

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

on

THURSDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2016 AT OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

PUBLIC SESSION:

1. Revd. Alison Waters

Alison advised that the work on the spire at St Peter's Church which started in the summer is going smoothly and to plan. The spire was in a very poor state and very fragile. The bells have been removed as work is required to hold them in place. Hopefully the Church will reopen in the New Year. Internal works may also be required at a later date. Temporary services are being held in the school on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month and these are quite well attended. In the longer term, and particularly because of the amount of money spent (mostly from the Heritage Lottery) it is hoped the "asset" can be used by the community when not being used by the Church. Alison would like to seek the views of the community on how this might be achieved and is open to suggestions in a way that would complement and not compete with other community assets.

2. Cannington Grain Store

Mr Chinn complained about the noise emanating from the Cannington Grain Store, which over the last few days has been operating throughout the night keeping residents awake. We will contact Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) to check if there are any conditions placed on the hours of operation, and also bring it to the attention of the Company in an effort to get the practise stopped. **Action: Clerk**

3. Bollards at Crossways

The Clerk explained that no sooner were these erected than we had phone calls to advise the inner bollards had been erected in the wrong place. We immediately sent photos to Highways, but were told that discussions between the Contractor, land owner and the nearest house owner determined the positioning of the bollards. Obviously if there are problems, we will need to pursue.

4. Bus Service

The Clerk gave an update on the meeting held at West Somerset Council on 28.10.16 which was attended by the SCC Transport Manager and representatives from 11 parishes. There is a collective will to work together and various options will be pursued; including asking First Bus to extend the service for a further 3 months to give us time to seek alternatives (this has subsequently been rejected on commercial grounds); seeking a new provider; asking coach companies operating the school run to provide a service in between drop off and collection of children and discussions with the Slinky Service to extend its operation. A further option discussed is whether parishes would consider raising its precept to cover the cost of subsidising this route. If for example costs apportioned to our parish were circa £6500, the precept would need to increase by 37% per household.

5. Community Cycling Group

G.Perrett gave a resume of the last EDF Transport Forum including the new cycle/pedestrian path between Combwich and Cannington; Cannington Traffic Calming; Proposed new cycle/pedestrian path from Cannington to Sandford Corner and thoughts on the Steart/Coastal Route. Gary gave a copy of the minutes to the Clerk.

PRESENT:

John Berry (Chairman), Dick Best (Vice-Chairman), Bob Birkenhead, Julie Evans, Barry Leathwood, Rachel Perrett, Aly Prowse (Clerk), Revd Alison Waters and 5 members of the public.

78/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

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

79/16 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 6.10.16:

The minutes were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman.

80/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest.

81/16 WARD REPORTS:

In the absence of the ward councillors, there was nothing to report.

82/16 PLANNING MATTERS:

1. **39/16/00008** Two Storey & single storey extension – 4 River View. GRANTED.

2. **13/16/00009** Dwelling and Access, land west of 14 School Lane, Combwich. This has been recommended for REFUSAL at the Development Committee Meeting on 8.11.16.
3. **39/16/0010** Erect conservatory, 23 Estuary Park. Members reviewed the planning documents and had NO OBSERVATIONS to offer.
4. **3/32/16/018** Construction building for storage of Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) at Hinkley A. B. Birkenhead explained the objective of the storage facility and the changes in this application. Members felt they had insufficient knowledge to make an informed decision, therefore we will offer NO OBSERVATIONS.
5. **SDC Planning Training 12th October 2016**
This was attended by R. Perrett and the Clerk. Rachel felt it was well worth attending. The Clerk reiterated the options we, as a consultee, have when replying to applications; these are Support, Object and our Observations, detailing the valid planning grounds. Parishes were asked that for responses differing from the planning officer (which triggers a decision by the Development Committee) we should try to attend the meeting to defend our position. The community should have the opportunity to witness applications being discussed by the parish council. For this reason, Cannington Parish Council ask for extensions to response dates if these dates do not coincide with meetings. It was AGREED we would automatically do the same in future. The Clerk will write an article for Otter Tales explaining the planning process. **Action: Clerk**

83/16 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

1. **Bank Balances**

Current A/C £3968; Deposit A/C £21011; Reserve A/C £11497.

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

SDC	£417.96	(Grass Cutting April - June)
Glasdon	£50.67	(Life Buoy for Boat Club)
Mrs A Prowse (Clerk's salary)	£337.49	(including £10.43 other costs – September 2016)
Wicksteed	£1400.00	(Additional fencing at the play area – safety provision)
Hill House Christian Centre	£20.00	(Stear Forum venue)

3. **Half Yearly Accounts to 30.9.16**

The accounts were AGREED and signed by the Chairman.

