**OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL**

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

7th February 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 Councillors Mr J. Edney, Ms J. Pay, Mr M. Caswell, & Mr P. M. Shaw (Clerk)

One Parisoner

90/12 APOLOGIES

None

91/12 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd January 2013 were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman.

92/12 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.

93/12 MATTERS ARISING

(i) Hinkley Point C Development

Barry Leathwood reported on the meeting with the Director of Hinkley Point C for an update.

Once the decision is made by the Secretary of State more talks will be held on the practicalities.

Barry mentioned the funding arrangements for the Community Fund, some will require ‘match funding’ but our ‘ringfenced’ money does not.

Councillor Caswell referred to the meeting for the Stakeholder Group with Otterhampton Parish Council representation.

John Marriott referred to a Transport Forum meeting on 19th February which he cannot attend and asked for a replacement.

(ii) Steart Peninsular Project

Dick Best reported on the outcome of a Village meeting to discuss signage and showed the proposals. Members were asked if there should be a sign at the Combwich junction, it was Agreed to have no sign. The Steart residents are concerned about the wording of signs, the meeting supported them.

(iii) Broadband

Dick Best said there was nothing new.

(v) Changes to Code of Conduct and Standing Orders

The Clerk will provide an amendment to the Standing Orders. The Draft Financial Regulations to be circulated.

(vi) Co-option

The Clerk explained the procedures required by Sedgemoor District Council which were followed and resulted in no call for an Election and authority to co-opt. From the advertisement of Vacancy, 4 applications were received. Interviews were held on 24th January at the Chairman’s home. The Chairman explained the Interview procedure and questions asked.

One of the candidates was at the meeting and it was Agreed that he could remain.

Following discussion, a vote was taken by show of hands. A clear majority voted for Mr Tim Jones.

The other candidates to be thanked in writing with an invitation to speak to the Chairman.

94/12 FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Current Balances. Current Account £ 674.33 Business Call £5858.62

Pension Fund £ 1601.99

(b) Accounts for

Payment M.J. Dodden £225.00 PAYE Scheme

Greenslades £273.33 Grass Cutting September

Greenslades £273.33 Grass Cutting October

The above accounts were Approved for payment as were the Accounts presented at the January meeting.

(c) Annual Accounts Members considered the final Draft Budget. The Clerk explained the situation created by the Council Tax Support Scheme with its impact on Precept and Funding, he referred to the very helpful seminar arranged by Sedgemoor District Council. Members debated the issue and Agreed to set a Precept of £16,500.

The Account Books available and to be passed to Dick Best

The Clerk is obtaining the Consortium Catalogue to purchase the printer as previously agreed.

Details of new PAYE reporting passed to our accountants.

95/12 WARD MEMBERS REPORTS

Councillor Caswell reported that the Tesco application will be considered by Sedgemoor District Council Committee next week. He was aware of severe damage to road verges on C182 etc. and that the Local MP is to inspect. With cost constraint on Somerset County Council more costs could fall on Parishes, he raised the possibility of a joint shared Lengthman to clear verges for visibility/road safety.

Councillor Pay also involved in highway issues said that Somerset County Council were being very helpful.

Councillor Edney echoed the above. He reported on the latest Broadband situation where it is hoped that 95% of Somerset should have Superfast Broadband by the second half of 2015.

He asked if there is a suitable location in the village for a Defibrilator, this is to be considered at our next meeting, he confirmed that Somerset County Council intend to set a zero increase in Council Tax.

Dick Best asked about Somerset County Council funding for flood damage, Councillor Edney said that £250 per property was available.

*Councillors M. Caswell and J. Edney left the meeting*

96/12 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS/ITEMS FROM LAST MEETING

(i) Children’s Playground Repairs

The availability of RLT3 funds was considered. John Marriott will consider schemes.

(ii) Village Gardening/Tree Work

Comments had been received on the Wild Flower licence which the Clerk will pass to Somerset County Council.

The removal of the Laurel Trees was considered with the Clerk suggesting that they be re-planted at the location of the damaged wall on the Wharf Road once cleared. It was Agreed to consult the original objectors.

(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

As Steart have a storage site, only one is needed. Liz Sidebotham to confirm the location in Combwich.

