

**OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY AND ANNUAL MEETING**

on  
**TUESDAY 3 MAY 2016, IN OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL**

**PARISH ASSEMBLY:**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

The Chairman circulated his report which will be placed on the notice boards and on the Combwich Website. Barry thanked fellow councillors, County Councillor John Edney and District Councillors Julie Pay and Mike Caswell. The Clerk was thanked and also the village gardener Keith Preston.

It has been a very busy year, Barry highlighted the forthcoming refurbishment of the play area, the introduction of the car scheme from 1 June and the launch of Otter Tales almost a year ago. The buoy has been returned with just painting and cage left to do. Parking on the track has greatly reduced and for those with limited mobility (and in possession of a 'blue badge') we introduced a parking permit scheme. We met the challenge to remove the shipping container, put on the Common by the boat club. We have also negotiated a scheme with Highways at the Crossways access lane/lay-by to get the buses to drop passengers at the bus stop, to improve their safety. There are a number of other projects ongoing but we have not been able to achieve all we wanted, such as the provision of an affordable housing scheme.

Barry said it had been a pleasure to serve as Chair and as he was not standing for re-election, he wished his successor and the parish council every good fortune in the coming year.

**ANNUAL ACCOUNTS:**

The Clerk briefly outlined the summary of the payments (expenditure) and receipts (income) for the 2015/16 financial year and the reasons for any variances. The receipts do not tend to differ year on year, and this year's variance is just £126 on a total of £20918. The Payment's variance is only £245 on expenditure of £14578. The cash balance carried forward to 2016/17 is £20920.

The big change for the 2015/16 accounts is the application of the Government's Transparency Code. As we have a turnover (total receipts or payments whichever is the greater) less than £25k, the external audit process is simpler. Other requirements of the Transparency Code include wider publication of information (we already comply).

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

1. Mr Bulman has asked Highways if a 20mph speed limit can be applied on School Lane because of the excessive speeds and constant risk to school children. Highways will look into it. B.Birkenhead said he had been pushing this for 30 years and would like some action taken. J.Evans said that this topic comes up frequently at the School and she will contact the Head to reinforce these issues with 'new' parents. **Action: J.Evans.** J.Berry said a 20mph limit is required on Church Hill too and suggested the parish council write to Highways in support of Mr Bulman's request. This was AGREED. **Action: Clerk.** There may be other speed reducing initiatives we could adopt such as flashing light boxes which we could also investigate. We requested a 20mph limit for the village which was rejected by Highways, although we will be erecting a voluntary 20mph sign at the entrance to the village.
2. a) Mr Smith asked if we could explain the 'Combwich track repair' work. The Clerk said in the first instance, we will be carrying out repairs to the potholes during early summer. Tenderers will also be asked to suggest a long term maintenance solution to try and prevent the re-occurrence of potholes.  
b) Mr Smith was pleased with the removal of the shipping container on the Common but asked when the mess left behind will be made good. The Clerk said the boat club had promised to do this and will be reminded.  
**Action: Clerk.**

The meeting ended at 7.30pm



Signed:.....  
(Chairman)

2 June 2016  
Date:.....