

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

on
THURSDAY 6 JULY 2017 AT OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

PUBLIC SESSION:

1. Speak to Ross Edwards (EDF) regarding the safety of employees and contractors crossing the road at Crossways to catch the works buses to Hinkley Point. **Action: Clerk.**
2. Fly parking - it was noted that EDF organised the removal of a vehicle from Combwich today.
3. It was mentioned that the free bus is getting busier and at times standing room only on return journeys. Concern that if there came a time when no further space available whether passengers could get home. It is hoped that the bus company would anticipate this and respond accordingly.

PRESENT:

John Berry (Chairman), Dick Best (Vice-Chairman), Bob Birkenhead, David Cather, Rachel Perrett; Dist Cllr Julie Pay, Aly Prowse (Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

34/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Julie Evans, Barry Leathwood and County Cllr Mike Caswell.

35/17 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1.6.17:

The minutes of the meeting held on 1.6.17 were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman.

36/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations applied for.

37/17 WARD REPORTS:

Dist Cllr Julie Pay

Cllr Pay went to the Parish Cluster meeting which was well attended; Clean Surrounds has been busy dealing with fly tipping incidents, an increase believed to be as a result of permits now required at the Recycling Centre.
Cllr Pay left the meeting at 7.15pm

38/17 PLANNING MATTERS:

1. **39/17/00005** - Householder prior approval single storey extension, 32 Brookside Rd. GRANTED.
2. **3/32/17/005** - Construction of a Waste Encapsulation Plant, Hinkley A. AWAITING DECISION.
3. **39/16/00009 APPEAL** - Erection of dwelling and creation of access, 14 School Lane. NO COMMENT
4. **96/17/00010** – Request for discharge of requirement PW10 (3) Traffic Incident Management Plan (FOR NOTIFICATION ONLY).
5. **39/17/00006** – Certificate of Lawfulness re existing use of farmhouse as a house of multiple occupation, Moxhill Farm, Combwich. NO OBSERVATIONS.

39/17 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

1. **Bank Balances** - Current A/C £1165; Deposit A/C £14813; Reserve A/C £13952.
2. **The following payments were AGREED:**

Mrs A Prowse	£351.34	(June salary including £12.68 miscellaneous expenses)
Mrs A Prowse	£209.99	(Computer software including Microsoft Outlook)
Mr P Allen	£ 50.00	(Install new computer software)
Mr K Preston	£445.92	(Apr-June gardening; play area inspection, mower petrol)
Mr M Ingram	£140.00	(Emergency repair to wall by play area 30/31.3.17)
INCOME	£5500.18	(VAT claim repayment)

40/17 ITEMS FROM THE LAST MEETING:

1. **Review of the Action List (for actions not covered by the agenda):**
 - a) **No 1 – Bus Shelter.** A quotation for £480 was received to carry out repairs to the soffits and barge boards. It was AGREED to proceed with this work as proposed by D.Cather and seconded by R.Perrett.
 - b) **No 9 – Speed restrictions on the C182.** J.Evans relayed a message from the Transport Forum that 'hopefully' a 50mph speed limit will be applied from the roundabout at Rodway to just beyond the Biffen's Corner junction. There will also be 'flashing lights' at Clayland Corner, Stogursey. Whilst the 50mph is welcome, double white lines along the stretch of bends between Combwich and the Biffen's

- junction were also suggested but not positively received. However, it was AGREED we should pursue this through the Transport Forum. See also minute 14/17/6. **Action: J.Evans.**
- c) **No 10 – Parking Permits on Track.** The vehicle previously reported that parks off the main track but in front of the gate to Mr Page’s land, has allegedly been given permission to park by a resident. J.Berry will have a chat with the resident. **Action: J.Berry**
 - d) **No 11 – Overflowing Dog Bins.** Clean Surrounds advised the dog bins are emptied twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. **Action Complete.**
 - e) **No 13 – Hedge by Riverside Farm footpath** – Unlikely this will be done before August, but B.Birkenhead will chase early September. **Action Ongoing**
 - f) **No 16 – Comwich Ponds.** B.Birkenhead and B.Leathwood reviewed all the paperwork. Bob will now pursue the case and will report at the September meeting. **Action: B.Birkenhead.**
 - g) **No 17 – No Bicycles or Scooter’s sign in Play Area.** Sign erected. **Action Complete.**
K.Preston advised the Clerk he found the play area surface covered in stones on 10.7.17 together with a large wooden stake. We still need to keep a close eye on the play area for these minor bouts of anti-social behaviour.
 - h) **No 18 - Collapsing wall at Ship Lane.** We have established ownership but we are unable to pursue at this time. If the wall does get worse, we should report it to Highways. **Action: Monitor situation**

