

**OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

on

**THURSDAY 7 JULY 2016 AT OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL**

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**PRESENT:**

John Berry (Chairman), Heath Bennett, Dick Best, Bob Birkenhead, Julie Evans, Barry Leathwood, County Cllr John Edney, Dist Cllrs Mike Caswell and Julie Pay, Aly Prowse (Clerk).

**31/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies for absence were received from Rachel Perrett.

**32/16 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2.6.16:**

The minutes were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman.

**33/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**34/16 WARD REPORTS:**

1. Cllr Edney  
Cllr Edney outlined the Devolution partnering arrangement which involves the South West Power Group (the Councils of Somerset, Devon, Plymouth and Torbay; all 13 districts and the National Parks of Exmoor and Dartmoor). The aim of the partnership is a collective voice and negotiating tool for major items such as transport, infrastructure, broadband, and to attract businesses to the area. However SCC would reject any proposals of a mayor.
2. Cllr Pay  
Cllr Pay attended Operation HAROLD and thought it had been a worthwhile exercise.
3. Cllr Caswell
  - a) The Local Plan consultations are gathering speed. Several new consultation events are taking place. Cllr Caswell will forward details of these.
  - b) A special meeting of the Local Development Framework was held to look at the potential western extension to Bridgwater. This could include a development of 1200 houses, although the land has not been released yet.
  - c) SDC is gearing up towards Devolution. It too would not want a mayor, preferring a Chief Executive.

**35/16 PLANNING MATTERS:**

1. **39/16/00003** Letting rooms at The Anchor Inn. AMENDED.  
Members had no further observations to make to SDC from those submitted on 4.5.16. It was noted that Bob Birkenhead is opposed to this application.
2. **39/16/00004** Alterations, improve access and parking. Mazoe, Otterhampton. GRANTED.
3. **39/16/00005** Two storey extension, 6 Riverview Combwich. NO OBSERVATIONS.  
It was noted that SDC had not notified many of the surrounding properties of this application. Cllr Caswell will follow up the letter we sent to S.Houlet expressing our concerns about the general lack of notifications of planning applications to neighbouring properties.
4. **39/16/00006** Store/stable at Greenacre, Bolham Bridge. NO OBSERVATIONS.
5. **39/16/00007** Erection of Dwelling, Ivy Cottage, 14 Church Hill.  
A site meeting has been arranged for 12.7.16 to consider this application.
6. **PC/1/13/3000** EA Conversion of Combwich STW into a sewage pumping station.  
We have no observations, other than the issue submitted to Wessex Water regarding the defibrillator which is placed on the existing sewage pump housing. **Action: Clerk**
7. **Other** We will check with SDC if there are any planning considerations with regard to static caravans placed in gardens of residential properties following a query. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Pay left the meeting at 7.30pm

### 36/16 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

1. Balances - Current A/C £19346; Deposit A/C £1496; Reserve A/C £7400. The Clerk advised the large balance in the Current A/C is because we have Play Area payments to make.
2. The following payments were AGREED:

Sedgemoor Tree Services	£ 180.00	(Tree removal Wharf Rd / Estuary Park)
A.Prowse	£ 398.82	(Clerk's salary for June, including £73.75 other costs (inc £21.59 printing cartridge and £38.50 costs re transporting the cage for the buoy)
SDC	£ 245.99	(New dog bin Wharf Rd/relocate old bin to Brookside Rd)
K.Preston	£ 298.00	(Gardening costs April – June 2016)
Wicksteed	£35721.72	(Play Area – Viridor Credit funding)
Broxap	£ 787.02	(Bins for Play Area - CIM fund)
Vica SL	£ 7476.00	(Shelter for Play Area – CIM fund)
3. £18600 BACS transfer received from the CIM fund (Play Area).
4. VAT Reclaim. The Clerk has submitted a VAT reclaim of £ 14341.64.
5. Budget Monitoring. The quarterly budget monitoring statement to 30.6.16 was issued to Members.

