

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

on
THURSDAY 1 JUNE 2017 AT OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

PUBLIC SESSION:

Mr M Bulman raised the issue of declining patient numbers who attend the Doctor's branch surgery held Wednesday afternoons in the Village Hall, which may lead to the service being withdrawn. There may be a couple of reasons for this – repeated cancellations by the Doctor (and no cover if Dr Bavistock is away) and Otter Wheels transporting patients to the Cannington health Centre. Also some people may not be aware of the service. It was decided to place an article in the next Otter Tales. J.Evans suggested any article should be first shown to the Doctor for agreement.

PRESENT:

John Berry (Chairman), Dick Best (Vice-Chairman), Bob Birkenhead, David Cather, Julie Evans, Barry Leathwood, Rachel Perrett; County & Dist Cllr Mike Caswell and Dist Cllr Julie Pay, Aly Prowse (Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

19/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

There were no apologies for absence.

20/17 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2.5.17:

The minutes of the Parish Assembly and Annual Meeting were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman.

21/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:

J.Evans disclosed an interest in agenda item 4d) 39/17/00005

22/17 WARD REPORTS:

1. County and Dist Cllr Mike Caswell

Still constrained by Purdah, Cllr Caswell said comments are being collated for the SDC Local Plan prior to submission to the Planning Inspectorate. In his new role as County Cllr, he has been placed on the Audit and Annual Scrutiny Committee; the Hinkley Point Stakeholder Group as well as the Quantock Hills Joint Advisory Committee. Cllr Fothergill is the new Leader of SCC. Cllr Caswell clarified that the Leader is the political head of the Council, whereas the Chairman chairs the Full Council.

2. Dist Cllr Julie Pay

Following the local elections, Cllr Pay will remain as Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee. The new Chair of SDC is Cllr Mike Cresswell and Cllr Paul Herbert is the Deputy.

23/17 PLANNING MATTERS:

1. **EPR/JP3122GM/V005** Vary Environmental Permit during Hinkley C Construction. AWAITING DECISION
2. **39/17/00002** Erection of a garage, Rose Cottage, Stockland Bristol Rd, Otterhampton - GRANTED
3. **39/17/00003** Repl. single pane windows with double glazing, Hill House Christian Centre -GRANTED
4. **39/17/00004** Erection of two storey extension, 10 Church Hill, Combwich – GRANTED
5. **3/32/17/005** Construction of a Waste Encapsulation Plant, associated & ancillary plant, Hinkley A. Cllr Caswell explained this application was submitted because of a change in the A Station arrangements. The building has been re-located closer to the Intermediate Level Waste store to reduce transportation across the site. Councillors AGREED a response to SDC of NO OBSERVATIONS. **Action: Clerk**
6. **39/17/00005** Prior approval single storey extension, 32 Brookside Rd (J.Evans left the room at 7.25pm)
It was suggested that this extension has no impact on neighbours and will improve the property. Therefore members unanimously AGREED to support this application. (J.Evans returned at 7.28pm)

24/17 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

1. **Bank Balances** - Current A/C £803; Deposit A/C £11312; Reserve A/C £13200.

2. **The following payments were AGREED:**

Mrs A Prowse	£386.03	(May salary including £19.50 gift for the internal auditor, £16.96 soil and grass seed for the play area)
Mr F Darch	£200.00	(Final payment Backrap project – Grant funded)
Mr W J Frost	£1548.00	(Tarmac and bollards to entrance of play area)
Zurich Municipal	£794.78	(Year 2 of 3 year agreement for Annual Insurance)
Income	£100.00	(OPRA - Annual rent for barn).

3. **VAT Claim**

The Clerk has submitted a claim to HMRC for £5500.18 for the period 1.7.16 to 31.3.17.

25/17 ITEMS FROM THE LAST MEETING:

1. Review of the Action List (for actions not covered by the agenda):

- a) **No 1 – Bus Shelter.** B.Birkenhead will confirm the measurements of the soffits and barge boards with the Clerk who will then obtain a quote for the work. **Action: B.Birkenhead and Clerk.**
- b) **No 8 – Dame Withycombe Hill safety signage.** G.Warren (Highways) has confirmed the signage will continue down the hill but a date was not given when the work will be undertaken.
- c) **No 10 – Parking Permits on Track.** A car has been seen fairly often parked on the track in front the farm gate to the left of the Steart Marshes entrance. This will be checked before issuing a notice on the car. **Action: Clerk**
- d) **No 11 – Overflowing Dog Bins.** Recently, the bins have overflowed on 2 or 3 occasions. The Clerk contacted SDC Clean Surrounds to investigate. **Awaiting response.**
- e) **No 15 – Advertising signs and boards at Crossways.** The letter to businesses and organisations has been sent out.
- f) **No 17 – Tree Maintenance Schedule.** The Clerk has sent out a contract to tender for this work; the closing date is 9.6.17.
- g) **No 18 – Combwich Ponds.** B.Birkenhead and B.Leathwood have agreed to meet in the next week or so to decide the next course of action.

