

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

on

TUESDAY 3 MAY 2016 AT OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT:

Barry Leathwood (Chairman until Minute 3/16), John Berry (Chairman from Minute 3/16), Dick Best, Bob Birkenhead, Julie Evans, Rachel Perrett, Dist Cllr Julie Pay, Aly Prowse (Clerk) and 4 members of the public.

1/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Heath Bennett, County Cllr John Edney and Cllr Mike Caswell.

2/16 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7.14.16:

The minutes were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman.

3/16 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:

J.Evans nominated J.Berry. This was seconded by D.Best. There were no other nominations and all members AGREED with this nomination so John was duly elected.

John thanked members for voting for him. He suggested a formal vote of thanks (as proposed by D.Best, seconded by R.Perrett and AGREED by all) to Barry for his tireless work on behalf of the parish not only last year but over many years.

4/16 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN:

D.Best was proposed by B.Leathwood. This was seconded by R.Perrett. Dick said he is happy to act as Vice Chair, but he is aware of the informal agreement that this role should serve as an apprentice to the Chair, which is a role he would not take. John said he does not envisage moving away so does not see his new role as short term, so we could eventually look for someone to succeed him. Members AGREED to this caveat, so Dick was duly elected as Vice-Chairman.

5/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest.

6/16 WARD REPORTS:

Cllr Pay gave a brief review of Sedgemoor District Council's (SDC) year:-
Because of the substantial reductions from Government, SDC has to focus on the provision of essential services (no cuts to these services within SDC, although there has been at SCC); 600 food hygiene inspections have been carried out; 158 affordable homes were built and 261 empty homes brought back into habitation; a recycling figure of 46% was achieved; 1234 'fly-tips' were removed within 2 days and there are rising numbers of prosecutions for those responsible; Similarly, SDC are also increasing numbers of prosecutions for dog fouling. Cllr Pay will send a full report to the Clerk for circulation. **Action: Cllr Pay.**

7/16 PLANNING MATTERS:

1. 39/16/00003 – Amended plans for The Anchor Inn two storey building for 8 letting rooms (from 10).

A long debate was held discussing this amended application which included 2 less units (which should alleviate No 34's concerns) frosted windows (reducing the impact on Ship Lane), removal of the 'smoking shed' to the rear garden (which should help alleviate parking pressures) and landscaping of the rear garden.

Nb Clerk's note – subsequent to the meeting we received an email from Mr Gripton who pointed out the removal of the smoking shed was not in the plans. The Clerk checked this and Mr Gripton is correct. Following consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair the Clerk requested SDC remove this sentence from our response and also responded accordingly to Mr Gripton.

BL said the light pollution could be lessened by the use of low voltage sensor lighting;
JE is happier with the new plans and noted there are a number of letters in support of the application;
BB is totally opposed to the second storey; there should be no windows facing Ship Lane;
BL said originally, objections came from us and residents, and hoped this had some effect in the amended

plans. If there are only 5 units, it would perhaps not be a commercially viable investment. If the pub were to close, it would be a serious loss to the village.

JB has discussed the proposal informally with a number of villagers. It is clear the pub is important to the village and would be a great loss were we to lose it.

DB said our observations should be the views of the parish, some for, some against. There is interest in the village for the business to be sustained.

JB questioned whether in view of member's views, we rule out a total objection?

JE said her main concern now is the tie-in of the pub with the accommodation; she would like to rule out an objection.

Cllr Pay agreed with BB that no windows should overlook Ship Lane. She has not yet submitted her comments. She also suggested we could request a site visit by the Development Committee.

The Chairman suggested in principle we seemed to be heading for a decision to withdraw our original objection in favour of the new plans, subject to certain conditions and to retain some of the observations from our original response. These include to request a site visit by SDC, reference the windows (opaque, preferably non-opening), low voltage sensor lighting; the removal of the smoking shed and the tie-in of the public house to the accommodation. Our previous concerns of traffic generation and poor notification of the planning application by SDC to residents will be reiterated. The Chairman called for a vote on the summarised position to withdraw our original objection, and to include the above recommendations and observations. Votes For: 4; Votes Against: 1, Abstentions 0. **Action: Clerk**

In addition, a separate letter will be sent to Mr S Houlet (Service Manager, SDC) regarding our concerns that an application of potential community-wide implications should have wider notification to residents from SDC. **Action: Clerk.**

2. **39/16/00003** – Store shed, improve access and parking. Mazoe, Otterhampton. NO OBSERVATIONS.
3. **New Street Trading Consent – Burger Van in Bolham lay-by.** Observations relating to litter, lack of toilet provision and vehicle road safety access concerns. **Action: Clerk**