### 37/16 ITEMS FROM THE LAST MEETING:

1. **Review Action List (for actions not covered by the agenda):**
  - a) **No 3 – Crimson Hill Property** – The Clerk wrote to S.Houlet asking if a Change of Use is required and is awaiting a response. This will be followed up. **Action: Cllr Caswell.**
  - b) **No 4 – Street Lighting at Combwich Junction** – A.Coupe advised there is a new process to request Small Improvement Schemes via [HISPMO@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:HISPMO@somerset.gov.uk). This will be a future agenda item. **Action: Clerk.**
  - c) **No 13 – Quantock Cluster** - Advise SDC we do not wish to amalgamate with Bridgwater and North Petherton. **Complete.**
  - d) **No 14 – Tree work** on Wharf Rd/Estuary Park. **Complete.**
  - e) **No 15 – Dog Fouling** – send letter to resident if address can be confirmed. **Action: Ongoing**
  - f) **No 16 – Wharf Rd Maintenance** – Determine what work is required during the village walk (19.7.16, 6.30pm, meeting at the bus shelter. **Action: All**
  - g) **No 19 – Boat Club Shed** – Advise we will not permit a shed on the common. **Complete.**  
**No 19a** - Ask the contractor who is undertaking the Combwich track repair if he can fill in the hole left following the removal of the shed, with topsoil. **Action: Clerk**  
Cllrs Edney and Caswell left the meeting at 8.00pm
2. **Groups and Panels - Lead Roles for Members**
  - a) The unallocated positions on Highways and Otter Wheels were filled by the Clerk and B.Leathwood respectively
  - b) The planning process was discussed. The current system of circulating hard copy documents is not working, as they are being held up somewhere. As a trial period, the following was AGREED:
    - The Clerk will email details of the planning application and reference number to members so that it can be viewed online.
    - Members will email comments to the Clerk (cc'ing all other members) as soon as possible, including a recommendation for a site visit if appropriate. The Clerk will organise a date for a site visit.
    - If the timing of the planning response does not coincide with the following parish council meeting, the Clerk will advise a date when she will make the hard copy details available for discussion (if necessary) at the Anchor Inn at 7pm (most central location).
    - The Clerk will coordinate member's comments and submit a response to SDC.

### 38/16 ENHANCED PLAY AND RECREATION AREA:

1. The Play Area is finished apart from a couple of minor items which will be complete in time for the Open Day. The Inspector's certificate is also outstanding. Items on the periphery (landscaping, additional fencing along the road and possible road signs) will be discussed on our village walk, 19.7.16.
2. Trees / Landscaping – We have £520 for landscaping within the CIM fund. We are considering purchasing 4 or 5 semi mature trees. This should be done no later than the end of July if we wish to utilise the CIM fund. We could order the trees now for delivery in the autumn. Rosie Best has offered to help select the trees.
3. Open Day Event 9.7.16  
Representatives from all the funders will be attending; the Village Hall will provide the refreshments; the colouring competition has been judged by the Art Group and the winning entries will be framed and

presented to the children; we are expecting 30 – 40 invited guests; goodie bags have been received for the children, courtesy of Wicksteed.

**39/16 TWINNING FOR THE PARISH:**

J.Berry will investigate this item further. It was suggested a twinning with Flamanville may be appropriate because of the Hinkley C connection. John will also write an article for Otter Tales to ascertain levels of interest from the community. **Action: J.Berry.**

**40/16 HIGHWAYS:**

**1. Speed restrictions in School Lane**

The Clerk discussed this with G.Warren (Highways). There is a possible system we could pursue known as “wig-wam” signage. This displays a speed limit, say 20mph within a triangular sign, surrounded by flashing lights timed to flash at certain times. G.Warren suggested a sign on both Church Hill and Ship Lane. If this system is suitable, we would need to meet 50% of the costs with Highways, i.e £1500. More information will be sought so that members can consider this option. **Action: Clerk.**

**2. Parking provision on verge near Play and Recreation Area**

This will be included in the Village Walk on 19.7.16

**3. Quotes for Combwich Track Maintenance**

Two quotations were received. No long term solution was offered as both contractors said the material would need to be concrete or similar which would not be permitted under the Village Green status. It was AGREED to award the contract to Mike Ingram as proposed by B.Birkenhead and seconded by B.Leathwood at a cost of £1440. The repair will start at the track’s entrance and continue to the South Clyde Gate. **Action: Clerk.**

**41/16 MEETING REPORTS:**

**1. 15.6.16 - Exercise HAROLD (D.Best)**

The purpose of the exercise was to demonstrate the Police and other emergency services’ response to an incident on the C182 necessitating a road closure. Dick said it was both interesting and fascinating to see how the emergency services work and coordinate with each other, and how seriously all the agencies treated the exercise. It was very professional. The message of course is to ensure the public are aware of the reason for the diversionary routes and the need to follow them. Dick will get some copies of the booklet illustrating the routes. The Clerk said the booklet is on the Combwich website. It was also AGREED to place an article in the September Otter Tales and provide a link to the website. **Action: D.Best.**