41/17 TREE MAINTENANCE:

1. Following receipt of two quotations for the tree maintenance inspection, the contract was awarded to Sedgemoor Tree Services Ltd (the lowest tenderer) at a cost of £300. In addition (because of the ongoing and recent damage caused by fallen branches from the large willow tree by the brook/defibrillator) we requested a cost to take the tree down if it was deemed necessary. The quote for this was £600.
2. Tree works by the defibrillator.
Subsequently, during the high winds in June, a large branch snapped off the large willow and fell across the defibrillator which because of the safety hazard was cleared by Highways (the previous June, emergency work was carried out by Highways to remove a very large branch that had broken off into the road). An existing branch was also resting on a telegraph wire and it was evident that there was another branch at risk of snapping. It was AGREED with Sedgemoor Tree Services to take the tree down aside from some central stumps. In addition it was recommended that two limbs of another tree by the brook should be taken down urgently as Sedgemoor Trees felt these could break at any time (no additional charge will be made for removal of these two limbs).

42/17 ENHANCEMENTS:

1. **Comwich Retaining Wall**
The work is complete except the replacement of the Brookside Rd nameplate which has been ordered but not yet delivered.
2. **Verge Markers Adjacent to the Play Area**
This work is also complete. Unfortunately, 3 of the posts have been knocked by lorries turning into the Anchor Inn car park, but have been put back upright. In the main, they are effective except some early evenings when a couple of vehicles have parked alongside the markers.

43/17 MEETING REPORTS:

1. **15.6.17 - Otter Wheels AGM**
The AGM was held on 15.6.17. Richard Stirling has been appointed as Chairman.
2. **13.6.17 – Steart Forum (D.Best)**
 - a) Somerset Coast Project – members AGREED that we support the Somerset Wildlife Trust’s application to the Community Impact Mitigation (CIM) fund to fund the next stage of its project that includes Community Engagement (walks, talks, events from Watchet to Brea), Parish Shores (talk to parish councils asking what they would like and seek their help to achieve it) and Somerset Wildlife Beach (for under 18’s to learn more about the coast). **Action: D.Best.**
 - b) Bird Roost Surveys – Natural England (NE) has been involved in a number of bird surveys throughout the Estuary trying to learn where birds roost at high tides, partly to find out if there is any impact with the coastal path and for bird disturbance issues.
 - c) The main thrust of the meeting revolved around issues raised by the Steart residents, largely instigated by the dog walking restrictions imposed by WWT and NE. This measure had also attracted criticism from some areas of the wider community. The two other major items of concern raised were an apparent breakdown in communication and the numbers of visitor/vehicles visiting the Reserve. Dick said it was important these things were raised to serve as a wake-up call to ensure a proper dialogue is

resumed and to prevent an “us and them” situation. A small community focus group will meet on 21.7.17 to discuss these three issues.

3. 15.6.17 – Parish Cluster

The Clerk previously circulated notes from this meeting. Briefly however, John Vassali was elected as Chairman which is good news for us (he had been Chair of the now disbanded Quantock Cluster); safety and traffic on the C182 and state of the roads (re ruts on country lanes – M.Caswell said he will follow up this item) and policing. Most parishes present were disappointed by the lack of police presence in the parishes. We were encouraged to report ALL incidents on 101 or by email, except emergencies which should of course be via 999. All officers have been issued with video cameras to record arrests/crime etc.

4. 23.6.17 – SSG

J.Berry had been unable to attend the meeting.