4. **2017/18 Precept.**

A working version has been circulated to members. A meeting to discuss the precept will be held on 1st December 2016 at 6.30pm, prior to the parish council meeting. The submission date to SDC is 6.1.17.

84/16 ITEMS FROM THE LAST MEETING:

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

- a) **No 3 – Vehicles Exceeding 3 Ton Weight limit on Wharf Rd** (e.g. Viridor) – The Clerk contacted D. Stokes to ask what vehicles accessed the road on EDF business and was advised it is just the fortnightly refuse collection. Members were not unhappy with this. The sewerage lorry also accesses the road, but this is on our behalf and will cease once the sewerage is redirected to the Cannington outfall (2017). J. Evans thought the issue may be the skip vehicles associated with the Angling Club and she will confirm with M. Layton if this is what she is concerned with. **Action: J. Evans.**
- b) **No 5 – 5-a-side Football nets** – R. Perrett met with Mr Benbow who thought that although a good idea, it would not be very practical due to its temporary nature, so the idea will be dropped. Rachel also requested that speeding will be placed on the agenda for the next Governor's meeting.
- c) **No 9 – Bollards at Crossways.** Installed on 28.10.16. **Action Complete.**
- d) **No 11 – Precept Capping** – Objecting to the Government Proposals. **Action Complete.**
- e) **No 15 – Dog Fouling (general)** – The Clerk has been unable to make phone contact with the dog warden, so has emailed to request a call back. **Action Continues**
- f) **No 18 – Combwich Ponds** – B. Leathwood and B. Birkenhead will get together to discuss this issue. **Action Continues.**
- g) **No 23 – PRoW Proposal in Otterhampton** – Advise SCC we support the application. **Complete**
- h) **No 24 – Brookside Rd Notice Board** – B. Birkenhead has done some work to the notice board.

2. **Combwich Track Notices**

The amended draft was AGREED and will now be copied, laminated and issued for use. **Action: Clerk**
One of the residents has been advised of the system and the other will be advised shortly.

3. **Plaque on Combwich Buoy**

B. Birkenhead has added the original plaque to the buoy. The additional plaque for the recent refurbishment will be arranged shortly.

4. **Casual Vacancy**

The Clerk has triggered the process via SDC. Notices will be placed on the notice boards on 7.11.16 and will also be included in Otter Tales. **Action: Clerk**

5. Twinning

J.Berry suggested convening a meeting of interested parishioners and will write an article for Otter Tales. A provisional date was set for Monday 6 February, 7.30pm at the Anchor Inn. J.Evans asked if this was something that OPPT could be involved with. B.Leathwood suggested this would not be in the remit of OPPT which was primarily set up to deal with the £500k Community Impact Mitigation (CIM) funds.

85/16 COMMUNITY TRANSPORT / NUMBER 14 BUS SERVICE:

This was dealt with under the Public Forum.

86/16 PLAY AND RECREATION AREA:

1. The Clerk advised that the “snagging” are now complete. Members AGREED that we could now formally sign off the work. A year’s maintenance period will then commence and the final invoice will be forwarded shortly. The Clerk handed out user feedback forms to be completed as part of the CIM Grant Application on completion of the play area. We will take delivery of the 5 trees from Chew Valley in mid-November. We need to obtain permission from Natural England (C.Leppard) to plant any of them on the Common. **Action: Clerk**
2. B.Birkenhead is unhappy that the “yellow hatching” has not been carried out at the entrance. The Clerk advised we need to agree the area to be tarmac’d, then produce a specification to use to obtain prices. Highways will carry out the lining for us. This work will be given priority. **Action: Clerk**

87/16 ENHANCEMENTS:

1. **Wharf Rd Vegetation Clearance**

Members AGREED to award the contract to M.Peaster (lowest tenderer) at a cost of £295. **Action: Clerk.** Whilst on the site visit the clerk asked his views on the state of the trees and although not a tree surgeon he thought that they all looked healthy and none in need of urgent attention. The possibility of regularly mowing the right hand verge was also discussed as eventually this would then grass over. The Clerk suggested that if the area looked less like ‘waste ground’ dog owners might be less likely to use the ground as a dog toilet? It will also be a good idea to spray the vegetation on the left hand verge in the spring so that we can keep the area clear which will save money in the long run..

