**OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL**

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

3rd January 2013 at 7.30pm

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

Mr. J. Marriott Mrs E. Sidebotham

Mr B. Leathwood Mr. J. Best

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ward Councillor Mr M. Caswell, Mr P. M. Shaw (Clerk)

78/12 APOLOGIES

Ward Councillors Ms J. Pay, Mr J. Edney

79/12 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2012 were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman.

80/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All members declared personal interests in Agenda Item 4(i)

Dick Best declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 4(ii)

All Members applied in writing and were granted Dispensations by the Clerk to speak on setting the Precept.

81/12 MATTERS ARISING

(i) Hinkley Point C Development – Open Meeting 11th December 2012

This meeting gave Parishioners the opportunity to question officers from Sedgemoor District Council and Somerset County Council. The Clerk Read out the letter sent to Sedgemoor District Council dated 19th December. Paul Gripton was pleased that out Ward Members had not been verbally abused of criticised.

Councillor Mr Caswell expressed his compliments to the Parishioners whop were present and spoke eloquently on the issues raised. He also said that with hindsight he might have given more support to Otterhampton Parish Council.

Paul Gripton reported that the date for the Secretary of State’s decision is 19th March.

(ii) Steart Peninsular Project

Dick Best said nothing to report. His drafted letter to Somerset County Council re Highway Issues was sent on 19th December.

(iii) Broadband

Dick Best reported on State Aid Clearance approval giving Public money with BT as preferred contractor.

(iv) Parish Plan, Revisions

Nothing new.

(v) Changes to Code of Conduct and Standing Orders

Clerk to action.

(vi) Vacancy

Notice re the vacancy posted, deadline for call for election – 11th January. If no election we can co-opt, process discussed. Chairman and Clerk to action.

82 Mr. J. Marriott /12 FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Current Balances. Current Account £ 158.26 Business Call £6183.83

Pension Fund £ 1601.99

(b) Accounts for

Payment Keith Preston £ 237.88 Gardening etc.

(c) Annual Accounts The Draft Budget was tabled. The Clerk advised that a Precept should not

be set until Jan/Feb following advice from SALC.

He also reported on the need for Dispensations in order to speak on setting

the Precept.

Following advice from SALC it was AGREED that the Clerk should decide on Dispensations.

The Account Books as examined and “signed off” by Paul Gripton were tabled.

Clerk’s new laptop to be activated in January.

71/12 WARD MEMBERS REPORTS

Councillor Ms Pay said that Sedgemoor District Council will NOT be taking over West Somerset District Council. A big meeting is planned to discuss the National Grid suggested route to Bristol.

A possible large wind turbine planned for Cannington Quarry.

72/12 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS/ITEMS FROM LAST MEETING

(i) Children’s Playground Repairs

RLT2 monies expected.

Inspections suspended due to weather conditions.

(ii) Village Gardening/Tree Work

The wild flower project proceeds. The Clerk is looking into the license situation with Somerset County Council.

The Clerk awaits a price for replacing the Laurel Trees at the Wharf Road. The Clerk reported that Sedgemoor District Council have agreed to pay for clearing the broken wall at the Wharf Road and pay 50% of replacement fence.

(iii) Housing Needs Survey

A newsletter and website item.

(iv) Bus Shelter Light

Paul Gripton and John Marriott are to action

(v) Grit Bins

John Marriott reported, the most suitable are £141.00 each. It was AGREED that two are needed subject to budget, Locations are to be agreed.

(vi) Site for BMX

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

(vii) Street Lighting

A newsletter item.

(viii) Track Repair

Agreed that the Clerk writes to the Environment Agency for help. Less farmers will use track due to changed land use.

(ix) Resignation

The Clerk reported that Mat Nicklin has resigned by letter. The Clerk has notified Sedgemoor District Council as required. An item to be put in the newsletter.

73/12 CORRESPONDENCE

* + 1. **Requiring Council Decision.**

1. 9 Nov Somerset CC – Provision of Salt
2. 14 “ Charity Commission – Available Funding
   * 1. **To be Noted:** All other correspondence considered by the Chairman and Clerk.

# Received after Preparation of Agenda.

None

# Outgoing. List – Available.

74/12 PLANNING MATTERS

Application No

No new applications

39/11/0007 Toilet Block, Ponds Feedback on “non-compliance” complaint

1/39/307L Footpath, Steart Project, diversion and closing.

1/39/12/609 Renewal – School, Temp Building - Granted

75/12 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

1. Hinkley Liaison

*No report*

1. Village Hall

*No report*

1. Steart Ward

*Dick Best had attended the St John Ambulance course with Barry Leathwood.*

1. OPRA

*Barry spoke to his written report – Christmas tree and lights and an excellent pensioner’s dinner.*

1. School

*The Clerk reported on problems of parking as raised by the Head Teacher, he is researching.*

76/12 MATTERS OF REPORT

1. Parish Cluster Group

The Clerk reported on the meeting on 27th November where officers from Sedgemoor District Council reported on:-

1. Community Infrastructure Levy and Parish Council funding
2. Hinkley Point C – Community Impact Mitigation Fund administration and allocation. Latest situation re. Energy Bill, Licence, National Grid Route, Jetty.
3. A39 Diversionary Routes, lack of consultation with Cluster Group.

(ii) SALC

The Clerk reported on the meeting on 29th November where the main issues raised were:-

1. Code of Conduct – members interests, re Precept
2. Local Public Audit – Changes
3. Internet Banking – payment by cheque
4. Council Tax Support – impact
5. Capping Parish Council Precept
6. Affiliation fees to SALC
7. Courses

On the same evening Sedgemoor District Council held their Parish Gathering where they explained Budget constraints and introduced current projects.

77/12 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. A report on the Open Meeting re Hinkley Point C
2. Financial Regulations
3. Internal Auditor
4. Standing Orders – amendments.
5. Blocked Gullies – flood risk
6. Signs – Wharf Road limits, track use
7. 20mph speed limit

NEXT MEETING

Thursday 7th February 2013 at 7.30pm

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