

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3 MARCH 2016
IN OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

PUBLIC SESSION:

No items were raised.

PRESENT:

Barry Leathwood (Chairman), John Berry, Dick Best, Bob Birkenhead, Julie Evans, Rachel Perrett, Aly Prowse (Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

143/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

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

144/15 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10.2.16:

The minutes were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman.

145/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest.

146/15 WARD REPORTS:

In the absence of the ward councillors, there were no items to report.

147/15 PLANNING MATTERS:

39/15/00002 – (Outline) Single Dwelling, land west of The Cottage, 21 Steart Rd. NO OBJECTIONS.

148/15 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

1. Balances

Current A/C £783; Deposit A/C £13901; Reserve A/C £7401.

2. The following payments were AGREED:

A.Prowse	£269.64	(Clerk's salary for February including £7.50 other costs)
Heartstart Somerset	£160.00	(Defibrillator training 11.4.16)
SDC	£306.55	(November grass cut and empty waste bin in play area Oct-Mar)
Hill House	£20.00	(Donation for use of room for Steart Forum 18.2.16)

3. Mendip Community Transport Donation

R.Perrett had phoned the company to try and find out how it worked. Both Rachel and J.Evans would like to see younger people catered for. The Clerk said this company, initially set up by volunteers is not run as a profit making venture and targeted older, less able passengers when it was first created, probably thinking this was the greater need. J.Selway uses it regularly as do other parishioners who get picked up and dropped off at their doors, so it provides a valuable service. A £50 donation was proposed by B.Birkenhead and seconded by D.Best; 3 in favour, 0 against and 2 abstentions. The Clerk will send a letter with the cheque asking if once the two new minibuses are operational, that the service could be widened to include younger passengers. **Action: Clerk**

149/15 ITEMS FROM THE LAST MEETING:

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

- a) No 2 – Emergency Plan. It was AGREED this could be deferred until the summer.
- b) No 5 – The area by the wall at the junction of Brookside Rd/Church Hill will be cleared by K.Preston.
- c) No 9 – The Rambler's Association has been notified of the change of location for their bench.
- d) No 10 – Haul Rd. The Clerk phoned D.Stokes on 3.3.16. He will chase colleagues at Headquarters and update us if there is any progress. **Action: Ongoing**
- e) No 12 – Combwich track repair long and short term. To action in the spring. **Action: Ongoing**
- f) No 13 – Insurance claim. The Clerk rang the insurance assessor for an update on 3.3.16 and is awaiting a response. **Action: Ongoing.**
- g) No 21 – Y.Bulman has volunteered to produce the Welcome Packs.
- h) No 23 – Broadband – research speeds for Steart and Otterhampton. **Action: Ongoing**
Mobile Networks. B.Birkenhead has produced an article for Otter Tales. **Action: Complete.**

2. **Shipping Container on Combwich Common**

Members considered the Cruising Club document submitted at the meeting on 10.2.16 and forwarded comments to the Chairman. Barry read out a prepared statement responding to each of the Cruising Club's claims, culminating in the conclusion and decision of the parish council. This reaffirmed the decision made at the meeting of 15.12.15 that the shipping container must be removed. The Cruising Club will be given until 11 April 2016 to remove the container. Failure to meet this date will result in enforcement action. The Cruising Club will be advised of the decision by recorded delivery letter to J.Miller (Commodore) with copies to M.Saville (Secretary) and B.Johnson. **Action: Clerk.**

3. **Combwich Ponds**

Cllr J Edney had made some enquiries with Somerset County Council (SCC) which unfortunately will not advance our application for consideration. B.Birkenhead asked if the ponds were all in our parish. B.Leathwood said no, they are mostly in Cannington, but Cannington accept that Combwich are most affected and are happy for us to lead. It may be worthwhile making an approach to the angling club to request a meeting to ask if they might consider some access arrangements. **Action: Clerk.**

150/15 **CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA:**

1. **Progress with Funding Applications**

On 24.2.16, the Sedgemoor Parish Cluster meeting approved a further £8.8k, taking the total approved to £61.2k of the £99k total. The final application, to the Hinkley C Community Impact Mitigation fund for £37.8k was recommended for approval by the Planning Obligations Board; the first of three stages of approval. The second stage at West Somerset Council (WSC) Cabinet was approved on 2.3.16. The final hurdle will be at the WSC Full Council on 16.3.16. If this is approved, commencement of the project will be mid to late April.

2. **Vegetation Clearance**

The working party finished the work within a couple of hours. Thanks were recorded to Jim Doble, James Atkins, Barry Leathwood, Julie and Jack Evans, Paul Gripton and Gary Perrett.

