09/01 to CI/26/09/22) were **NOTED**.

C/26/10/073 To note the Minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting of 2nd October 2026 (minute ref HR/26/10/01 - HR/26/10/08)

Under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, it was **RESOLVED** to exclude the press and public from the Council, as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

The minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting held on 2nd October 2026 (minute references HR/26/10/01 to HR/26/10/08) were **NOTED**.

C/26/10/074 To consider concerns with regards to hedgerow removal within the Parish and to make decisions as appropriate

It was **NOTED** that there had been no further update from East Devon District Council (EDDC).

C/26/10/075 To receive an update regarding the proposal to rebuild Tipton St John Church of England Primary School

It was **NOTED** that there was no further update regarding the proposal to rebuild Tipton St John Church of England Primary School apart from that given by DCC Cllr Bailey earlier in the meeting.

C/26/10/076 To receive an update regarding the Coleridge Pre-School building and make recommendations/decisions as appropriate

Under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, it was **RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded from the Council, as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

An update regarding the Coleridge Pre-School building was provided by the Clerk.

C/26/10/077 To discuss the River Otter and Fluxton Sewage Plan and make recommendations as appropriate

The Council discussed that there is a plan to build more homes but there are no plans to upgrade the sewage works. It was **AGREED** that the Council should write to South West Water to highlight concerns regarding poor water quality and the lack of forward planning.

C/26/10/078 To note the current situation regarding Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution

There is no update. It was **NOTED** that whilst Local Government Reorganisation has been paused devolution and the creation of a Mayor for Devon is progressing at speed.

C/26/10/079 To receive an update regarding the Night Bus survey and to make decisions as appropriate

It was **NOTED** that the Night Bus survey had been updated and was currently being reviewed by Honiton Town Council. The survey would be circulated later in the month.

C/26/10/080 To receive an update regarding the survey for a 20mph zone outside of the town and to make decisions as appropriate

DCC Cllr Bailey will chase DCC up to come out and look at 20mph schemes outside of the town. It was **AGREED** that the Tipton St John area should be updated to include the site for the new school. It was further **AGREED** that DCC highways will be asked to consider reducing the speed limit from Combe Cross Road onto the Sidmouth Road from 40mph to 30mph.

C/26/10/081 To review and approve the updated Social Media Policy

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the updated Social Media Policy.

C/26/10/082 Confirmation of decisions made under the scheme of delegation

It was **NOTED** that the following decisions had been made under the scheme of delegation:

- Cllrs Johns, Stewart and Feasey gave delegated authority to upgrade the broadband to the Council Offices to fibre to the premises at a cost of £945.00 plus VAT. It was **NOTED** that the monthly cost will be reduced by £12.88 plus VAT.

- Cllrs Johns, Stewart and Feasey gave delegated authority for the Tar Barrel committee to access the power supplies for the Christmas lights. It was **NOTED** this would only be by qualified electricians.

- Cllrs Johns, Stewart and Grainger gave delegated authority to extend the deadline for work to be completed (in relation to the Shop Front Fund) at Edward Scissor Hounds until 31st October 2026

C/26/10/083 Finance Report / Budget Monitoring

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the September 2026 Receipts and Payments and Reconciliation reports and August 2026 CCLA report.

C/26/10/084 Mayor's Report

A written report from Mayor Vicky Johns was received.

C/26/10/085 Clerk's Report

The Clerk had nothing to report.

C/26/10/086 Correspondence Received

It was **NOTED** that an appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against the decision of the East Devon District Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development 25/2468/MOUT.

C/26/10/087 To note any reports previously e-mailed by Councillors of Meetings attended

There were none.

C/26/10/088 Matters Raised by Members Not Otherwise on the Agenda

There were none.

C/26/10/089 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 2nd November at 7pm at the Council Offices, 8 Broad Street, Ottery St Mary.

The meeting closed at 20:26.

Signed: _____

Mayor Vicky Johns
Chair of the Full Council

Date: _____