2. **Area vacated by the shipping container**

Our thanks to M.Ingram who supplied and laid the earth free of charge. The Clerk suggested prior to laying the grass seed, we plant some of the daffodils issued from SDC (the remaining daffodils will be used in Otterhampton this year). This was AGREED by members. It was also suggested that we plant a tree, but J.Evans thought we should leave this for now, until we decide what we will eventually do with the area.

3. **Village Hall – Signage at Crossways.** S.Barton emailed asking for our views on the use of a multi-use sign board at the entrance to the village that could be used by all the various groups and businesses similar to the one at Keenthorpe for Fiddington. The Clerk advised that in the first instance a request should be made to Highways as they are the land owner and this may be subject to a license. It will be suggested that the item is raised at the next Village Hall committee meeting.

88/16 HIGHWAYS UPDATE:

The Clerk gave an update of Highway’s issues:

1. **Dame Withycombe Hill and Otterhampton/C182 junction** – this work has now been formally ordered. The Clerk will enquire if the work will be carried out in this financial year. **Action: Clerk**
2. **Church Hill / School Lane Traffic Calming** – The Clerk will follow up the Speed Indication Device (SID) training she received at Cannington Parish Council, to ask if we would be eligible to install and operate SIDs in the village. We can then decide following consultation/sufficient volunteers to come forward, whether this is an option we would like to pursue. Highways, at its instigation, will be installing a dotted white line across School Lane at the junction of Ship Lane/Church Hill and also a solid white line on the corner opposite.
3. **The bridge railings at Estuary Park** – SCC is hopeful this work will be carried out in this financial year.
4. **Combwich Retaining Wall** – In principle SCC said we could install mesh on the railings over the brook, subject to their approval. We would need to supply the full details of the proposed mesh, fixings etc. If we go ahead, we will be fully responsible for the mesh, fixings and its future maintenance. Agenda item for the next meeting. **Action: Clerk.**
5. **Landslip at Ship Hill** – L.Hacking confirmed a letter was sent to the owner/ occupier of 16 Ship Lane in July. He has recently visited the site and reported no obvious deterioration since July. He has forwarded our concerns about the wall further up Ship Lane to the structure’s office who will arrange for an assessment to be carried out.
6. **Additional white lining on the C182 Cycleway** – The Clerk emailed A.Coupe asking if he would consider ‘white lining’ the cycleway along the hedge side of the path as in some places, particularly between

- Combwich and the Haul Rd entrance, the pavement falls away to the ditch which could be dangerous at night. He advised there will be a post completion safety audit and he will ensure this issue is considered.
7. **SDC - Winter Service Salt** – 10 x 20kg bags of salt will be available from the SDC depot at Dunball on Saturday 3 December, 9.00 to 13.00. D.Best volunteered to collect the salt.

89/16 **MEETING REPORTS:**

1. **13.10.16 – Community Forum (B.Birkenhead)**
The minutes have been circulated. With regard to the CIM fund, Bob expressed his view that projects for communities as far away as Porlock should not be eligible as they will not be impacted in the same way as parishes close to Hinkley C. Regarding the jetty, EDF has appointed a harbour master.
2. **13.10.16 – Village Hall (B.Leathwood)**
Barry said he was warmly welcomed to the meeting and reported the following:
 - a) An application will be made to the SDC Community Grant Scheme to replace the windows.
 - b) No treasurer's report, but income now exceeds expenditure.
 - c) Barry raised the CIM fund, but thinks the Committee has not really developed a strategy as yet but it will at least feature on future agendas.
 - d) The Committee are not going ahead with a printer for the community, but will buy one for their own use.
3. **20.10.16 – Steart Forum (D.Best)**
 - a) Dick reported disappointment that the main players (WWT and Natural England) did not attend, especially as the community was well represented together with The Bristol Port Company (TBPC).
 - b) There was a presentation on Fracking by South Western Energy who hold licenses for exploratory work between Weston Super Mare and Minehead. The talk mainly covered the theoretical side of fracking.
 - c) TBPC has extended its planning application from 2020 to 2030, although it will be exercising its options to purchase the land during 2017. One person is refusing to sell so a revised planning application will be required. The Environment Agency (EA) will continue to maintain the sea defences along the commons.
4. **20.10.16 – Transport Forum (J.Evans)**
 - a) The "golden triangle" roadworks (Matalan, Riders and the Drove/A38 traffic lights) will commence in January 2017 and are expected to last for 29 weeks. During this period, a temporary one way system will be in place, followed by a consultation which may consider retaining the one-way system.
 - b) In D.Eccle's report he outlined how much work is going on, and to plan; the park and ride in Cannington will be ready early 2018; nothing for Combwich in the immediate short term although plans for the wharf and laydown area are ongoing and the double glazing for eligible residents is due to start soon; If residents find EDF personnel parking in the village, EDF should be advised of the registration number, dates and times; Re traffic monitoring, only 2 vehicles were "off track" and these were dealt with very quickly.
5. **28.10.16 –SSG**
J.Berry was unable to attend, although B.Birkenhead attended the first hour as a member of the public. The B Station Director is keen to be notified of any bad driving by B station staff or contractors.
6. **1.11.16 – Improved Broadband (The Clerk)**
An informative and positive meeting was held involving Steart, Otterhampton and Stockland Bristol residents attended by Matt Barrow (Connecting Devon and Somerset). A short term solution may be available pending the receipt of tenders for Phase 2 of the Project.