**2. 24.6.16 – SSG (J.Berry)**

a) J.Berry said it was difficult to report on the SSG because of the necessary technical content. There were a series of presentations for both the A and B stations, again giving an impressive centrality of safety and management. There is also a 59 page report on radioactive discharges which discloses that all safety provisions and parameters are met.

b) John mentioned the Magnox Socio Economic Plan 2016-2019, a funding scheme for distribution to any community. There are three categories:

- Up to £1000 (good neighbour fund)
- Up to £10000 (capital expenditure towards a sustainable project)
- Over £10000 (large project to make a significant contribution towards mitigating the impact of decommissioning at the nearest Magnox power station)

c) John will be attending an open day on 24.8.16

**3. 28.6.16 – Crimson Hill Support (Respite Care Facility at 41 Riverside)**

This meeting was arranged with the Director, Felicity Colson-Lane, following recent and other incidents concerning the current incumbent. Members were reassured by the organisational set-up although Barry felt that Ms Colson-Lane did not fully understand the issues the public may have when faced with people who have learning difficulties, especially having no experience or knowledge of how to deal with them.

John said clients are assessed whether they may be a risk or harm to the public, and if so, these would not be housed here. Dick asked if there might be a problem with supervision and Heath asked if there is anything in place to prevent clients from getting out into the street. John said there are always two people on 24 hour duty with access to a team leader, albeit he suggests you cannot be on top of people every minute of the day. He said an agreement was made to have two meetings per year in future and although Ms Colson-Lane provided some material to put in Otter Tales explaining the background of Crimson Hill, Barry had asked for something more personal that our community can identify with and hopefully be reassured by. John advised that the current incumbent will be moving in a couple of weeks.

**42/16 FORTHCOMING MEETING NOTIFICATION:**

- 12.7.16 – Planning Site visit, Ivy Cottage, Combwich
- 19.7.16 – Village Walk (meet at the bus shelter, 6.30pm)
- 21.7.16 – Transport Forum

**43/16 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION:**

**1. Received/sent:**

- a) Letter to N.Benbow re children's colouring competition for the Open Day Event 9.7.16.
- b) SCC – Press release "protect your child in the sun". Posters will be placed on notice boards.
- c) EDF – The consultation period with employee representation required by law has reached its end.
- d) SCC – Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- e) The Clerk reported tree damage opposite Mill Cl to Highways following high winds overnight on 29.6.16. The County Arboriculturist dealt with it the next morning and advised the 24 hour hotline telephone number – 0300 1232224 for any future emergencies.
- f) SDC – Local Plan Review – additional consultation will be available 27.6.16 – 8.8.16.
- g) EDF – Advising that following Brexit, there will be no impact to the build of Hinkley C.
- h) SDC – Isolation and Loneliness Conference 25.6.16.
- i) SCC – Explanation of planned road closure of C182.
- j) WWT – Observations of Steart Marshes leaflet.

**2. SCC Listening, Learning, Changing Survey**

It was AGREED to leave the survey up to individuals to respond if they wished.

**44/16 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

**1. Hinkley Liaison (J.Berry)**

Nothing to report

**2. EDF Transport Forum (J.Evans)**

Next meeting 21.7.16

**3. EDF Community Forum (D.Best)**

Next meeting 13.10.16

**4. Steart (D.Best)**

- a) D.Best had a successful meeting with Iain Porter (Quantock AONB Greater Landscape Fund) who agreed that the work to re-plant and re-fence the area following the sea buckthorn removal will be eligible for grant funding. The area behind the Church is to be included. Dick will obtain quotations. It is hoped the work undertaken by Natural England plus volunteer effort will be considered as match funding.
- b) Dick will pursue a request to Matt Barrow (Connecting Devon and Somerset Broadband) to come and talk to Steart, Otterhampton and Stockland Bristol residents about Broadband options. **Action: D.Best/Clerk.**
- c) WWT are very keen to obtain information about visitor experience to Steart Marshes. Dick asked if members would be prepared to complete the survey and return it to Lucy Bartlett. B.Leathwood suggested he could refer to the survey on the Combwich website.

**5. Village Hall (H.Bennett)**

Nothing to report.

**6. OPRA (B.Leathwood)**

Nothing to report.

**7. Otterhampton Parish Project Team (OPPT)**

Nothing to report.

**8. School Liaison**

Nothing to report in R.Perrett's absence.

**45/16 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be on 1 September 2016, at 7.00pm at Otterhampton Village Hall.  
The meeting ended at 9.45 pm.



Signed  
(Chairman)

Date: 1 September 2016