**OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Otterhampton Village Hall on Thursday

6th February 2014 at 7.30pm

**PRESENT:** Mr P. Gripton (Chairman) Mr. M. Brown

Mr B. Leathwood Mr T. Jones

Mr. J. Marriott Mrs E. Sidebotham

Mr R. Best

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor Mr John Edney and Mr M. Caswell

2 Parishioners Mr Peter M. Shaw (Clerk)

Mrs Aly Prowse (New Clerk)

105/13 APOLOGIES

Councillor Ms J. Pay

106/13 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd January 2014 were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman.

107/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All members declared personal interests in Agenda Item 6 (i).

Mr R. Best declared personal interests in Agenda Item 6 (ii).

108/13 HOUSING SURVEY

Barry Leathwood referred to the “Land seeking” leaflet which was circulated with the latest newsletter. Councillor Caswell recommended that the Parish Council be pro-active in deciding on a site.

109/13 PLANNING MATTERS

Application No.

39/13/00003 Renewal of Application at Plot 4, 9 Church Hill – *Granted*

39/13/00004 Renewal of Application for 3 dwellings, 9 Church Hill – *Granted*

30/14/00001 Discharge of Conditions, C3 Marine Monitoring, Combwich Wharf - *Granted*

110/13 MATTERS ARISING

1. Hinkley Point C Development

Councillor Edney referred to the EU intervention which will cause further delay. However, some things are proceeding including the Sandford Corner roundabout which is likely to cause 6 months disruption to traffic.

The Chairman reported on the recent Cluster Group meeting where the above was discussed and a presentation given by Somerset County Council Highways Officer. The Chairman also raised the issue of damage to the verges of the C182 which occurred 18 months ago. EDF would not confirm their responsibility. The Chairman had spoken to Somerset County Council Highways and will now send an email to confirm, he is very concerned that the EDF attitude does not bode well for the future, especially if Somerset County Council hide behind “It’s only a C class road”. The issue will be raised at the Transport Forum meeting. Councillor Caswell supports any move on this issue. Tim Jones pointed out that although a C class road is a priority route for snow clearance atc. Councillor Edney suggested applying for a road ‘up-grade’.

1. Steart Peninsular Project

Dick Best referred to the delay in completing and opening the ‘circular route’ due, in part, to non-completion of the toilet block. He then went on to the idea of regular joint meetings with all concerned on all issues affecting Steart. He suggests that this forum be sponsored by Otterhampton Parish Council and Steart residents. He has spoken to several of the representatives who support the idea, and he suggests inviting Stockland Bristol and Stogursey. All members agreed and now need to set out aims and objects for a quarterly forum. Barry Leathwood suggested a letter be sent to the Environment Agency thanking them for all their input and help to the Parish, Dick was asked to prepare a draft, to be copied to our MP. The Clerk said that several parishioners believe the Liddell-Grainger attitude whereas there are other benefits.

*Councillor M. Caswell left the meeting.*

111/13 FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Current Balances Current Account £58.10 Business Call £8558.57

Pension Fund £1853.07

Western Power £3.90 Way Leave

1. Accounts for

Payment Purnells £165.80 Newsletter

Village Hall £9.00 Rent for meeting, December

Greenslades £241.28 Wharf Road maintenance

K. Preston £170.08 Gardening October-January

Otterhampton Village Hall £9.00 Rent. January

Otterhampton Village Hall £36.00 Chat ‘n’ Chill. January

1. Annual Accounts The Account Books are to be tabled.

112/13 WARD MEMBERS REPORTS

Councillor John Edney reported on a busy time at Somerset County Council, both financially and flood wise. He fully supports the letter of thanks to the Environment Agency. Somerset County Council is setting a zero increase in Council Tax. He was asked to take Otterhampton Parish Council’s thanks to their councillors and staff, and to the Emergency Services.

113/13 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS/ITEMS FROM LAST MEETING

1. Children’s Playground Repairs

Too wet to use.

1. Cycle Route

The Chairman and Barry Leathwood had attended the 4th meeting but we still do not have maps.