90/16 **FORTHCOMING MEETING NOTIFICATION:**

- 1.12.16 – Parish Precept, 6.30pm at the Village Hall.
26.1.17 – Transport Forum

91/16 **CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION:**

1. **Received/sent:**
 - a) J.Sargent (Somerset Community Foundation) requested a meeting before Christmas to discuss the £7.2m CIM fund. We will suggest 8.12.16 at 7pm (subject to availability of the Village Hall). **Action: Clerk.**
 - b) SCC – An invitation to the formal opening of the C182 cycleway on 9.11.16 at 3.30pm. B.Leathwood and B.Birkenhead will represent the parish council.
 - c) OPRA – Requesting a member of the parish council attend the firework display on 6.11.16. B.Leathwood and R.Perrett will be attending. **Action: Clerk.**
 - d) SDC – Community Health Fund for up to £2k; closing date 11.11.16. No projects suggested.
 - e) No. 14 Buses – Several letters have been sent regarding the cessation of this service.
 - f) Thank you letter to Mike Ingram for filling in the hole on the common by the pill, free of charge.
 - g) A.Bown (SDC) – further letter of support to keep the Quantock Cluster.
 - h) Department for Communities and Local Government – Objecting to the Precept Capping proposals.

92/16 **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

1. **Hinkley Liaison**
Nothing further to report.
2. **Stearth Ward (D.Best)**
 - a) Sea Buckthorn. The AONB will officially grant 75% of the project cost estimated at £4.5k. Dick has obtained other offers of match funding including £500 from the Commoners; £100 from a local farmer; £50 from the Church. Replacement trees will be planted by volunteers. There is a shortfall of £150 - £200. Dick asked if the parish council could fund the shortfall. This was AGREED as proposed by B.Leathwood and seconded by J.Evans. The cost of replacement trees and possibly a bench would be eligible under the Magnox Socio Economic Scheme, so we may also submit an application to Magnox.
 - b) Dick said both the CEO and Chairman of the EA have recently visited WWT Stearth Marshes and he and Alys Lavers had attended the 70th birthday celebration of WWT at Slimbridge. This was also attended by Prince Charles who expressed an interest in visiting Stearth Marshes.
3. **OPRA (B.Leathwood)**
 - a) Barry said the firework display on 6.11.16 will be preceded by a lantern parade at 5.30pm. 30 lanterns have been constructed at a series of workshops run by S.Webb. The beacon will be lit by Alison Waters.
 - b) There may be some difficulty transporting the Christmas trees this year.
 - c) The Christmas dinner for the over 60's will be held on 3.12.16.
4. **Village Hall**
Dealt with under item 89/16/2 above.
5. **Otterhampton Parish Project Team (OPPT)**
We may need to resurrect the OPPT after the meeting with Justin Sargent (SCF).
6. **School Liaison (R.Perrett)**
Rachel discussed the "dog fouling" poster to be designed by school children with Mr Benbow. The winning poster will be printed and displayed in the village.
7. **Public Rights of Way (B.Birkenhead)**
A decision on the new proposals for the realignment of the footpath between Stockland Bristol and Otterhampton is still awaited from Somerset County Council.
8. **Otter Tales (B.Leathwood)**
Barry is in the process of compiling the November edition. He has not received many articles so far.
9. **Otter Wheels (B.Leathwood)**
The scheme is going along steadily. There are only 6 drivers currently, but 2 more are expected to join soon.

93/16 **DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be on 1 December 2016, 6.30pm (Precept) followed by the normal meeting, 7.00pm at Otterhampton Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 9.20 pm.

Signed
(Chairman)



Date: 3 November 2016