

**OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

on

**THURSDAY 8 MARCH 2018 (re-arranged from 1 March due to snow)**  
**HELD AT OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL**

**TREE MAINTENANCE AND OPEN SPACES STRATEGY:**

J.Doble (Sedgemoor Tree Services) attended to discuss the benefits of developing a tree maintenance strategy in the parish. This will include succession planting, mixing tree species to try and help resilience to disease and to have a schedule of pruning/lopping to ensure trees are managed before they become dangerous and vulnerable to falling in inclement weather. A small working group will be set up take this forward which will include consideration of a budget.

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

It was suggested that as many of the conditions (such as working hours, lighting and additional HGVs on our roads) originally placed on EDF under the Development Consent Order to protect and minimise disruption to people's lives, have been amended and subsequently approved by Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) that we should be alert to this as work on Combwich Wharf begins. D.Cather said we will be mindful of the upcoming works and added that most of us probably have concerns with some of the decisions made by the various Councils, which is not surprising given the size and complexity of Hinkley C; some of the decisions people will like and others will not.

**PRESENT:**

Dave Cather (Chairman), Dick Best (Vice-Chairman), Bob Birkenhead, Julie Evans, Barry Leathwood, Rachel Perrett, Dist Cllr Julie Pay, Aly Prowse (Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

**139/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

There were no apologies for absence.

**140/17 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1.2.18:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1.2.18 were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman.

**141/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:**

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations applied for other than those declared to SDC as part of Member's Interests disclosed at the time of taking Office. This information can be viewed on the SDC website.

**142/17 WARD REPORTS:**

Cllr Pay advised that the SDC budget has been agreed. The increase for 2018/19 will be 3.32% which represents an average of £5 per dwelling. Levels of services such as Planning and Waste will be maintained.  
Cllr Pay left the meeting at 7.15pm

**143/17 PLANNING MATTERS:**

1. **39/17/00016 (& 39/17/00015 Listed Building consent)** – Single storey link existing dwelling to existing detached garage for additional living accommodation, Justwall Cottage, Crossway Farm. GRANTED.
2. **39/18/00001** – Removal of condition 4 of planning permission 39/14/00010 to reinstate permitted development rights, plot 5, 9 Church Hill. GRANTED.
3. **39/18/00002** – Single storey extension to East elevation, on site of existing porch (to demolish) & first floor extension and conversion of loft to living accommodation, 11 Estuary Park. SITE VISIT TO BE ARRANGED
4. **39/18/00003** – Alterations and conversion of garage to habitable accommodation, 4 Old Ship Inn, Ship Lane. SITE VISIT TO BE ARRANGED

**144/17 FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

1. **Bank Balances** - Current A/C £1169; Deposit A/C £13093; Reserve A/C £9380.

**2. The following payments were AGREED:**

Mrs A Prowse	£359.87	(February salary including £21.21 miscellaneous costs)
Stockland Club	£ 15.00	(Venue for the Steart Forum 21.2.18)
Combwich Boat Club	£150.00	(Match funding for the HPC Community Fund)
Chew Valley Trees	£1107.08	(Trees for Steart Backrap project – Grant from Magnox)
SDC	£167.23	(Play Area bin Oct 2018 – Mar 2019)

3. Bank Mandate – The bank mandate adding R.Perrett and removing J.Berry has been submitted.
4. Quotation for urgent works to the willow at the entrance of Wharf Rd was received from Sedgemoor Tree Services for £400 plus VAT. This was AGREED by councillors.

## 145/17 ITEMS FROM THE LAST MEETING:

### 1. **Review of the Action List (for actions not covered by the agenda):**

- a) **No 5 – SDC E-Consultation.** A standard response has been received indicating that we could ask for support from SDC staff if requested. This does not address our specific enquiry regarding for instance, poor broadband speeds at Steart.
- b) **No 6 – Double Yellow Lines at Brookside Rd.** This was not wanted by residents and in addition, the parking situation has improved re fly-parking controls (although it needs to be kept a close eye on as it reverts on occasion) and the recent conversion of a garden for parking. Highways will be advised.  
**Action: Clerk.**
- c) **No 8 – Request SCC CEO to visit parish.** Chase up a response. **Action: Clerk**
- d) **No 11 – NHS Health Checks.** These were rearranged to 6 & 9 April due to snow on 1 & 2 March.
- e) **No 13 – PRow and Hedge by Riverside Farm.** Arrange a site meeting. **Action: B.Leathwood, B.Birkenhead and Clerk.**
- f) **No 14 – Year 2 Grounds Maintenance Contract.** Clean Surrounds confirmed acceptance of the terms for year 2 with effect from 1.4.18.
- g) **No 15 – Somerset Library Consultation.** This was advertised on the Combwich website, notice boards and Otter Tales.
- h) **No 16 – Combwich Ponds.** Following the Secretary Of States' decision that SCC has 6 months to respond to our claim, B.Leathwood suggested we write to SCC acknowledging the intervention and to request a decision as soon as possible. Councillors AGREED to this and Barry volunteered to draft a letter. **Action ongoing: B.Leathwood.**
- i) **No 20 – Ship Lane nameplate replacement.** This work has been completed.