It is likely that the chosen route to Hinkley will be through Combwich and along the new paths to Steart Drove, this raises concern about joint use on new pathways including safety of all users. It is possible that funding for the Cannington to Combwich section will be found. The Chairman was concerned about Sedgemoor DC initiatives of access to Steart and Hinkley. Dick Best said that Natural England have deep concern relating to any Wall common route.

The Chairman and Barry Leathwood were thanked.

*Councillor Edney left the meeting.*

1. Defibrillator Location

Dick Best reported. The unit has a security code access, he has been in touch with Cannington Parish Council who have a similar unit. It was felt that the code needs to be with the unit for instant use. He feels that we must raise awareness in the community. He has been in touch with a Heart Foundation, who will train, a minimum of 16 people in CPR etc, at a cost of £10 each, he asked that we fund this £160, this was AGREED. Dick was thanked. The Clerk raised the issue of insurance and was asked to contact our insurers, total value of £1500.

1. Signs – *Wharf Road*

Dave Stokes from Hinkley B has agreed to deal with the obstruction of their Haul Road and will arrange repair and resurfacing of the Wharf Road. It was reported that there is cracking on the bridge over the brook near the Wharf Road, to be reported to Somerset Highways.

1. Combwich Common Issues

A meeting with the Drainage Board was held on 5th February (in extremely heavy rain) and the Chairman, Clerk looked at the issues together with Mr Turner from Riverside Farm, who had excavated a new ditch behind his property and along the bottom of Mr Page’s field – with his consent and connecting to an Environment Agency drain. The defective grating on our pipe had been removed and temporary one installed. The Drainage Board will help with a proper replacement. Mr Turner to be notified of the Somerset County Council flood relief funds.

With regard to parking/driving on the Common track, as raised at the open session, the Chairman referred to the comments made. He pointed out the illegality of public vehicular access and associated parking on the registered Village Green. THE COUNCIL ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THIS DOES NOT OCCUR.

Some ground slippage on the flood bank, to be reported to the Environment Agency. Also leakage through the stones flood wall on Riverside.

1. Internet Usage

The new cabinet for upgrading Broadband is being installed close to the bus shelter.

1. Nuclear Waste

The Chairman has received an acknowledgment from the NDA.

114/13 CORRESPONDENCE

1. **Requiring Council Decision :** 
   1. Sedgemoor DC – Notice of Cluster meeting
   2. 22nd January – Somerset CC – Temporary road closure, Knaplock Lane
   3. 3rd February – John Marriott. Resignation from 30th April
2. **To be Noted :** All other correspondence considered by the Chairman and Clerk.
3. **Received after Preparation of Agenda:**
4. 22 January – Somerset Highways – Temporary road closure, Knaplock Lane
5. 3rd February – John Marriott – Resignation from 30th April 2014
6. February – Lloyds Bank – Online business
7. **Outgoing List –** Available, including Chairman’s email to Somerset County Council re. damage to C182 verges.

115/13 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

1. Hinkley Liaison

Mervyn Brown reported that the next Stakeholder meeting is on the 28th February.

1. Village Hall

John Marriott reported on three recent successful events. It is possible that the company “Kier” may help with the external wall problem, they have already helped Cannington. Broadband, for public use, to be installed.

*Elizabeth Sidebotham left the meeting.*

1. Steart Ward

No new issues. Dick reported that the recent high tides did not cause any property flooding but the highest tide did highlight potential overtopping, some work has been done to help.

1. OPRA

Nothing to report

116/13 MATTERS OF REPORT

1. Parish Cluster Group

The Chairman reported on the meeting 28th January, which included presentations on renewable energy projects in the district, including the Cannington turbine on which issue the District Planning Office apologised for lack of consultation with adjacent parishes.

1. SALC

Details of next meeting awaited

1. Misuse of Wharf Road.

See 113/13 (iv)

1. Replacement for Clerk

Following interviews held on 14th January it was CONFIRMED and AGREED that Mrs Aly Prowse of Dowells Farm be appointed having accepted the offer of the post. She was welcomed to the meeting.

117/13 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Grant applications

NEXT MEETING

Thursday 6th March 2014 at 7.30pm

Signed………………………….. Chairman Date…………………………….