

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

on

THURSDAY 6 OCTOBER 2016 AT OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

PUBLIC SESSION:

1. Cessation of the No14 Bus Service.

With effect from 30.10.16 First Bus are stopping the bus service to Combwich because it says it is not commercially viable. We only found this out by word of mouth a couple of weeks ago. We communicated this message via the OPRA email list, on the notice boards and hard copy letters to known passengers as we wanted to give the opportunity to as many people as possible to protest. We have been working with other affected parishes, County and District Councillors from both Sedgemoor and West Somerset and have written to Cllr Fothergill (SCC Cabinet Member, Transport), Tom Main (SCC) Duncan McGinty (SDC) and Ian Liddell Grainger MP. A meeting is being held between SCC and First Bus, although we are not hopeful for a positive outcome as SCC does not subsidise bus routes and has said there is nothing it can do. We will request passenger statistics from First Bus and ask SCC if anything was forthcoming from the meeting. **Action: Clerk.** EDF Hinkley C has said its staff bus could not be utilised due to insurance and security reasons. We do of course have Otter Wheels and the slinky bus service operates on a Tuesday, but the loss of this service will impact heavily on our parishioners, so we will continue to fight for the resumption of this service.

2. Hinkley Point employees parking in Brookside Rd

A complaint was made regarding Hinkley Point employees who park in Brookside Rd and then catch lifts to the power station. J.Evans said similar occurrences have been discussed at the Transport Forum and Hinkley C has agreed to pursue action if vehicle registration numbers are passed to them.

3. Closure of C182 for overnight works re cycle path from 10.10.16.

Most people are familiar with this instruction from Highways. It is uncertain what provision for access has been made for residents at Moxhill Drive. The Clerk advised the contact numbers for enquiries.

4. It was reported that a streetlight is not working in Nursery Close. This will be reported. Action: Clerk

5. An issue was raised concerning Viridor using the Wharf Rd (which has a 3 ton weight limit) to collect the waste bins. Viridor will be contacted to advise they should be using the Haul Rd. Action: Clerk

PRESENT:

John Berry (Chairman), Bob Birkenhead, Julie Evans, Barry Leathwood, Rachel Perrett, Dist Cllrs Julie Pay and Mike Caswell, Aly Prowse (Clerk) and 8 members of the public.

63/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Dick Best and County Cllr John Edney.

64/16 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 1.9.16:

The minutes were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman.

65/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest.

66/16 WARD REPORTS:

1. Cllr Pay

The rules and regulations for the licensing trade are being updated as part of a Government initiative. Cllr Pay also sits on Panels involved in the issue of licenses for liquor, taxi and boarding cats and dogs. She has also been heavily involved in the No 14 bus issue.

2. Cllr Caswell

The Core Strategy (Local Plan to 2032) is at the end of the consultation period. For Tier 5 and Open Countryside which is mostly applicable to our parish, not a lot will change. The document will be submitted to the SDC Executive at the end of November/beginning of December. If approved it will be put to the SDC Full Council in February/March 2017, followed by the Planning Inspectorate before the final ratification in September/October 2017. The Plan will be a 'live' document subject to review every 5 years.

Cllr Caswell has also been working hard trying to find a way to secure the No 14 bus service. J.Berry said it is heartening that the District and County Councillors are involved with us in this issue.

67/16 PLANNING MATTERS:

1. **39/16/00008** Two Storey & single storey extension – 4 River View. Awaiting Decision.
2. **13/16/00009** Dwelling and Access, land west of 14 School Lane, Combwich. It was AGREED that our response will be NO OBSERVATIONS. **Action: Clerk.**
3. **SDC Planning Training 12th and 18th October 2016**
12th October – J.Berry, R.Perrett, Clerk.

68/16 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

1. Balances - Current A/C £2450; Deposit A/C £24010; Reserve A/C £11496.
2. The following payments were AGREED:

Mrs A Prowse (Viking)	£75.79	(Multi pack ink cartridges)
Mrs A Prowse (Street Signs)	£294.90	(Steart flood and verge markers)
Mrs A Prowse (Clerk's salary)	£351.75	(including £26.68 other costs – September 2016)
K.Preston	£249.73	(Gardening costs & play area inspection Jul to Sep)
M.Ingram	£960.00	(Combwich track maintenance work)
JRB Enterprises	£172.68	(Dog bags for dispensers – a year's supply)
JR Best (St John Ambulance)	£37.60	(Defibrillator pads)
Get Mapping plc	£33.60	(Parish On-Line subscription renewal)
R.Birkenhead	£20.98	(Solar Panel for bus shelter)
3. Income received £9250 from SDC – Precept (2nd half) less £501.70 (6 months dog bin emptying charges).
4. We had a satisfactory conclusion of the external audit for 2015/16. The statutory notification has been displayed on the notice boards and website.
5. Consultation on Government Proposals to Cap Precepts.
Although the proposal is to cover only those parishes whose Band D precept is higher than £75.46 and a total precept of at least £500k, the Government is also minded to extend referendum principles (the 2% core principle or £5 whichever is greater) to the larger spending councils. It is SALC's recommendation that councils reject these proposals, as they could well filter down through to us in the future. It was AGREED that we will write to oppose the proposals. **Action: Clerk.**