151/16 **POLICE REPORT:**

PCSO G.Long joined the meeting at 7.45pm – 7.55pm. She advised Members that there have been 2 reported incidents recently. Contact was made with the owners of the property involved. Reports have also been made by a person claiming to be deaf going door to door trying to sell paintings; no crime has been reported at this time.

152/15 **PARISH ENHANCEMENT:**

Dog Waste Bins and Dog Waste Dispensers

J.Berry has carried out a survey of dog fouling areas in the village. Not surprisingly, these are in places that are not overlooked; the worst being Wharf Rd and the Common track towards WWT Steart Marshes. John has written an article for Otter Tales. It was AGREED to place the 2 trial dog waste dispensers adjacent to the dog bins by the telephone box (entrance to Wharf Rd) and pavilion on the Common. **Action: Clerk**

153/15 **HIGHWAYS ITEMS:**

1. **Combwich/Crossways lay-by Proposal and Consultation**

G.Warren (Highways) thought we were blocking the wrong end, and that for safety reasons, this should be at the Dame Withycombe Hill entry. Members were in general agreement with this suggestion. A brief consultation will take place with just the Dame Withycombe and Crossway's residents. **Action: Clerk.** A further meeting will be arranged with SCC (Tom Main) to discuss and to negotiate a designated pull-in for the School buses to prevent the central access lane being blocked. **Action: Clerk**

2. **Highways Meeting 24.2.16**

At the meeting with G.Warren, B.Leathwood and J.Berry said very little progress was made with our requests. Both Barry and John expressed disappointment that our concerns were more or less dismissed as 'perceptions'.

- a) **20 mph speed limit for Combwich** – This would not be possible. It is a complicated process, starting with a statutory consultation process to change the Traffic Regulation Order and a number of key considerations such as history of collisions; road geometry and engineering; road function; compositions of road users; existing traffic speeds and road environment to be taken into account, which he considered are not applicable to the village.
- b) **Road markings at Church Hill/Brookside Rd junction.** This was rejected based on the absence of any accidents, plus it is not possible within the regulations to have an additional "give way" sign or road markings. However, it was suggested that the existing road markings which have faded, could be renewed.
- c) **Disabled parking spaces** – one of these could be removed if we wish. B.Leathwood said they were generally not well used and rarely at the same time. It was noted they were installed before the

introduction of the parking permit system on the Track. It was AGREED that we would retain the parking space nearest the play area and remove the other as proposed by B.Leathwood and seconded by B.Birkenhead; all in favour.

- d) **Entrance to the enhanced play area** – we would not be able to impose any restriction but will have to rely on driver's 'good sense' not to block the entrance.
 - e) **Verge along the road adjacent to the play area** – Despite the destruction of the grass verge, G.Warren did not see this as a problem, as if vehicles did not park here, they would park elsewhere. He saw no problem if we wish to protect the verge with bollards but it would depend on where the highway ended. He would check on this and get back to us. It may be that we gravel the area to allow parking as once the play area is complete, it is likely that more vehicles will try and park in the vicinity.
It was AGREED that we would need to look at d) and e) prior to the installation of the play area i.e. by the end of March. **Action: All**
 - f) **Trees** – this is being dealt with by S.Scriven. The Clerk requested he arrange for the removal of lower limbs from the 3 trees. This work will be undertaken in the new financial year (i.e. after 1.4.16).
 - g) **Dame Withycombe Hill** – G.Warren was driven along the C182 which included the turn off at the Otterhampton junction to demonstrate the difficulty of getting safely back on the C182, particularly with so many farm vehicles using this road. D.Best asked whether a mirror at this junction could help with the blind spot. Gary was also shown the unmade road/track at the top of the hill, highlighting the dangers and the lack of signage. D.Best reminded members that this had already been agreed at a previous meeting with L.Hackling and R.Newby and included chevron signage.
 - h) **Stear Flood Poles** – G.Warren was made aware that this was previously agreed but remained outstanding. He agreed to look into this.
 - i) **Location of Speed Indication Device (SID) box** – whilst this had not been discussed at the meeting with Highways, members agreed that the device should be placed on Church Hill. However a post is required to affix the box. This will be communicated to D.Grabham (SCC). **Action: Clerk**
All of these issues will be confirmed in an email to L.Hackling and G.Warren. **Action: Clerk.**
3. **Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Proposal**
The PRoW proposal suggested by J.Sivyer is now being dealt with by S.Littler (SCC). This was raised at the Steart Forum on 18.2.16 together with potential access issues if the access by the "white bridge" is closed. This would mean access for Stockland and Otterhampton residents would be opposite the compound, as during the winter the muddy access at the Bristol gate in Otterhampton renders it unusable. This will be raised with A.Laver. **Action: D.Best.**

154/15 **FORTHCOMING MEETING NOTIFICATION:**

28.4.16 – Transport Forum - J.Evans will request confirmation that the cycle path will go ahead. **Action: J.Evans.**

