**OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Otterhampton Village Hall on Thursday

4th October 2012 at 7.30pm

**PRESENT:** Mr.M. Brown (Chairman) Mr. P. Gripton

Mr.J. Best Mrs E. Sidebotham

Mr B. Leathwood

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillors Ms J. Pay, Mr J. Edney, Mr M. Caswell and 6 parishioners

41/12 APOLOGIES

Mr J Marriott, Mr P. Shaw (Clerk)

42/12 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Councillor Caswell had tendered Councillor Edney’s apologies.

43/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

 All members declared personal interests in Agenda Item 5(i)

 Dick Best declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5(ii)

44/12 PRESENTATION

 By Elaine Oliver, affordable Housing Officer, Sedgemoor District Council

The meeting heard from Elaine Oliver about affordable housing. As members of the public were present it was decided she should speak before the open session. Feedback had been difficult owing to the fact that the person in charge of the survey had been made redundant, this had caused a delay and the housing needs survey to be reconsidered.

A copy of the November 2011 survey was passed around (see attached).

Elaine explained what affordable housing was for local people, rents were 60% - 80% cheaper than on the open market and buying 20% cheaper, it also gave security of tenure. Demand in Combwich was about average for local villages. If there was not suitable land within, the boundary land adjacent could be purchased with owners consent. Housing projects usually took 5 years to complete. It was suggested that the Parish Council should contact people who filled in the original survey to see if their needs were still the same and update the survey, and also to identify land which could be used for building.

The future survey would include additional questions over those asked last year. We would publicise the topic via newsletter and website.

45/12 MATTERS ARISING

 (i) Hinkley Point C Development

Paul Gripton reported that the examination was now complete and we await the panel making their recommendation to the Secretary of State.

 (ii) SteartPeninsular Project

Dick Best reported that weather conditions were still delaying the works and longer hours are still being worked when possible. It was still intended to make the breach by August 2013.

 (iii) Broadband

Nothing to report.

(iv) Parish Plan, Revisions

Barry Leathwood reported that the Parish Plan was moving to a Village Design Statement. The possibility of a Defibrillator for use in the village was being looked into.

 (v) Changes to Code of Conduct and Standing Orders

The Clerk to arrange copies for members.

46/12 FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Current Balances. Current Account £ 285.28 Business Call £9698.63

 Pension Fund £1601.79 \*includes VAT refund

 And second precept.

(b) Accounts for

Payment Purnells £163.40 August Newsletter

 Greenslades £343.24 Grass Cutting - August

(Sedgemoor DC £501.70 Emtying Dog Bins. Deducted

from precept)

 (PC World £449.99 Clerk’s Computer – Paid)

 P.M. Shaw Next Meeting Clerk’s salary/expenses. (Subject

to PAYE)

 Nether Stowey PC £ 30.00 Cluster Fee

The Accounts were APPROVED for payment

(c) Annual Accounts Paul Gripton to examine the books.

47/12 WARD MEMBERS REPORTS

 None submitted

48/12 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS/ITEMS FROM LAST MEETING

 (i) Children’s Playground Repairs

As last meeting. The picnic bench now installed. RLT2 monies to be requested.

 (ii) Village Gardening/Tree Work

The Wild Flower Project was considered together with a request for financial support. The Chairman proposed that a donation of £100 be made. This was AGREED. Lawrence Hackling of Somerset Highways had been involved and agreed the work.

 (iii) Housing Needs Survey

See minute 44/12

 (iv) Bus Shelter Light

 Paul Gripton and John Marriott are to action

 (v) Grit Bins

Prices to be sought for next meeting

 (vi) Site for BMX

 The Chairman reported that he is chasing the B Station Manager on the possible site.

 (vii) Footpath, Combwich to Cannington

It was agreed that the recent cutting had not properly cleared and exposed the footpath. The Clerk to contact Somerset Highways.

49/12 CORRESPONDENCE

* + 1. **Requiring Council Decision**

(i) August Combwich Wild Flower Project- Request for Grant *–See 48/12(ii)*

(ii) September Combwich Wild Flower Project- Need for SCC Licence –*Clerk to Action.*

(iii) 4th September St John Ambulance - First Aid Training *- Dick Best to go.*

(iv) 17th September Somerset County Council - Street Light turn off - *Next Meeting*

(v) September Village Hall - Hiring Agreement for signing*- Agreed*

 **B. To be Noted:** All other correspondence considered by the Chairman and Clerk.

#  C. Received after Preparation of Agenda.

1. 26th Sept David Hall (Somerset CC) - re Public Meeting, received too late to

arrange meeting. Barry Leathwood suggested more dates and use of school

1. 4th October Somerset CC - Speed indicator devices. Thought not

to be appropriate. To be reconsidered.

In view of the time it was Agreed that other correspondence be copied (e-mailed) to Members as follows:-

1. 20th Sept Chairman Somerset CC - Awards presentation 18th Oct
2. 27th Sept Somerset CC - Total Advocacy
3. 2nd October SALC - Items of interest
4. 2nd October Community Council - Police Commissioner Elections
5. 3rd October Sedgemoor DC - Community Health Fund Launch
6. Undated Environment Agency - Flood Warning Service, Combwich
7. Undated Somerset Rural Youth Project-

**D. Outgoing – List Available**

50/12 PLANNING MATTERS

Application No.

39/11/0007 Toilet Block, Ponds – The Clerk had been e-mailed with the latest developments re

“non-compliance”, details to be sent to Head of Fisheries at Rivers House.

On the subject of the ponds it was agreed to write to Somerset County Council regarding lack of

progress on action to give access to the ponds path.

39/12/0008 Mobile Woodchip Boiler. Ferries Farm – no detail to hand

39/307L/SL Footpath diversions – Steart – No comments on application. Paul Gripton reported that on the

footpath at North Clyce signs have appeared stating “permissive” footpath not definitive “public” footpath. It was Agreed to enquire via the Rights Of Way Officer, Somerset County Council.

51/12 REPORTS OF REPRESENTITIVES

 (a) Hinkley Liaison - *Nothing to report*

 (b) Village Hall - *Nothing to report*

 (c) Steart Ward - *Dick Best tabled his written report*

 (d) OPRA - *New Website, fireworks on 4th November.*

*Newsletter soon*

 (e) School - *Posted on website*

52/12 MATTERS OF REPORT

1. Parish Cluster Group

Barry Leathwood and Clerk attended the meeting on 21st August. See previous minutes 39/12

 (ii) SALC

 AGM Sat 29th September. No attendance.

53/12 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Damaged Wall, Wharf Road
2. Affordable Housing
3. Footpath
4. Grit Bins
5. Public Meeting

NEXT MEETING

Thursday 1st November 2012 at 7.30pm

Signed………………………….. Chairman Date…………………………….