69/16 ITEMS FROM THE LAST MEETING:

1. **Review Action List (for actions not covered by the agenda):**
 - a) **No 1 – Capillary strips/tubing into walls of bus shelter to enable ongoing monitoring. Complete.**
 - b) **No 5 – 5-a-side Football nets – R.Perrett has made contact with the School Head. Action ongoing.**
 - c) **No 7b – Chairman's Award – The nomination of S.Ayley was submitted. Complete.**
 - d) **No 11 – Parish lengths-man scheme - Cannington parish council has withdrawn its application to the CIM fund which was a joint application with us. We will now not proceed. Complete.**
 - e) **No 13 – Fill in Hole left by Cruising Club Shed – M.Ingram completed this work. Complete.**
 - f) **No 14 – Twinning Opportunities.** J.Berry said he will write an article for Otter Tales to gauge community interest. B.Leathwood said OPRA had expressed an interest. J.Evans wondered if this could be a project OPPT could take on. B.Birkenhead suggested a possible connection with a village near Flamanville, northern France. This will be a longer term action.
 - g) **No 15 – Dog Fouling (general) – make contact with dog warden and consider NFU signage/contact land owner re Brookside Rd fields. Action Continues: Clerk.**
 - h) **No 16 – Wharf Rd Maintenance – This is out to tender, prices to be available at the next meeting.**
 - i) **No 25 – Replace Brookside Rd notice board inners – B.Birkenhead has had a look and established what is required. Action: Continues.**
 - j) **No 26 – Invite Revd. Alison Waters to a parish council meeting – Alison will be attending the November meeting.**
2. **Combwich Track Notices**
J.Evans suggested a couple of changes, including the facility for those issuing the notices to record the date and vehicle registration number for retention. Julie will forward the suggested amendments to the clerk.
3. **Combwich Cruising Club**
The clerk wrote a thank you letter to the Boat Club and also spoke to J.Miller to say the parish council would like to make a thank you gesture for completing the refurbishment of the buoy. They would accept a life belt. The clerk advised this would cost circa £35 plus VAT. It was AGREED to go ahead and purchase one.
Action: Clerk.
4. **Wording for Plaque on Combwich Buoy**
B.Birkenhead said it would not really be possible to engrave the existing plaque and suggested a new, small plaque is purchased. Suggested wording was "Further refurbished in 2016. Sponsored by Otterhampton Parish Council."

70/16 CASUAL VACANCY:

H.Bennett tendered his resignation due to other commitments and the inability to devote sufficient time. J.Berry had responded to Heath. The clerk will contact SDC to trigger the casual vacancy process to enable us to co-opt a councillor. **Action: Clerk.**

71/16 NUMBER 14 BUS SERVICE:

Further to the public session, it was AGREED we should lobby our MP. **Action: Clerk.** In addition J.Berry asked if an emergency meeting of the parish cluster group could be called. **Action: Clerk.**

Cllrs Caswell and Pay left the meeting at 8pm

72/16 HIGHWAYS:

The Clerk gave an update of the meeting she had with Gary Warren (Highways) on 8.9.16:

1. The bridge railings over the brook at Estuary Park will be inspected. It is likely this will be declared a safety issue and will qualify for mesh to enclose the railings, particularly as the railings run alongside a pavement. Subsequently, the concerns raised by J.Berry following recent bridge repairs and vegetation clearance over the brook at the junction of Church Hill/Brookside Rd were dismissed by SCC as pedestrians can safely access this stretch of road using the pavement on the opposite side of the road. J.Berry suggested we might erect suitable screening ourselves. It was AGREED to find out the costs of doing this. **Action: Clerk.**
2. Parking on Wharf Rd
As this road is ours and hence private, we could create parking if we so wished, at our cost.
3. Safety and parking provision at the Play Area
G.Warren said that if we tarmac'd the existing stoned area across the entrance of the play area, he would arrange to hatch the area as a safety measure to prevent parking. It was AGREED to find a cost estimate. **Action: Clerk.**
The possibility of creating parking and kerbing along the verge was discussed but due to cost, is unlikely to be considered until the availability of CIM funds. As an interim measure Gary did suggest we could erect temporary verge markers either side of the play area entrance to prevent vehicles parking there which creates a risk for children entering and exiting the play area. The email from P.Gripton objecting to the creation of car parking spaces on part of the verge was noted.
4. The clerk discussed the potential landslide at Ship Lane and the protruding wall and asked if it is Highway's responsibility to address these issues. She was advised to consult Lawrence Hackling. **Action: Clerk.**
5. "Wigwam" Traffic Calming Measures
This was one suggestion in an effort to address parishioners concerns of safety from speeding drivers in the village, with perhaps the most vulnerable being children walking to and from School. The scheme would cost £3500 split between us and Highways. A blanket 20mph in the village has been ruled out and is unenforceable anyway. P.Gripton's letter amongst other things suggested further signage and flashing lights is not conducive to our rural village. J.Berry said it will be difficult to try and find an effective solution to speed reduction that balances safety and signage. B.Leathwood suggested Speed Indication Devise (SID) boxes as an effective measure. The Clerk said Cannington parish council is in the process of introducing SID boxes which they will operate. The Clerk will find out what is involved. **Action: Clerk.**
Sleeping policemen are another measure, but these are thought to be noisy for those living near them. M.Layton suggested speeding vehicles could be included as an agenda item at the next Governor's meeting. **Action: R.Perrett.**
6. Safety Signage at Dame Withycombe Hill
This system is on order and hopefully the work will be carried out in this financial year.
7. C182 Junction with Otterhampton
G.Warren agreed there is a visibility issue at this junction and it does require some safety modification.
8. Junction warning signage at Otterhampton/Stear Marshes
G.Warren has agreed to install signage prior to the junction (as per Stockland Bristol's request). .

73/16 MEETING REPORTS:

1. **15.9.16 – Bridgwater Tidal Barrier Drop In Session**
D.Best attended this meeting and circulated a report to members.
2. **17.9.16 – SALC AGM**
The Clerk attended the AGM and circulated a report to members.
3. **22.9.16 – SDC All Parishes Meeting**
The Clerk and D.Best attended the AGM. The Clerk circulated a report to members.

74/16 FORTHCOMING MEETING NOTIFICATION:

13.10.16 – Community Forum.

20.10.16 – Steart Forum.
20.10.16 – Transport Forum.
28.10.16 – SSG.

75/16 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION:

1. Received/sent:

- a) SCC – Road closure works at Cannington; removal of the temporary bridge on 8.10.16.
- b) SDC – Daffodil bulbs are being delivered week commencing 10.10.16.
- c) EDF – Hinkley C contracts signed.
- d) SDC – Legal advice available at £100 per hour plus VAT.
- e) Highways – PRoW and Highway's issues can be reported online.
- f) Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) – Justin Sergant advised SCF will be administering the CIM fund.
- g) Gavin Barwell MP – Outlining the Neighbourhood Planning Bill, the new development conditions for planning and reiterating the vital role parish councils play in communities.
- h) SDC – Boundary commission changes, although no changes in Sedgemoor at this time.
- i) CAB – Thanking us for the £100 donation.
- j) To SDC – Facilities Matrix for parishes.
- k) Crimson Hill – J.Berry will continue to try and arrange a meeting of the interested parties.

76/16 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES:

1. Hinkley Liaison

B.Birkenhead asked R.Edwards for a timeline of the Combwich wharf and was advised that surveying and the drafting of contracts is in progress. Work is anticipated to start late 2017, early 2018. B.Leathwood said it is important to keep an eye on the planning conditions to ensure EDF is compliant.

2. Steart Ward (D.Best)

D.Best submitted a report detailing the funding situation of the Sea Buckthorn work.

3. OPRA

B.Leathwood reported that arrangements are ongoing for the firework display, Christmas tree and the Christmas Dinner for the over 60's.

4. Village Hall

The next village hall meeting is on 13.10.16. Either B.Leathwood or the Clerk will try to attend.

5. Otterhampton Parish Project Team (OPPT)

The Clerk advised that remedial works at the play area will commence week commencing 17.10.16.

6. School Liaison

Nothing to report.

7. Public Rights of Way

- a) B.Birkenhead handed out the maps outlining the footpath diversion proposals in Otterhampton. Mrs Lyn Branson explained the background behind the proposals. The farmers and people in the vicinity have no objections. Rob Storey said he thought it a sensible improvement. The parish council AGREED to the proposals and will advise S.Littler. **Action: Clerk.**
- b) Bob has reported an issue with the path falling into the brook behind the houses in Estuary Park on the path to Bolham Bridge.

8. Otter Tales

B.Leathwood said some pages were printed in the wrong order in the September issue and he feels the colour is a bit dark for the photographs. Contributions for future editions are welcome.

9. Otter Wheels

The scheme is going well, although it could do with more drivers.

77/16 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on 3 November 2016, 7.00pm at Otterhampton Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 8.55 pm.



Signed
(Chairman)

Date: 3 November 2016