

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

on

THURSDAY 2 JUNE 2016 HELD AT OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

PUBLIC SESSION:

Mr T Smith expressed his concerns at the appointment of the Chairman given his alleged stance on nuclear power and on this basis, he wondered whether the Chairman could fairly represent the community as it is his view that most of the electorate are in favour of Nuclear Power. Members were quick to point out that it is the Chairman's role to represent the collective views of councillors regardless of any personal views; that he was democratically elected because of his ability to carry out the role and that he has the unanimous support of Members. Members felt the views of Mr Smith were unjust and unfounded. The Chairman did however, thank Mr Smith for attending the meeting to present his views.

PRESENT:

John Berry (Chairman), Dick Best, Julie Evans, Barry Leathwood, Rachel Perrett, County Cllr John Edney, Dist Cllrs Mike Caswell and Julie Pay, Aly Prowse (Clerk), Georgina Long (PCSO) and 3 members of the public.

17/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Heath Bennett and Bob Birkenhead.

18/16 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY AND ANNUAL MEETINGS HELD ON 3.5.16:

The minutes were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman.

19/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest.

20/16 WARD REPORTS:

1. Cllr Edney

- a) Money is available for pothole repairs. We are encouraged to report them to Highways.
- b) A funding requirement has been identified for a new scheme to repair large holes/damage at the side of roads without kerbs (haunching). Funding will commence in next year's budget.
- c) Prior to the meeting, Cllr Edney drove up Church Hill and School Lane to evaluate our request for a 20mph speed limit. He said he would find it very difficult to drive over 20mph bearing in mind the narrowness of the lane with many parked vehicles, and unless there is anecdotal evidence of accidents or near misses, he would find it very difficult to justify support under the Small Improvement Scheme. J.Berry said the concerns are the numbers of children walking to School whilst many vehicles drive up and down past them at speeds not conducive to the conditions. Cllr Edney said there is nothing to stop us erecting a "please drive slowly through the village" sign or similar. J.Berry has an action to pursue 20 mph voluntary speed limit signage. **Action: J.Berry**

2. Cllr Pay

Cllr Pay completed her action to send us Sedgemoor District Council's (SDC) annual report and said she has been busy dealing with a few contentious planning applications.

3. Cllr Caswell

- a) Cllr Caswell reported that Cllr Pay has been re-elected as Chair of the Audit Committee.
- b) The Core Strategy Local Plan to 2032 is being progressed. It is planned to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate at the end of August/beginning of September. If it is passed it will go through the SDC Executive Committee then the Full Council to become policy probably in November. The Plan will be reviewed every five years.
- c) The next SSG in June is expected to discuss the Intermediate Level Waste storage issue and some possible changes which may see imported skips for example, from Sizewell, Dungeness. This is a change from the original plans and will be subject to a new planning application.

PCSO – Georgina Long

1. No major issues to report. Georgina promised to produce some statistics in an effort to keep us updated.
2. She also mentioned a number of complaints regarding a property in the village which led to the involvement of Social Services. Cllr Caswell suggested we write to S.Houlet to advise what is going on at the property and to seek advice whether a Change Of Use planning application is required. **Action: Clerk**

Any future problems at this property, and indeed any incident should always be reported via 101 or <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/contact-us/report-a-crime-or-incident/>

21/16 PLANNING MATTERS:

1. **39/16/00003** – Letting rooms at The Anchor Inn. AWAITING DECISION.
2. **39/16/00004** – Alterations, improve access and parking. Mazoe, Otterhampton. AWAITING DECISION.
3. **New Street Trading Consent** – Burger Van in Bolham lay-by. AWAITING DECISION.
4. **39/16/00005** – Two storey extension, 6 Riverview Combwich. ON CIRCULATION FOR COMMENT.

22/16 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

1. Balances - Current A/C £1619; Deposit A/C £17165; Reserve A/C £20213. The Clerk advised the large balances in both the Deposit and Reserve Accounts are due to receipt of the Precept and grant funding for the Play and Recreation Area.
2. The following payments were AGREED:

A.Prowse	£321.96	(Clerk's salary for April, £23.79 other costs including £10.99 for a bottle of wine as a thank you to the internal auditor)
SALC	£12.50	(Transparency Code training; 50% shared cost with Stogursey PC)
SALC	£214.72	(Affiliation fees for 2016/17)
Otter Wheels	£450.00	(SCC Grant of £250, plus parish council grant of £200)
Hill House	£20.00	(Donation re use of facilities for Steart Forum 26.5.16)
SDC	£8811.00	(INCOME - RLT3 Grant re Play and Recreation Area)
HMRC	£1013.24	(INCOME - VAT claim)
3. Insurance – the quotation to renew a three year agreement with Zurich at £762.65 per annum was AGREED. **Action: Clerk.** This compared very favourably against the quotation from Came and Company which was in excess of £1000.
4. The Annual External Audit Return was submitted and acknowledged as received.

