**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 had spelling errors corrected then 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 our Ward Members had not been verbally abused or criticised.

Councillor Mr Caswell expressed his compliments to the Parishioners who 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.

82/12 FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Current Balances. Current Account £ 920.48 Business Call £5857.76

Pension Fund £ 1601.99

(b) Accounts for

Payment Purnells £ 165.80 Newsletter

Purnells £85.44 Type/Print –September-November

(c) Annual Accounts Members examined the Draft Budget together with unknown items – Election, Riverside Farm Drains and agreed on no reduction. Final decision at February meeting. Clerks laptop not compatible with his printer. It was AGREED to spend up to £100 on a new printer. The account Books to be examined by Dick Best.

83/12 WARD MEMBERS REPORTS

Councillor M. Caswell referred to a quiet period. However the Government Local Council Tax Support Scheme to be implemented on 1st April will give problems.

A new group to be set up to consider flooding problems both in Sedgemoor District Council and wider area.

Councillor Caswell was thanked

*Councillor Caswell left the meeting*

84/12 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS/ITEMS FROM LAST MEETING

(i) Children’s Playground Repairs

RLT2 money for picnic table received.

2 gates not self-closing – Greenslades to be notified.

(ii) Village Gardening/Tree Work

The licence for the Wild Flower project received for signing. The Clerk asked Members to inspect the Laurel Trees at the Wharf Road with view to replanting further up on the right hand side. It was agreed to seek tenders for grass cutting this year.

(iii) Housing Needs Survey

Awaiting information from Sedgemoor District Council.

(iv) Bus Shelter Light

Paul Gripton and John Marriott are to action

(v) Grit Bins

Locations still to be confirmed.

(vi) Site for BMX

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

(vii) Street Lighting

There had been a low follow up from the newsletter item. John Marriott passed his report which generally stated that the newer lights could be reduced/turned off at midnight. Older area unchanged.

(viii) Track Repair

The Clerk to write to ask Environment Agency for help, as their vehicles have added to damage.

(ix) Damaged Wall

Sedgemoor District Council have agreed to pay for removal and pay half the cost of replacement fence, we contribute the other half. Members AGREED to a contribution of £387.50 plus VAT.

(x) Flood Damage – Riverside Farm

The Chairman and Clerk reported on this matter which occurred following the exceptional rain in November last. It seems likely that a collapsed and blocked outfall culvert under the Common/Village Green adjacent to the property was the cause of the flooding. Concern was expressed about Otterhampton Parish Council liability and the implications for future maintenance. The Clerk reported on enquiries he is making with The Drainage Board, SALC and the Open Spaces Society, also that he has notified our insurance company in the event that we are legally liable. He also stated that this issue should be considered when re appraising the Budget/Precept, Members to be updated.

85/12 CORRESPONDENCE

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

1. 5th December Somerset District Council – Damaged Wall – Wharf Road
2. 10th December Natural England – Ash Dieback
   * 1. **To be Noted:** All other correspondence considered by the Chairman and Clerk.

# Received after Preparation of Agenda.

None

# Outgoing. List – Available.

86/12 PLANNING MATTERS

Application No

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

Possible wind turbine – Cannington Quarry

87/12 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

1. Hinkley Liaison

*Nothing new, meeting on 14th January re. A Station.*

1. Village Hall

*Preliminary plans from Architect. Open meeting to be arranged.*

1. Steart Ward

*Dick Best reported on some flooding due to the high water table. A flood alert had been issued due to forecast storm-surge high tide and low pressure area.*

*Paul Gripton had received tide tables for Combwich, passed to Members.*

1. OPRA

*Barry Leathwood reported a quiet time.*

1. School

*The Clerk reported on his enquiries re. the parking problem where no evidence of ownership/provision was discovered. It was agreed that the Parish Council has no responsibility and thus can offer no help. The Clerk to write to the Head Teacher.*

88/12 MATTERS OF REPORT

1. Parish Cluster Group

*As previous minutes*

(ii) SALC

*As previous minutes*

89/12 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Co-option report
2. Financial Regulations
3. Internal Auditor
4. Blocked Gullies – flood risk
5. Signs – Wharf Road limits, track use
6. 20mph speed limit

NEXT MEETING

Thursday 7th February 2013 at 7.30pm

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