5. 4.7.17 – Otterhampton Parish Project Team (OPPT)

D.Cather gave a brief report of the first meeting of the ‘new team’. It is hoped that an actual procedure will be forthcoming from the Somerset Community Foundation soon. However, we will make a start and so that we don’t lose input and project ideas from the previous public consultations and Open Day held in June 2015. We will table them and update to delete projects/items completed since that period such as the new play area. We will then be left with a list we can use to consult with the community, asking if these items are still required and/or for new ideas to be added. The next meeting of OPPT is 22.8.17.

6. 6.7.17 - Transport Forum.

J.Evans popped in to the meeting at 8.20pm on her way home from the Transport Forum and confirmed as reported in minute 40/17/1/b, that although A.Coupe is ‘hopeful’ that the 50mph speed limit will be introduced, it is highly likely it will happen, but could not commit to a timeline as it is dependent on other priorities. In parallel SCC and the Police will start educating communities on slower road speeds and safety aspects. There will be more road markings at Biffen’s Corner and he will re-examine the call for double white lines in this area.

J.Evans left the meeting at 8.25pm

44/17 FORTHCOMING MEETING NOTIFICATION:

20.7.17 – Community Forum

21.7.17 – Steart Forum Focus Group

45/17 CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Public Spaces Protection Order Consultation

Members had nothing further to add, noting that the play area is covered as a dog exclusion area.

2. Somerset Coast Project

Dealt with under minute 43/17/2/a

3. Charity Run around Steart Marshes 26.7.17

To note that up to 300 runners from EDF will be taking part in a charity run around Steart Marshes on 26.7.17. The start and finish will be on the large common; the parish council gave permission for this.

4. General List (Received/sent)

a) NHS Health Checks In Somerset – Offering the parish the opportunity to host NHS health checks for parishioners aged between 40 and 74; should not have received an NHS health check elsewhere in the last 5 years and some parishioners may not qualify if they already have certain conditions or are taking certain medications. Members AGREED to take up this offer. **Action: Clerk.**

b) SCC – Temporary closure of Riverside, planned for 7.8.17, for 2 days to enable Wessex Water to carry out sewer repair works in this road.

c) Emma Warr – Permission to use the Common on 26.7.17 (see minute 45/17/3).

d) Bridgwater Tidal Barrier Scheme – Drop-in session 10.7.17 at Bridgwater Town Hall.

e) Community Council for Somerset – Leaflet explaining the work it does for and in the community.

5. Stockland Parish Meeting

J.Berry received a phone call from J.Sivyer (Chair of Stockland Parish Meeting) to ask if we might explore forming a ‘grouping’ with them. He is not looking for an amalgamation but assistance with administration and a more formal collaborative approach to work together. D.Best’s initial thoughts are that working groups on joint themes could be beneficial but from an administrative prospective he is unsure how this would work. The Clerk said whilst perhaps this should not come into the equation, she could not take on any additional work and that an assistant / alternative might be required? J.Berry said clearly this needs more thought and discussion so it will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

46/17 **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

1. **Hinkley Liaison**
B.Birkenhead has arranged a Hinkley C Site visit for members to take place on 18.7.17.
2. **Stear Ward (D.Best)**
See minute 43/17/2. Nothing further to add.
3. **OPRA (B.Leathwood)**
In the absence of B.Leathwood, there was nothing to report.
4. **Village Hall**
The next meeting is on 12.7.17.
5. **Otterhampton Parish Project Team (OPPT)**
See minute 43/17/5 above. Nothing further to add.
6. **School Liaison (R.Perrett)**
Rachel hopes to visit the School during the next term. Traffic to and from the School is an issue that is being discussed.
7. **Public Rights of Way (B.Birkenhead)**
 - a) As reported at the last meeting, G.Martin (SCC PRoW) has notified the Environment Agency of the footpath that runs behind Estuary Park to Moxhill falling into the brook; no progress to date.
 - b) Bob has reported a few defects to various gates and will need to look at the gates at Hill House.
8. **Otter Tales (B.Leathwood)**
The deadline for the next edition is 9.7.17.
9. **Otter Wheels**
See minute 43/17/1 above

47/17 **DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:**

There will be no August meeting, but we will carry out the normal 'Village Walk' on Thursday 3 August, starting at 6pm from the bus shelter.

The next meeting thereafter will be on Thursday 7 September 2017 at 7.00pm in Otterhampton Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 8.45pm.



Signed:
(Chairman)

Date: 7 September 2017