### 2. **Play Area – Ground Settlement Issues**

Advice was sought from Hydrock (Ground Engineering Specialist) regarding surveying the ground at the Play Area. We were advised that the cost to investigate the area would be prohibitively expensive and suggested filling the holes with gravel and resurface with Eco-tumble would be the best solution given the circumstances. This would also satisfy the SSSI consideration as per the discussion between the Clerk and Colin Leppard (Natural England).

Wicksteed quoted a cost of £2893 to carry out the works, but as a measure of goodwill, the cost to us would be £1910. We had budgeted £5000 for this work. It was unanimously AGREED to proceed as proposed by R.Perrett and seconded by J.Evans. **Action: Clerk.**

### 3. **Otter Tales Publication Proposal**

B.Leathwood put together some proposals that could enable us to produce our own publications. These include either to purchase or lease a copier or to get items printed on-line. One quotation obtained to lease a printer with a booklet finisher on a 5-year lease was for £4233 plus a service charge of 0.25p per mono image and 2.5p per colour image. If we decide to acquire a printer, we need to be able to house it. Informal discussions have been held with Cannington Parish Council as they have an office that may be able to accommodate it, subject to access and further discussion. Notwithstanding this issue we also need to consider succession management to produce Otter Tales. It was suggested that we print the May publication on-line. Discussion will continue at the next parish council meeting, before which, further discussion will be held with Cannington Parish Council. **Action: B.Leathwood**

### 4. **Community Plan Strategy**

D.Cather felt inevitably, direction from the parish council to develop a Community Plan is necessary, particularly if other items are included such as an emergency plan and welcome packs. Also, if a call for volunteers is made it is likely people would come from the same pool of existing parish volunteers including OPPT and the Parish Council. At its next meeting OPPT members will be asked if anyone would like to join a small sub-group. D.Best said the existing Plan needs updating, but the framework is already there.

## 146/17 ENHANCEMENTS:

Western Power Distribution will shortly be carrying out vegetation removal close to power lines on Combwich Common and the brownie copse.

## 147/17 MEETING REPORTS:

### 1.2.18 – Transport Forum

- a) J.Evans reported that she had attended a speed monitoring session with the Police on the C182 and will attend another on 14.3.18. Julie previously circulated a comprehensive report of her experience. D.Cather has had conversations with the Somerset Road Safety Partnership to ask if they could be any assistance with our issues. We will make contact with the SRSP. **Action: Clerk**
- b) The meeting to discuss the output from the Transport Forum Workshops on 1.2.18 with EDF, SCC and the Police will be attended by D.Cather, D.Best, J.Evans and the Clerk.

#### **14.2.18 – SDC Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Training**

D.Best and the Clerk attended the training which was very useful. CIL is a levy paid on certain types of developments e.g. new houses and large domestic extensions. The levy also extends to hotels, supermarkets and retail warehouses. CIL is charged per square metre of proposed floor space. The rate per m2 rises slightly each year, but for 2018 the rates are; Urban residential £42.87; Rural residential £85.74; Supermarkets and retail £107.18; Hotels £10.72. The 3 developments with planning permission in our parish that qualify for CIL (when built) will generate £25130 for SDC, with our parish receiving £3770 of this sum. CIL funding can be spent on items that “address the demands that development places on an area”.

#### **15.2.18 – Community Forum**

B.Birkenhead reported that there were presentations on the progress of the Hinkley C project and on future employment opportunities. Also, there was a presentation on Community Impact Mitigation (CIM) money and the various projects which are being supported.

#### **21.2.18 – Steart Forum (D.Best)**

Steart Marshes - The Environment Agency advised it would be seeking solutions to the Great Crested Newt problem of failing to translocate the newt population successfully; issues caused by cutting off the water supply to the north of the village could be solved by the installation of a borehole. A small working group will be set up to look at this. Other issues raised included a review of the coastal footpath re the foreshore closure, a shortened version was given of the Transport Workshop slides, dog walking off lead revised and extended routes and a small presentation was given on the Stolford flood defence scheme which will commence in May.

