**OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL**

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

5th September 2013 at 7.30pm

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

Mr B. Leathwood Mrs E. Sidebotham

Mr. J. Marriott

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillors Ms J. Pay

Mr J. Edney

Mr P. M. Shaw (Clerk)

1 Parishioner

40/13 APOLOGIES

Mr R. Best, Mr T. Jones, Councillor Mr M. Caswell

41/13 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th July 2013 were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman.

42/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All members declared personal interests in Agenda Item 6 (i).

Dick Best declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 6 (ii).

43/13 HOUSING SURVEY

Elaine Oliver, Housing Officer at Sedgemoor DC had intended to attend but sent her apologies. She had sent a written report with some suggested ideas to move the scheme forward. It was agreed to await her attendance at the November meeting.

44/13 PLANNING MATTERS

Application Number:-

13/13/00016 Wind Turbine, Castle Hill Quarry, Cannington.

*Withdrawn* but likely to be re-submitted following further consultation with objectors including RSPB, Natural England. The Chairman suggested that we should contact these with our views, this was agreed, the Chairman to draft and circulate before sending.

13/13/00016 Wind Turbine, Castle Hill Quarry, Cannington – *Awaiting decision*

39/13/00002 Single-storey Extension, 14 School Lane *- Granted*

39/13/00003 Renewal of Application at Plot 4, 9 Church Hill – *Awaiting decision*

39/13/00004 Renewal of Application for 3 dwellings, 9 Church Hill – *Awaiting decision*

39/13/00005 Conservatory, front elevation, “Salterns”, Steart *– Granted.*

National Grid. Hinkley C. Connection Project.

We have not commented on previous consultations but the documents passed to Planning Group.

45/13 MATTERS ARISING

Hinkley Point C Development

The Chairman gave an update on latest information on benefits to the communities affected for the period of the productive life of the station. A fund of over £100million could be available for the 40 years, the issue now is how this will be administered and distributed, it may not be just Parish’s, even private companies may be included. The Chairman feels that we should consider a grouping of Parishes affected by Hinkley Point C and the C182. Members agreed that the Chairman should progress this. A meeting is arranged between Otterhampton Parish Council and Nigel Cann Station Manager, and the Manager of Combwich Wharf work on 19th September.

Steart Peninsular Project

In his absence Dick Best had submitted a written report (with these minutes). The Chairman updated by saying that the EA have undertaken to provide flood defence for the next 10 – 15 years, they have produced a more positive draft document. The Wildfowl and Wetland Trust (WWT) have set up a website accessible from the OPRA site. EA hope to complete the Bridleway full circuit soon. It was reported that youngsters have been swimming in the South Clyle (also in Combwich Pill), the danger to be included in newsletters.

Bus Shelter

The Chairman reported on the serious problem of cracking of the rear and side wall and the floor, and the action taken by the Clerk and himself. The shelter has been closed and boarded up by Mike Ingram. With help from Mervyn Brown the Clerk has asked a structural engineer to report. The Clerk has examined the Insurance Policy but subsidence, the likely cause, is excluded.

The need for a temporary shelter was discussed, John Marriott suggested a shelter which could be re-sited on the Common once a permanent shelter is provided. Councillor Edney suggested asking the bus company for help. It was agreed to await the engineers report.

Councillor Pay reported that her group at Sedgemoor District Council is considering support to rural Parish’s with poor or no bus service.

*Councillor Pay left the meeting.*

46/13 FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Current Balances Current Account £382.60 Business Call £7293.95

Pension Fund £1852.60

1. Accounts for

Payment Peter Shaw £400 Monthly Salary – July, August

Village Hall £18.00 Hire for meetings, May, June.

£27.00 Hire for ‘Chat and Chill’, June.

Open Spaces Society £45.00 Annual Subscription

Playsafety Ltd £81.60 Annual Inspection

Mike Ingram £260.00 Work at Bus Shelter

Grant Thornton £120.00 Annual Audit

The accounts were approved for payment

(c ) Annual Accounts The Account Books tabled

The External Audit Return approved

NALC – National Salary Awards 2013/2014.