23/16 ITEMS FROM THE LAST MEETING:

1. **Review Action List (for actions not covered by the agenda):**
 - a) **No 5 – Speeding in School Lane** - J.Evans did contact the School Head. Parents periodically are encouraged to use the informal one way system around the village during the School run, but it is unenforceable.
 - b) **No 8 – Highway's Issues.** 8a – 8e are awaiting action by Highways.
8f – Additional/permanent parking adjacent to play area. Highways advised this would be permitted and sent information on how we might apply. Agenda item for the next meeting. **Action: Clerk.**
 - c) **No 12 – Combwich Track Repair** - The Clerk has finalised the specification and has two contractors lined up for a site visit. Hopefully both will tender for the work.
 - d) **No 13 – Insurance Claim** – The work to remove the trees was completed on 2.6.16.
 - e) **No 15 – Dog Fouling Letter** – Still trying to establish the facts. **Action ongoing: R.Perrett/Clerk.**
 - f) **No 18 – Combwich Ponds** – B.Leathwood said we are getting nowhere with SCC. However the Open Spaces Society are running a 'Find our Way fund' to ensure unrecorded paths are not lost. We are members of the Society, so we will make contact to see if we can get any assistance. **Action: Clerk.**
 - g) **No 22 – St Peter's Church letter of support** – A letter was sent to Viridor. B.Sparks advised that the grant application has been turned down, but English heritage has agreed to provide the majority of funding required.

Cllrs Edney and Caswell left the meeting at 8.10pm

2. Combwich Cruising Club – Request for shed on the Common:

Mr J Miller's email detailing the reasons why the Cruising Club would like a replacement shed on the Common was circulated to members prior to the meeting. Members considered the request carefully and a lengthy discussion ensued. The question was asked if other options to store equipment had been or could be considered, for example the Village Hall, particularly if changing facilities are now required. A shed containing a 'rib' which appears to be a new requirement would be a security and/or a fire risk, particularly if the shed was wooden, bearing in mind a shipping container (or similar) is highly unlikely to receive planning permission. Members did not think that a sufficient case for safety purposes had been made. If only cruising club members had access to the shed, then access could not be gained for anyone else to effect a rescue, but in any event, Members believe only trained personnel should use safety equipment, such as the Emergency Services, which we assume would be called in the event of an incident. Members commented that the area looks so much better now without the dilapidated shed and subsequent shipping container, plus the regular grass maintenance which in part is a requirement of the Environment Agency. The area

could now perhaps be used by the wider community. It was therefore AGREED to inform the Cruising Club that the parish council will not permit their request. **Action: Clerk.**

3. Lead Roles for members in Parish Matters:

B.Leathwood suggested adding Otter Tales and the Combwich Website to the list. Members volunteered for some of the roles, but as we were two members short, there are still some vacancies. The list will be updated and circulated for further discussion at the next meeting. **Action: Clerk.**

Cllr Pay left the meeting at 8.25pm

24/16 ENHANCED PLAY AND RECREATION AREA:

1. Progress update – It would appear good progress is being made with quite a few of the items in place. We should know if the completion date of 1.7.16 is on target week commencing 6.6.16.
2. Open Day Event – At the meeting on 1.6.16, the date and time of 9.7.16 at 11.00am was agreed. As this is the same day as the Village Market, the stall holders will be asked if they would like to take the market outside. We would like to involve the School children in a painting competition, with the paintings displayed at the play area; the winners of the 2 classes would 'cut the ribbon' N.Benbow will be contacted to discuss. **Action: R.Perrett.** It was suggested that any funds raised will go to the Village Hall who will provide some if not all the refreshments. A one page flyer will be produced to advertise the event to go to all households. **Action: Clerk**

25/16 ENHANCEMENT (J.Berry):

1. Additional trees for parish – J.Berry said he would like to see more trees around the Common. Trees can be purchased very cheaply from the Woodland Trust. It was agreed this would be discussed during the summer village walk.
2. 5 a-side football posts/nets – John wondered if more youngsters would be encouraged to play football if there were 2 nets and a football pitch marked out. The nets would need to be stored somewhere, especially if they are portable. B.Leathwood said there may be restrictions on what we are allowed to put on the Common. J.Evans suggested that there may not be a demand for a full football pitch or football teams. R.Perrett will discuss at the School. We need to determine if there is a requirement and/or sufficient interest.
3. Possible Twinning – Members generally liked the idea of investigating a possible twinning opportunity for the parish. This will be included on the next agenda. **Action: Clerk**