155/15 **MEETING REPORTS:**

1. **18.2.16 – Steart Forum (D.Best)**

- a) A.Laver (WWT) gave an update on the progress of Steart Marshes. She introduced Lucy Bartlett in her new role as Community Engagement Officer dealing with the volunteers and public relations activities. A new warden to monitor bird population has also been employed on a 3 year contract. Chloe has been given a full time position.
- b) V.Rahilly from the Environment Agency investigated the concerns from Steart residents that the new scheme blocked off the rhines and fresh water north of the peninsula. Previously this water had provided 'wet fencing' for the farmers, which is now serviced by wooden fencing. The other concern was the outfall through the culvert on the new embankment. This had been blocked with sediment in the summer. However, during the high tides over autumn/winter, the force of the water flow has flushed the sediment away so hopefully the system will work and water will be able to get away.
- c) The Coastal Access Path will open on 15.3.16.
- d) S.Littler confirmed there are no immediate plans for a cycle track to be installed along the Steart and Stolford commons to Hinkley Point.

2. **23.2.16 – Parish Cluster Meeting (B.Leathwood and J.Berry)**

- a) The RLT3 bid for £8.8k for the outdoor gym equipment was unanimously approved.
- b) J.Berry said it was good to meet like-minded people regarding views on transport and speed issues on the C182, and frustrating that S.Crago (Police) and A.Coupe (SCC) believe the problems and issues raised are people's perceptions. They advised that speed limits along the C182 and Cannington by-pass conform to Department of Transport guidelines, giving little freedom to deviate from these.
- c) Work on the new foot/cycle path between Cannington and Comwich will start soon in conjunction with

widening and resurfacing of this stretch of road which will have kerbs on both sides.

3. 26.2.16 – SSG (J.Berry)

- a) Items at the SSG mostly cover Department of Environment issues for both A and B stations; but also for the A station, its decommissioning programme. Hinkley C does not form part of the meeting
- b) There are concerns with the A station decommissioning programme particularly with the storage and transportation of Intermediate level waste (ILW) from other sites. The movement of waste will amount to an additional 50 truck movements in total on the C182.
- c) The previously preferred 'milling' process to remove contamination from the pond skips has been discarded as it is not commercially viable. As a consequence more waste will have to be stored.
- d) The B Station outage is ongoing which means increased traffic movements. B.Birkenhead said this is consistent with normal outage periods. Bob also said that the Station Directors have asked all staff to use the Cannington by-pass.

156/15 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION:

Received/sent (excluding items covered by agenda or action list):

- a) Bridgwater Tidal Barrier - Invitation to a public exhibition on 10.3.16.
- b) SDC – Council Tax set; Slight increase of SDC element of average band D tax payer to £145.52.
- c) Matthew Peaster Ground Maintenance – to advise the contract is placed for this year, but we will be going to competitive tender next year. Details to be retained on file. **Action: Clerk**
- d) EDF Community Forum minutes from the January meeting.
- e) Steve Crago contact details (Hinkley Policing Team).
- f) SCC - procedure for painting finger posts should we wish to take up this option.
- g) To Ben Bryant – letter of support re Coastal Project Funding application.
- h) HM Queen Elizabeth 90th birthday commemorative medal for schools and parish councils. Information will be passed to A.Leathwood (OPRA Secretary).

J.Berry left the meeting at 9.05pm

157/15 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES:

1. Hinkley Liaison (including SSG):

See minute 155/15/3. Nothing further to report.

2. Steart Ward (D.Best):

- a) D.Best has a meeting on 4.3.16 with Natural England to discuss the bird disturbance issue once the coastal access footpath is open. He will also discuss possible sea buckthorn clearance in the centre of the village which could be funded from the AONB Greater Landscape funding pot.
- b) There will be a 'Clean for the Queen' beach clean at Steart on 5.3.16.
- c) Natural England will be organising a large beach clean at Steart Point later on in the year.

3. OPRA (B.Leathwood):

Nothing to report.

4. Otterhampton Parish Project Team (OPPT):

Nothing to report.

5. Village Hall (H.Bennett) :

Nothing to report.

6. School Liaison (J.Evans):

There was a Governor's meeting on 2.3.16. Minutes will be on the School's website.

7. Other:

B.Birkenhead wished to know what is happening with the Church. D.Best said he will ask Rosie if she knows who to contact so we might try and find out. J.Berry said he thought the money for repairs had been agreed. A new vicar has been appointed and perhaps we could invite her to a future meeting. Agenda item next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

158/15 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on Thursday 7 April 2016, 7.00pm at Otterhampton Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 9.20 pm.

Signed



Date: 7.4.16

(Chairman)