26/17 PLAY AND RECREATION AREA:

1. Following some recent anti-social behaviour, councillors have been checking the play area regularly and it would appear that things have now settled down. There are still some incidents of bad language but we believe if things deteriorated we will be advised. The Police have also been monitoring the area. It was suggested that children should be discouraged from riding scooters down the slides. It was AGREED to put up a laminated sign that says “No bicycles or scooters inside the play area” **Action: Clerk.**
2. Wicksteed will be asked to replace a clip that is becoming loose on the scramble net. **Action: Clerk**

27/17 HIGHWAYS – C182 PRESENTATION FOR NEXT TRANSPORT FORUM:

1. J.Berry will rearrange a meeting to ensure sufficient time to prepare for the Transport Forum on 6.7.17. A small committee of J.Berry, B.Birkenhead, J.Evans and J.Sivyer will meet to put together information to present to the Forum. This will include filming a stretch of the C182 (B.Leathwood volunteered to do the filming). It was noted that a further accident occurred on the C182 just beyond Dame Withycombe Villas on 26.5.17 involving a bus and two vehicles. Fortunately no-one was seriously hurt.
2. Mr M Bulman had emailed (with photos) concerned about a number of stones and earth that have fallen from a wall in Ship Lane, worried that bad weather could cause a further landslip on to the highway. We emailed Highways about this in June (and October) 2016. Highways then wrote to the householder advising an independent safety assessment should be undertaken. However, we believe that following a fire the householder does not reside at the property. We will try and establish if the property is occupied or who might be responsible so that Highways can assess if they can take any action.

Cllrs Caswell and Pay left the meeting at 7.50pm

28/17 ENHANCEMENTS:

1. Combwich Retaining Wall

The Clerk confirmed with the Contractor that the quotation for £2665.13 is fixed and only if we changed the specification or requirements would the quotation be subject to re-measurement. This will be put in writing. The work should go ahead within the next 2 or 3 weeks, but an actual date will be provided shortly.

2. Verge Markers Adjacent to the Play Area

This work will go ahead on 12.6.17. A letter will be sent to residents in advance advising them not to park on the verge on this date and notices will be also placed on the verge. J.Evans and R.Perrett will also be issued with notices to place on vehicles. **Action: Clerk.**

29/17 MEETING REPORTS:

11.5.17 – Community Forum (D.Best)

This was a well-attended and interesting meeting. Items of note included the first pour of “nuclear concrete” at Hinkley C; 2025 is the planned date for electricity generation; the jetty is estimated to be operational in 2018; 1800 workers are on site; the site campus for 500 staff is due April 2018; the Bridgwater campus for 1000 workers will start this July for completion February 2018; the park and ride at J23 will be opened August 2018 with Cannington in June 2018; the Bridgwater roadworks (golden triangle) will be complete end of June 2017.

24.5.17 – Village Hall

B.Leathwood and D.Cather attended. Sue Barton will remain as Chair; the Treasurer will stay in post until August 2017; it is not known if A.Rowley will stay as secretary, but P.Priest agreed to take on the minutes.

30/17 FORTHCOMING MEETING NOTIFICATION:

- 13.6.17 – Steart Forum
- 15.6.17 – Otter Wheels AGM
- 20.6.17 – Parish Cluster Meeting (Sedgemoor South West) 7pm, Nether Stowey Village Hall,
- 23.6.17 – SSG (Canalside, Bridgwater)
- 6.7.17 – Transport Forum

31/17 CORRESPONDENCE:

Received/sent:

1. **Stearth Peninsula Dog Walking Leaflet**
P.Gripton, B.Lee & R.Pyrah, and R & A Prowse wrote to the parish council complaining about the recent restrictions for off lead dog walking imposed by WWT and Natural England on the Stearth Peninsula. Other locals are also unhappy. The letters referenced a lack of consultation with both the community and parish council; whether there is any legal right to impose this restriction on a PRoW and it was felt that the action had been heavy handed. R.Perrett said the decision to allow off lead walking where they have, seems illogical as this is where incidents had occurred, it is the busiest section and it is the one section with the most open water. B.Birkenhead said as a cyclist he would be happy for all dogs to be on leads. It was pointed out that the PRoW around the reserve are multi-use and everyone should show consideration to other users. It was AGREED to take these complaints forward to the Stearth Forum on 13.6.17.
2. General List
 - a) Hinkley B – Explaining how EDF sites would integrate military personnel with its own security.
 - b) SCC – Advising of the new leader of the Council (Cllr David Fothergill) and other key personnel.
 - c) Open Spaces – Requesting a donation to fund legal action by the Society in defence of commons, green spaces and public parks. Members DECLINED to give a donation.

32/17 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES:

1. **Hinkley Liaison**
Nothing to report.
2. **Stearth Ward (D.Best)**
The WWT Open Day on 29.5.17 was hit by the appalling weather. The choir was well received.
3. **OPRA (B.Leathwood)**
Nothing to report.
4. **Village Hall**
Nothing further to report.
5. **Otterhampton Parish Project Team (OPPT)**
A first meeting of the new team will be arranged towards the end of June. **Action: Clerk.**
6. **School Liaison (R.Perrett)**
The School will become part of the Haygrove Academy Group. R.Perrett will attend a Governor's meeting if she receives an invitation.
7. **Public Rights of Way (B.Birkenhead)**
G.Martin (SCC PRoW) has notified the Environment Agency of the footpath that runs behind Estuary Park to Moxhill, falling into the brook and there has been no formal notification of the re-routing of the footpath from Stockland to Otterhampton.
8. **Otter Tales (B.Leathwood)**
Contributors met the May deadline date for articles. Items to include in the July issue are the Doctor's branch surgery and 'no' scooters/bicycles inside the Play Area. The deadline for the next edition is 9.7.17.
9. **Otter Wheels (B.Leathwood)**
The scheme has just completed its 100th journey. More drivers are required especially during holiday periods. Overall, passengers do appreciate the service the scheme provides.

33/17 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on 6 July 2017 at 7.00pm in Otterhampton Village Hall.
The meeting ended at 8.45pm.



Signed:.....
(Chairman)

Date: 6 July 2017