

OTTERHAMPTON OFFCUTS

Snippets from the March & April 2015 Parish Council Meetings

HINKLEY C COMMUNITY IMPACT MITIGATION (CIM) FUND £500k.

The leaflets asking for your ideas to spend the CIM monies, delivered to every household resulted in almost a 20% return. Thank you to all those who responded. The parish project team are currently categorising the responses under various headings. Once this has been done a further leaflet detailing the results and explaining the next steps will be sent to every household (early June).

An Open Day has been arranged for 27 June to allow everyone the opportunity for further comment and to view all the ideas. At the same time, we will be taking the opportunity to update the parish Community Plan. The Community Plan is an important document as it outlines the longer term strategy for the parish taking into consideration parishioner's aspirations for the parish.

UNCONTESTED PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION

The closing date for nominations was 9 April. Out of a possible seven places, six parishioners put themselves forward. This was therefore an uncontested election. We will be looking to co-opt another member, which will be advertised shortly. Existing members who are standing down officially finish on 11.5.15 and the new councillors attend their first meeting on 14 May.

At the April meeting, the Chairman thanked the outgoing members who have worked very well together and have accomplished a great deal and in particular, the Hinkley C consultations which resulted in £500k for the parish. Your new councillors joining Barry Leathwood and Dick Best are Heath Bennett, John Berry, Julie Evans and Stuart Mason. We look forward to working with the new Council.

PARISH ENHANCEMENTS

The annual grass cutting contract has been awarded to Sedgemoor District Council as it agreed to hold prices for a third year running.

Three seats / benches will be erected shortly:-

One is in the children's play area, paid for by the parish council.

Another will be placed at the entrance to the village by the wildflower area, as requested by the Wildflower Group. The parish council granted £200 towards the cost of this bench, and OPRA donated £100.

The third bench is a memorial bench in memory of the late Colin Borsay. This has been paid for by Mr Borsay's son and it will be situated on the flood bank opposite the wharf.

HIGHWAYS MATTERS

The road safety survey we requested for the C182 Hinkley road from Comwich to the Steart Marshes turn-off (including the re-instatement of reflective markers at Dame Withycombe Hill) will be carried out shortly.

Surface dressing (tar & chipping) at Steart is planned for early summer. Many short term repairs have been carried out recently as the condition of the road is so poor.

SCC has issued its 2015 programme for grass cutting of verges that are owned by Highways. The majority of hedges bordering the highway are privately owned.

Landowners and occupiers have to maintain their boundary except between 1 March – 31 July (re bird nesting season) to ensure their hedges do not obstruct highway users.

Grass cutting will start early/mid-May right until the end of the growing season.

REVISED MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICES WITH EFFECT FROM 1.8.15

Following the recent Somerset Library Consultation, Somerset Libraries has issued the changes to the mobile library stops with effect from 1 August 2015. We fought to retain as many stops as possible, and whilst some areas have lost the service altogether, we have been able to retain four stops, 3 in Combwich and 1 in Steart. The service will now be on Tuesdays, every 4 weeks and the revised stops and times are as follows:

Combwich

Otterhampton School @ 9.30am – 10.25am

Harbour @ 10.30am – 10.50am

Post Office @ 10.55am – 11.15am

Steart

Ferricies Farm @ 11.25am – 11.40am

Dates

2015 - 18 Aug, 15 Sep, 13 Oct, 10 Nov, 8 Dec

2016 - 5 Jan, 2 Feb, 1 Mar, 29 Mar

COMBWITH COMMON AND THE COASTAL ACCESS ROUTE

We recently met with Natural England to discuss the status of the Site Management Statement regarding the Common. Much of the Common is designated as an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest). The only area that isn't is the land on the left hand side of the track from Riverside Farm to the entrance to Steart Marshes (including the brownie copse). This land is however, owned by the parish council as is the rest of the Common.

Surveys will be carried out this summer to determine the presence of unusual and rare plants. It is hoped interpretation boards will be erected to advise people of the SSSI and what can be found of interest.

Consideration may be given to mapping the Common into various zonal areas.

You may also have seen 3 finger posts appear on the Common. This is in preparation for the Somerset Coastal Access Route which should be open this summer.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH CLERK

Aly Prowse 01278 652426

Otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCILLORS (until 11.5.15)

Barry Leathwood (Chairman)	01278 652399
Tim Jones (Vice-Chairman)	01278 653829
Dick Best (Steart Ward)	01278 651063
Mervyn Brown	07834 633460
Paul Gripton	01278 653240
Liz Sidebotham	01278 653028
Reg Wilkes	01278 652339

SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCILLOR

John Edney 01278 653026

SEDGEMOOR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Julie Pay	01278 732956
Mike Caswell	01278 652043

SLINKY BUS SERVICES – Info just received.....

As of 26 May 2015, the changes to the Slinky service will see the buses routed/zoned into smaller areas of a district but on set days of the week, routes being specifically designed to serve areas that have little or no public transport. Look out for details on the notice boards when received.

FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS - 7PM - OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

Thursday 14 May 2015 (Annual Assembly and Annual Meeting)

Thursday 4 June 2015

Thursday 2 July 2015

Parishioners are welcome to attend the meetings which commence with a short open public session where you can raise issues of concern, including agenda items. Agendas are placed on the notice boards at least 3 days prior to the meeting(s)