8/16 **FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

1. Balances - Current A/C £1616; Deposit A/C £21665; Reserve A/C £7402.
2. The following payments were AGREED and Income received:

A.Prowse	£321.97	(Clerk's salary for April, including £28.87 other costs)
Play Area	£4853.81	(INCOME - CIM fund)
Play Area	£4853.81	(Payment to Viridor re CTP payment)
HMRC	£1013.24	(INCOME - VAT claim)
SDC	£9250.00	(Gross Precept less £501.70 costs to empty 3 dog bins)
OPRA	£1000.00	(INCOME – grant for the play and recreation area)
Wicksteed	£3925.50	(Site prep works for play and recreation area)
R.Birkenhead	£135.78	(Bicycle rack for play and recreation area)
3. The Annual Accounts to 31.3.16 were APPROVED as proposed by J.Evans and seconded by R.Perrett.
4. The Annual Audit Return to 31.3.16 was APPROVED as proposed by B.Leathwood, seconded by J.Evans.
5. Insurance Quotation – the Clerk requested a revised quote to accommodate the new play area from 1.6.16-31.3.17. Currently our annual premium on a 3 year fixed agreement (due to end May 2017) is £447. For year 3, this would rise to £924 (an increase of £477) or alternatively we could take out a new 3 year agreement 1.6.16 – 31.5.19 for a price of £790. The Clerk suggested we look into the existing policy to check if we would incur penalties if we exited the agreement early, if we are able to find a more competitive quote. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Pay left the meeting at 8.30pm

9/16 **ITEMS FROM THE LAST MEETING:**

1. **Review Action List (for actions not covered by the agenda):**
 - a) No 2 – **Emergency Plan.** Mid to late summer. It will include the Steart Flood Plan.
 - b) No 4 – **Street Lighting at Combwich Junction.** A.Coupe to pick this action up as at 23.4.16
 - c) No 5 - **Dog bins and dog bag dispensers.** The dog bins have been installed and the dispensers will be shortly. A complaint was made about a certain individual who walks his dogs twice daily in the field behind the Brookside Rd garages and never picks up. A letter will be sent to him once his address is confirmed. **Action: R.Perrett/Clerk**
 - d) No 6 – **Combwich Buoy.** Ideally, we would like the buoy finished to coincide with the completion of the play area. It would appear that it just needs the red and white paint plus the cage put back on. We will speak with Bill Johnson to check on progress. **Action: J.Berry/B.Leathwood**

- e) No 8 – **Highways.**
 - 1. Flood Markers. It was AGREED that Steart could purchase 'temporary' flood markers. **Action: Clerk/D.Best**
 - 2. Voluntary 20 mph Speed Limit sign. **Action continues: J.Berry.**
J.Evans and R.Perrett asked if the signage at the entrance to the Combwich track could be enhanced to highlight "No or Limited Access" following a recent vehicle they witnessed trying to turn around at the end of the track. B.Leathwood said we couldn't put "No" access and wondered if the incident may have been an isolated one as the track is certainly less used now. We will monitor the situation.
 - 3. Convert verge opposite 41 Riverside to parking area. Highways would permit this as long as it was tarmac surfacing. We would have to pay for it and will endeavour to find out the cost. **Action: Clerk**
 - f) No 9 – Combwich lay-by proposal. It was agreed with highways to block the access at the Brookside Rd end. The work should be carried out within the next 4-6 months.
- 2. Sedgemoor Ramblers Anniversary Bench:**
B.Leathwood reported this has been erected just beyond the Steart Marshes entrance at no cost to us.

10/16 ENHANCED PLAY AND RECREATION AREA:

The site meeting with Wicksteed will be on 10.5.16 at 10.00am.

- a) We wish to move the entrance further towards the Village Hall end for safety reasons. This will be discussed with the contractor and may result in additional cost which will need to be considered/agreed.
- b) Subject to confirmation that work will commence on 18.5.16, we will have to close the play area and erect appropriate signage to advise the community.
- c) The fence and other wooden play items will need to be dismantled the weekend before. We will seek volunteers for this in return for 'firewood'. It was noted that the fence is treated wood.