#### **21.2.18 – Village Hall.**

We were unable to supply a representative to attend this meeting

#### **23.2.18 - SSG**

We were unable to supply a representative to attend this meeting

#### **6.3.18 – Joint Parishes meeting SDC**

We were unable to supply a representative to attend this meeting

#### **148/17 FORTHCOMING MEETING NOTIFICATION:**

14.3.18 – Village Hall meeting

20.3.18 - Parish Roads and Transport Issues (see 147/17/b)

#### **149/17 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION:**

##### **1. General List**

- a) Loose stones on the Combwich to Cannington Cycle Path – Highways advised we should raise this at the meeting on 20.3.18 as SDC are responsible for this action.
- b) Avon & Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner – Residents will pay an additional £1 per month on the Council Tax to protect neighbourhood policing.
- c) Highways – Confirming it will repair the defect around the manhole cover in School Lane and the leaking manhole has been reported to Wessex Water.
- d) Combwich Boat Club – The club is hosting a South West water ski-race event on 20.5.18 at circa 11.00am. It is hoped that the gig will be on display.

##### **2. Community Council for Somerset**

It was AGREED to purchase membership of CCS at an annual cost of £45 as proposed by J.Evans and seconded by R.Perrett. **Action: Clerk**

##### **3. General Data Protection Regulation**

Briefly, this legislation will be introduced on 25.5.18 when data controllers such as Councils will have new obligations to (i) keep an internal record of all personal data breaches (ii) report them within 72 hours (iii) notify an individual affected by a personal data breach in certain circumstances. We are hoping that SALC will be able to give guidance and arrange some training sessions.

#### **150/17 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

##### **1. Hinkley Liaison**

Nothing to report.

##### **2. Steart Ward & Combwich Defibrillator (D.Best)**

###### **WWT Steart Marshes HPC Community Fund Application**

D.Best reported on the meeting held on 13.2.18 seeking support from adjoining parish councils for the WWT application to fund a building estimated to cost £0.5m. Dick advised that we determined it would be difficult to justify the building as mitigation from Hinkley Point C. WWT’s fund raiser agreed and will review other possible funding sources.

### **Combwich Defibrillator**

There was a problem recently as the Ambulance Service would not release the code number to enable a caller to use the defibrillator for a parishioner. Dick followed this up and the system was immediately reinstated with a promise to listen to the phone recording and to investigate how the procedure failed.

### **3. OPRA (B.Leathwood)**

The AGM will be on 19.3.18 and arrangements are being made for the Easter Egg hunt on Good Friday, where some 80 children are expected to participate.

Barry thanked members for the flowers given to Ann following her recent operation.

### **4. Village Hall**

The AGM is on 9.5.18.

### **5. Otterhampton Parish Project Team (OPPT)**

- a) Two applications have been approved from the HPC Community Fund; Defibrillator for Steart £1119 and Combwich Motor Boat and Sailing Club Training Gig for £17965.
- b) The HPC Community Fund Panel has asked if we can supply the top 5 priority projects. This most probably will be subject to an update of the Community Plan, although the Village Hall refurbishment will be the next most likely project.
- c) We have also been advised that the fund is index linked so currently stands at £600k (it was £620k but the above 2 projects have been deducted).
- d) The next meeting is on 22.3.18.

### **6. School Liaison (R.Perrett)**

Dog fouling posters – three posters were shortlisted to try and identify an overall winner. However, it was decided that we would use all three around the village and on the notice boards. Rachel will thank the School and pupils and arrange for posters to be copied and laminated. **Action: R.Perrett**

### **7. Public Rights of Way (B.Birkenhead)**

The diversion of the footpath that runs to the rear of Wychwood to Mazoe in Otterhampton is just waiting for Drainage Board Approval for the crossing needed for the rhyne, before it can be operational.

### **8. Otter Tales (B.Leathwood)**

The latest edition was submitted to EDF B Station for printing on 7.3.18.

### **9. Otter Wheels**

This service is becoming very successful; there are more drivers now and it is working very well.

### **151/17 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be on Thursday 5 April 2018 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall, commencing with an update from the Environment Agency on the Bridgwater Tidal Barrier Scheme.

The meeting ended at 10.15pm.

Signed:

(Chairman)

Date: