**OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL**

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

6th March 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

1 Parishioner Mr Peter M. Shaw (Clerk)

Mrs Aly Prowse (New Clerk)

118/13 APOLOGIES

Councillor Ms J. Pay

119/13 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th February 2014 were CORRECTED then APPROVED and signed by the Chairman.

120/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

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

121/13 HOUSING SURVEY

Barry Leathwood reported that the promised report from Sedgemoor District Council was delayed to the April meeting. Some responses to the questionnaire received.

122/13 PLANNING MATTERS

Application No.

 39/14/00002 Tree work – 21 Riverside – No comments

123/13 MATTERS ARISING

1. Hinkley Point C Development

The Chairman reported on the latest situation; At the Transport Forum meeting, the Cannington By-Pass was discussed and funding is likely to be resolved this month, with construction planned to start in the Autumn. A one-way system may be introduced in Cannington during the work. Work on Combwich Wharf is unlikely this year. Damage to the C182 – as raised at the Open Session – was discussed and the Chairman referred to the Somerset County Council view that “visual only” damage will not be repaired, also that the road will not be upgraded. However, in some situations they are surveying to A class standards, but not verges. Both EDF and Somerset County Council are ignoring the damage and avoiding their responsibility unless firm evidence is provided.

The Chairman had prepared a draft letter to EDF and Somerset County Council and asked for members comments. It was agreed and to be copied to other involved Parishes. It was stated that damage to verges is affecting road drainage, and reducing protection to the footpath.

The new Clerk was asked if Stogursey Parish Council has complained – they have. Councillor Caswell said that Stockland Bristol has also. The Chairman suggested that we, and adjoining Parishes should conduct our own regular survey –AGREED. There is now a real possibility of a proper cycle way from Cannington to the Combwich turn.

*Councillor Caswell left the meeting.*

1. Steart Peninsular Project

Dick Best said that there was nothing to report on the project. He asked members to consider the proposal that he had circulated for a regular Steart forum. A suitable title was chosen and ideas for content with all involved parties was agreed. A letter to be prepared and sent. Comment was made on the condition of gates and some ground to be taken up with the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust. A rare bird has been identified by Dick Best.

124/13 FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Current Balances Current Account £426.94 Business Call £7558.57

Pension Fund £1853.07

1. Accounts for

 Payment Retiring Clerks Gratuity Members decision Retiring Clerks Salary April meeting

 Village Hall £9.00 Rent for meeting

The retiring Clerks gratuity was discussed at some length. The Chairman understood from a previously minuted agreement that the maximum entitlement was £2000. It was RESOLVED to pay this amount and fund the £147 difference between the current pension fund of £1853.07 and the £2000 from the general fund.

1. Annual Accounts The Account Books were available.

125/13 WARD MEMBERS REPORTS

Councillor John Edney said that flood problems are causing much work and overtime for both staff and members. He reported briefly on the settlement for departure of the Chief Executive. He believed that roadworks at Sandford Corner are not causing too much delay except at rush hours. He expressed his appreciation of the retiring Clerk. Councillor Caswell reported before his departure that one third of Sedgemoor District Council staff are involved in flood issues and some complaints etc may not be responded to within the normal time frame. The Chairman asked that both members take our thanks to all staff involved.

126/13 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS/ITEMS FROM LAST MEETING

1. Children’s Playground Repairs

It will be necessary to identify a replacement for John Marriott. The inspection rota for this year to be drawn up.

1. Cycle Route

A successor needed for John Marriott on the Transport Forum, Tim Jones agreed to undertake this. The Chairman reported that it is an ever-changing situation. He and Barry Leathwood had met Sarah Littler of Somerset County Council on issues, especially the “preferred” route through Combwich, she will advise on issues such as the “use” of the Village Green. The Chairman recommended purchasing a book by Paul Claydon on similar issues. It was agreed to purchase, approximately £20.00.

1. Defibrillator Location

Dick Best was pleased to report that the final installation is planned for Friday 7th March, he feels that it must now be widely publicised – a flyer, it was agreed to pay for this. Dick is hoping to get the 16 people for training.

1. Signs – *Wharf Road*

A letter has been sent and a reply is expected. It was reported that the problem boulders have been removed and both gates padlocks, with keys to authorized users.

1. Combwich Common Issues

The Dog Warden to be contacted. It is hoped that the WWT will place “no parking” signs. The issue of driving on the track to be actioned.

1. Internet Usage

Awaiting activation.

1. Nuclear Waste

The Chairman has received an acknowledgment from the NDA. – *No change*

1. Emergency Plan for Combwich

It was agreed to look at the Steart Flood Plan, as part of a full Emergency Plan. Cannington’s plan to be requested.

1. Notice Board for Steart

It was AGREED to purchase, quotations to be obtained.

127/13 CORRESPONDENCE

1. **Requiring Council Decision:** None
2. **To be Noted :** All other correspondence considered by the Chairman and Clerk.
3. **Received after Preparation of Agenda:**
4. 7th March – Email re Archaeological Dig at Cannington College
5. **Outgoing List** – Available – including vacancy notification – Pauls letter re C182 and Pauls letter to Heath Bennett

128/13 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

1. Hinkley Liaison

Mervyn Brown spoke to his written report – *filed.*

1. Village Hall

No recent meeting.

1. Steart Ward

Dick Best suggested requesting flood marker posts for Steart Drove, Somerset County Council Highways to be approached.

1. OPRA

Nothing to report.

129/13 MATTERS OF REPORT

1. Parish Cluster Group

Next meeting – 25th March.

1. SALC

Next meeting – 18th March.

1. Misuse of Wharf Road.

See 126/13 (iv)

1. New Clerks Contract

Agreed on file

1. Damage to Welcome Feature

The Clerk had received a report from the maker and a quotation of £460 for repair. AGREED. Clerk to contact insurers.

1. Flooding Risk Estuary Park

Thanks to Clerk and John Marriott for quick action to obtain and distribute sand bags to properties at risk. The cause of the problem being rising water level at Combwich Ponds. The Clerk has contacted the Drainage Board, who involved the Environment Agency who had responded quickly. The Angling Associations responsibility was raised. Thanks to be passed to Mike Ingram for his help and to the Drainage Board. The storage of the now un-needed sand bags was discussed, OPRA had rejected use of the Old Stone Barn which they rent from Otterhampton Parish Council. Councillor Edney suggested enquiring of any empty Sedgemoor District Council garage.

130/13 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Location for Buoy, possible return by May 2014
2. Member for Children’s Playground

NEXT MEETING

Thursday 3rd April 2014 at 7.30pm

Annual assembly and annual parish meeting 1st May 2014.

The meeting closed with a presentation and thanks to the retiring Clerk, with photographs, followed by refreshments and drinks to wish Peter well for his retirement, and a toast for the future and continuous success of the Parish Council.

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