11/16 LEAD ROLES FOR MEMBERS IN PARISH MATTERS:

This item will be deferred until the next meeting. In the meantime, a list of potential roles will be circulated to members. **Action: J.Berry/Clerk**

12/16 MEETING REPORTS:

1. Community Car Scheme (B.Leathwood)

The scheme will start on 1.6.16. A chairman has been elected (J.Sparkes) together with a Treasurer (L.Brown) and a Secretary (Y.Bulman). A bank account with NatWest has been applied for. The Scheme's Constitution will be sent to members: **Action: Clerk**

2. Transport Forum (J.Evans)

- a) Julie gave a very comprehensive report from the meeting. Briefly, a presentation was given on the proposed walk and cycle ways through Bridgwater; no further news on the Hinkley C financial investment decision; flood alleviation works at Cannington (which should be complete by the end of the summer) and there will be a large number of planned roadworks in and around Bridgwater from now until early 2017.
- b) Regarding Hinkley traffic on the C182, there are 100 HGV deliveries per day and so far 15 wide loads portacabins). There should be no dramatic increase to these numbers. The induction for these drivers is unique and strict; vehicles are tracked by cameras.
- c) S.Crago told Julie that on 10 March a speed gun had been in operation and in one hour, 561 cars (from Bridgwater) were recorded, the highest speed at 61mph. On 14 March, from Hinkley, 113 vehicles were recorded, the highest speed at 59 mph. The 40 mph speed limit on the A39 has been extended to Skimmerton Lane and 50 mph to Cannington. Julie asked why these limits cannot be applied from Cannington to Hinkley. The next two meetings are 21.7.16 and 21.10.16

13/16 FORTHCOMING MEETING NOTIFICATION:

- 4.5.16 – Drop-in Session at Otterhampton Village Hall (forthcoming C182 roadworks re cycle way)
- 9.5.16 – Transparency Code training, Somerton (Clerk)
- 12.5.15 – Community Forum
- 26.5.16 - Steart Forum

14/16 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION:

1. Received/sent:

- a) Village Hall Committee – Use of electronic cigarettes in the Hall will be banned from 1.1.16.
- b) Pension Regulator Guide re workplace pensions. The Clerk will opt out.

- c) B.Sparkes requesting support letters to Viridor Credits re grant application to repair the spire of St Peter's Church. Members AGREED we should send a letter of support. **Action: Clerk**
 - d) A letter received in relation to an issue at 41 Riverside has been resolved.
 - e) Broadband Voucher Scheme. Steart residents are working together to consider costs and feasibility of installing faster broadband. Otterhampton residents will also be informed of the scheme.
2. **Combwich Boat Club – request for shed on Common**
This item will be deferred to the next meeting and will be placed higher up the agenda. **Action: Clerk**
3. **Insurance Claim at Estuary Park**
Following a meeting with B.Leathwood, the Clerk and Mr Eggby on 24.4.16, it was suggested the two offending trees are taken down. Mr Eggby had dug a hole under the wall and the roots of the trees are clearly visible and impacting on the integrity of the wall, which is our responsibility. Mr Eggby suggested if we paid for the trees to be taken down, he would carry out repairs to the wall. Barry thought this a fair compromise. Members therefore AGREED to this action (without prejudice) and a quote will be obtained from a professional tree surgeon. **Action: Clerk.**

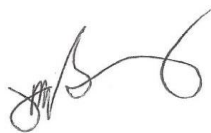
15/16 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES:

- 1. **Hinkley Liaison (J.Berry):**
Nothing to report.
- 2. **EDF Transport Forum (J.Evans):**
See minute 12/16/2
- 3. **EDF Community Forum (D.Best):**
Nothing to report
- 4. **Steart Forum (D.Best):**
Dick reported that the sea buckthorn removal is almost complete, paid for by Natural England. He has arranged a meeting with Iain Porter (Quantock AONB) to discuss how the space might be utilised. Ideally, some vegetation planting and also a fence will be required to provide cattle management and parking for the Church in a controlled manner. Once established some ongoing maintenance will be required.
- 5. **Village Hall (H.Bennett):**
The Village Hall AGM is on 18.5.16
- 6. **OPRA (B.Leathwood):**
Barry reported that there has been some difficulties over the past few months and OPRA has been unable to get someone to take the lead on the fete which has led to its cancellation on 2.7.16. The new Chair is Jacquie Sparkes.
- 7. **Otterhampton Parish Project Team (OPPT):**
Nothing to report
- 8. **School Liaison (J.Evans):**
Julie will write to the Head regarding the speeding concerns (item 1, public session) and also offer the School the climbing frame from the play and recreation area. **Action: J.Evans.**

16/16 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on 2 June 2015, at 7.00pm at Otterhampton Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 9.35pm.



Signed:.....
(Chairman)

2.6.16
Date:.....