26/16 MEETING REPORTS:

1. 12.5.16 Community Forum (D.Best)

- a) EDF are capitalising and selling assets which suggests a difficult position regarding the Hinkley C Financial Investment Decision.
- b) The imminent Cannington Flood Relief Scheme expected to take 2-3 months to complete, is likely to cause further traffic problems as a huge amount of spoil will be transported away from site to reinforce the Parrett flood defences near Dunball. A temporary bridge will be erected over the road whilst a culvert is constructed. The bridge will have a maximum weight restriction of 40 tons. During the same period Hinkley excavation works involving 200 – 300 lorry movements a day are anticipated.

2. 26.5.16 Steart Forum (D.Best)

The main topic was a presentation of the monitoring works at Steart Marshes. This includes possible effects on ground water, accretion (build-up of material during tide movements) flora, fauna, vegetation, bio diversity and bird numbers. The new Coast path maintenance and vegetation clearance will be undertaken by Natural England and SCC.

3. 31.5.16 Parish Cluster (B.Leathwood):

- a) **Sue Mountstevens (Avon & Somerset PCC)** gave an interesting presentation and although the Police Force has 700 fewer police officers and £20m has to be found from the Police budget to 2020, she is committed to officers on the 'front-line'. One of the initiatives to save money is to share back room services with other Forces (eg payroll, procurement etc).
- b) **Rural Broadband** – The Chairman of Broomfield PC spoke about the trial undertaken by residents for services via satellite and wi-fi, in conjunction with the Devon and Somerset roll out programme. Limited success was reported. This topic has particular relevance for Steart & Otterhampton residents who could perhaps work with Stockland Bristol to consider a joint approach to the various broadband providers.
- c) **Amalgamate the Quantock Cluster with Bridgwater and North Petherton** – SDC made this suggestion in an effort to hold less meetings and save money. All eleven parishes present rejected the idea as there is no common ground with Bridgwater and North Petherton. For example, the existing Quantock Cluster parishes share similar issues along the A39 west of Bridgwater and other rural concerns. Our Cluster is the most vibrant and well attended, so perhaps changes should be made to those Clusters that are not working. Representatives were asked to discuss with their Parishes and

write a letter of objection to SDC if appropriate. Members AGREED to reject the proposal. **Action:**
Clerk

27/16 FORTHCOMING MEETING NOTIFICATION:

15.6.16 – Exercise HAROLD
24.6.16 - SSG

28/16 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION:

Received/sent:

- a) SCC – S.Littler has a possible solution to re-route the PRow behind Otterhampton and is in the process of arranging a meeting of interested parties.
- b) SCC – Update on progress of the C182 roadworks outside of Combwich (cycle way to Cannington).
- c) Avon & Somerset Police – Launch of the new Community Action Fund from 1.6.16 (up to £5k per application to help with issues such as solutions to minimise ASB etc).
- d) Open Spaces – Asking for donations to help fight the closure of footpaths which from 1.1.2026 will see the definitive maps closed against the addition of paths claimed on the basis of historic evidence. See minute 23/16/f.
- e) Landslip at Ship Lane – The Clerk informed Highways of the land slip and was advised that action will be taken.
- f) SDC – Notices advertising the EU Referendum, to be placed on the notice boards. **Action: Clerk.**
- g) Fields In Trust – Suggesting if we own any unnamed open spaces we might like to name them accordingly to commemorate the Battle of The Somme as part of the Centenary Fields programme. This is not appropriate to us.
- h) SCC - Minerals and Waste Consultation 13.5.16 – 24.6.16. Members had no comments.
- i) Highways – Environmental Maintenance programme for the coming year (grass cutting etc).

29/16 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES:

1. **Hinkley Liaison (J.Berry):**
Nothing to report.
2. **EDF Transport Forum (J.Evans):**
Nothing to report (next meeting will be in the autumn).
3. **EDF Community Forum (D.Best):**
See minute 26/16/1
4. **Stear (D.Best):**
See minute 26/16/2
5. **Village Hall (H.Bennett):**
In the absence of H.Bennett there was nothing to report.
6. **OPRA (B.Leathwood):**
Nothing to report.
7. **Otterhampton Parish Project Team (OPPT):**
Nothing to report.
8. **School Liaison:**
R.Perrett has now taken over this role from J.Evans.

30/16 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on 7 July 2015, at 7.00pm at Otterhampton Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 9.15 pm.

Signed:
(Chairman)



Date: 7 July 2016