The clearing of Parish roads of snow by a volunteer was noted, a ‘thank you’ to be included in the next Newsletter.

(vi) Site for BMX

A letter had been received from EDF saying that they could not release the piece of land in question. The Clerk had some doubt as to ownership of the land and will enquire via the Land Registry.

*Councillor J. Pay left the meeting*

(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 reported that following contact with the Environment Agency Steart Project they had filled the worst of the potholes as a temporary measure and confirmed that when they have ceased access from it they will undertake a proper re-surfacing.

(ix) Damaged Wall

Awaiting action by Sedgemoor District Council.

(x) Flood Damage – Riverside Farm

The Chairman and Clerk updated Members referring to the letter of 11th January from the Drainage Board which had been copied to our insurance company and the Home Owner. Concern was expressed over our involvement and legal liability. It was Agreed to undertake investigation excavating to expose the blockage and consider an open ditch or piping. The Clerk confirmed that our liability, as notified by the Drainage Board, was for repair and maintenance, not improvement. It is hoped that the Clerk of the Drainage Board will attend an investigatory meeting.

(xi) Auditor

The Clerk reminded Members of the need for an “internal” Auditor following the resignation of Mr Jack Napthine. The following were suggested – Mr Valentine Slack and Rod Williams.

(xii) Blocked Gullies – Flood Risk

The Clerk confirmed that Somerset County Council had inspected and found 2 seriously blocked gullies which they intend to clear in March.

(xiii) Signs – Wharf Road limits – Track use

The Clerk Spoke of the need of 2 signs and put forward his suggestions, one for Wharf Road:

“PRIVATE ROAD”

Weight Limit 3Tons

Speed Limit 10mph

The other for the Riverside Track:

“FOOTPATH & BRIDLEWAY”

No unauthorised vehicles

These were Approved subject to prices being obtained for the next meeting.

(xiv) 20mph Speed Limit

Following requests received the Clerk to write to Somerset County Council Highways and also enquire about a Speed Indicator Device (SID)

97/12 CORRESPONDENCE

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

1. 3rd Jan Sedgemoor District Council – Reply by Doug Bamsey – Hinkley C. –

*Circulate*

1. 10th Jan Somerset Community Council – Village Agent – *Meet Representative*
2. 10th Jan National Parish Magazine Awards *– No Action*
3. 14th Jan West Somerset Local Action Funding – Awards *– No Action*
4. 15th Jan Sedgemoor District Council – Hinkley C – Letter to Government *- Agreed*
5. 16th Jan EDF – Site for BMX Park *– See 96/12 (vi)*
6. 18th Jan Somerset County Council – Wild Flower Project consent. *– See 96/12 (ii)*
   * 1. **To be Noted:** All other correspondence considered by the Chairman and Clerk.

# Received after Preparation of Agenda.

1. 5th February Burtle Parish Council - New Standards Regime – refer to SALC
2. 7th February SALC - New Standards Regime
3. February Community Council – Fund Availability – Consider
4. 5th February SHAL – “Green deal” Heating/Insulation – Newsletter
5. February Sedgemoor District Council – Local Planning Guidance – Next Meeting
6. 6th February Rural Services Online – Opportunities Bulleting – Next Meeting

# Outgoing. List – Available.

98/12 PLANNING MATTERS

Application No

No new applications

99/12 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

1. Hinkley Liaison

*Mervyn Brown reported latest Stakeholder Meeting*

1. Village Hall

*Liz Sidebotham spoke to her written report. To be Filed.*

1. Steart Ward

*Dick Best spoke to his written report on footpaths. Filed.*

1. OPRA

*Nothing to report*

1. School

*No report*

100/12 MATTERS OF REPORT

1. Parish Cluster Group

*Awaiting meeting dates*

(ii) SALC

*Awaiting meeting dates*

101/12 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Footpath – Combwich to Cannington
2. Financial Regualtions

NEXT MEETING

Thursday 7th March 2013 at 7.30pm

*The Clerk gave his apologies, John Merriott to cover.*

*Note: the date for the Annual Meeting and Annual Assembly has changed to Wednesday 1st May.*

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