47/13 WARD MEMBERS REPORTS

See item 45/13 (iii) for Councillor Pay.

Councillor Edney reported that he has a small fund which we can apply to.

*Councillor Edney left the meeting*

48/13 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS/ITEMS FROM LAST MEETING

1. Children’s Playground Repairs

The ROSPA report received, some items need attention, mainly decaying timber rails and fencing, gates not closing. The question of the need for fencing was raised but it is important to keep dogs out. John Marriott has looked at costings :- all weather surfacing costings up to £20,000, new fencing and gates £10,000 for all weather fencing. The idea of a RLT3 applications was considered and it was agreed to apply for new perimeter fencing and one division.

1. Village Gardening/Tree Work/Wild Flower Project

The hedge alongside the Copse needs attention.

The license for the Wild Flower project submitted.

1. Defibrillator Location

With Dick Best, we may be able to apply to Councillor Edney’s fund to help with the cost of a cabinet.

1. Parking Problems and Signs

It was reported that cars are being driven along the track at the common which is not a roadway but a Bridleway/Footpath, also parking near the Bungalow, day and night. Dog fouling resulting from this situation has increased. The present problem is likely to increase when the new ‘reserve’ is popular.

The Chairman has been in touch with the owners of Riverside Farm and the Bungalow with the idea of a gate on the track just before Riverside Farm. The Chairman suggested a meeting with all interested parties – including the dog warden. The Clerk mentioned the sign already purchased and it was agreed that it should be installed on the track approximately 2/3 car lengths from the road.

This whole issue, including dog fouling and over-flowing dog-bins to be discussed at the next meeting

The parking of large vans on the slipway car park is still a problem and before an item is put in the newsletter it was agreed to write to the owners. Commercial vehicles may be differently dealt with.

1. Footpath

John Marriott reported as a member of the HPC Cycle group, that the recent fund of £2.5 million is all for Bridgwater, Somerset County Council had recommended that an application be made for SIS funding.

49/13 CORRESPONDENCE

1. **Requiring Council Decision**
2. 29 July – Somerset County Council – Funding opportunities *– to be followed up*
3. 31 July – Peter Shaw, resignation as Clerk – as at 31st March 2014 this was accepted with many thanks to the clerk. It was agreed to start the replacement process in October/November, the clerk to produce a report.
4. 1st August – Ian Liddell-Grainger MP – Rural Fair Share *– no action*
5. **To be Noted :** All other correspondence considered by the Chairman and Clerk and available for inspection.
6. **Received after Preparation of Agenda.**
7. 19 August – SALC new website noted
8. 27 August – National Grid – Hinkley Point C Connection Project – noted

See 44/13

*Mrs E. Sidebotham left the meeting*

1. **Outgoing List – Available**

50/13 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

1. Hinkley Liaison

Mervyn Brown spoke to his written report (on file). The main issue being that of storage of nuclear waste at Hinkley. (refer to minute 32/13 (i))

1. Village Hall

John Marriott reported that the Hall had been cleaned and prepared for “Hallmark one and two” status.

1. Steart Ward

*See 45/13(ii) – No other issues reported*

1. OPRA

Barry Leathwood spoke to his written report – the main issue being the need to replace the tractor. It was agreed to consider an item in next year’s budget.

51/13 MATTERS OF REPORT

1. Parish Cluster Group –Await next meeting *– A39 problems to be discussed*
2. SALC – *Awaiting date of next meeting. New County Secretary appointed hoping to meet at next meeting*
3. Misuse of Wharf Road. – *The Clerk has written again to EDF re the obstruction of the Haul Road and the condition of the Wharf road surface*
4. Ponds – A parishioner has approached the Chairman about work being undertaken, however it is within the Planning Consent. Barry Leathwood expressed concern about the delay at Somerset County Council dealing with the right-of-way situation.

*Councillor Edney agreed to enquire*

52/13 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. OPRA Tractor
2. Parking Problems
3. Replacement of Clerk *- Action*

NEXT MEETING

Thursday 3rd October 2013 at 7.30 pm

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