

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

on

THURSDAY 5 APRIL 2018 AT OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

BRIDGWATER TIDAL BARRIER SCHEME BY THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA) - G. Quarrier and V.Dare:

1. Following the drop-in session in November, Combwich residents who attended said they did not want the defences raised along the Pill frontage as it would impact on views and the general ambience of the area. Therefore, there will be no height increase in the Village including the river bank to the South and North Clyces for the next 20/30 years. Ad hoc maintenance in these areas will be carried out as required. Secondary defences south of the village will proceed as well as improvements at Tuckett's Clyce. The construction period for the Barrier will be 2022/24. More information on the project can be found on <http://www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/article/1659/bridgewater-barrier> or if anyone has any questions, the EA can be emailed via Bridgewater.barrier@environment-agency.gov.uk
2. There has been a recent update to the on-line Flood Risk Map which has adversely impacted some properties' insurance quotations in the Village. The EA pointed out that the maps are based on a 'worst case' scenario which may not necessarily apply to some properties within a risk area. The EA offer assistance for home owners to complete an Insurance Related Request (IRR) form. There is also a Q and A Flooding Information Sheet. For assistance please phone 03708 506 506 or email wessexenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk.

PUBLIC SESSION:

No items were raised.

PRESENT:

Dave Cather (Chairman), Dick Best (Vice-Chairman), Bob Birkenhead, Julie Evans, Barry Leathwood, Rachel Perrett, Somerset County & Dist. Cllr Mike Caswell, Dist. Cllr Julie Pay, Aly Prowse (Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

152/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

There were no apologies for absence.

153/17 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8.3.18:

The minutes of the meeting held on 8.3.18 were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman.

154/17 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.

155/17 WARD REPORTS:

1. Cllr Pay – The next quarterly Audit and Governance quarterly meeting will be held in July and SDC's Annual Report and Accounts will be issued on 31.7.18
2. Cllr Caswell – Minor tweaks to the SDC Local Plan will be carried out in June and once agreed, there will be a public six-week consultation period. He stated that both he and Cllr Pay are here to assist if required.

Cllr Caswell left the meeting at 7.30pm

156/17 PLANNING MATTERS:

1. **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. REFUSED.
2. **39/18/00003** – Alterations and conversion of garage to habitable accommodation, 4 Old Ship Inn, Ship Lane. NO OBSERVATIONS (it was noted that the application was amended to include a recognised parking space).
3. **13/18/00012** – Request for partial discharge of requirement re C10, Construction Lighting Strategy, Combwich Wharf. J.Evans asked that once the work commences, we request signage is erected directing traffic to use the Haul Rd so that traffic does not enter the Village.
4. **96/18/00011** – Consultation to PW7 (1) and (5) highway work for No 8B Combwich Wharf and C182. Necessary road safety work to improve accessibility/visibility at junction of C182 and the Haul Rd.
5. Notification from EDF that it has submitted a Pre-Planning Advice request to SDC re Combwich Wharf Vehicle Holding Area. Cllrs are generally pleased that the laydown area is significantly smaller than the original permitted planning permission under the Development Consent Order (DCO).
6. EPR/JP3122GM/V006 and EPR/JP3122GM/V007 – Application to the EA to vary an environmental permit re Hinkley C, Construction Water Discharge. GRANTED.

7. Following recent site planning visits, Members raised concerns at the impact of Hinkley c employees renting and buying properties in the village re HMO considerations and the squeeze on parking. In addition, the opportunity for existing residents to buy or rent properties has decreased because of the potentially inflated prices and the general reduction in availability. The Clerk wrote to SDC's Rebecca Miller expressing the concerns.
8. SDC Planning E-Consultation – All parishes will be consulted via E-Consultation only with effect from 2.7.18. Hard copy planning documents will be available if requested by email, allowing 5 days for receipt, at a cost of £0.50p each A4 page, £1.00 each A3 page and larger than A3, £8 per page.

157/17 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

1. **Bank Balances** - Current A/C £1315; Deposit A/C £12093; Reserve A/C £8849.
2. **The following payments were AGREED:**

Mrs A Prowse	£372.52	(March salary including £33.86 miscellaneous costs)
Mrs A Prowse	£ 35.97	(Replacement Portable Hard Drive)
Sedgemoor Tree Services	£360.00	(Tree Survey)
Community Council for Somerset	£ 40.00	(Membership for 2018/19))
Otterhampton Village Hall	£1350.00	(Annual grant 5% precept & £200 for Hall Hire)
K.Preston	£ 157.75	(Gardening £57.75 & Play Area Insp. £100 Jan-Mar)
3. **Bank Mandate** – The bank mandate adding R.Perrett and removing J.Berry has been actioned.
4. **Annual Audit Return** – We have been advised that we will again this year be subject to an “intermediate review” which is more in depth than normal for a “smaller authority” due to the increase in our Precept/turnover variation because of the Play Area grants.
5. **Section 137** - The amount for 2018/19 is £7.86 per head of the electorate (681 x £7.86 = £5353).

158/17 ITEMS FROM THE LAST MEETING:

1. **Review of the Action List (for actions not covered by the agenda):**
No 13 – PRoW and Hedge by Riverside Farm. Arrange a site meeting. **Action: B.Leathwood, B.Birkenhead and Clerk.**
2. **Play Area – Ground Settlement Issues**
 Wicksteed has been advised to go ahead with the remedial works as soon as possible.
3. **Photocopier Proposal to include Otter Tales Publication**
 - a. B.Leathwood met with the Chair of Cannington Parish Council (CPC) on 15.4.18, who agreed in principle to accommodate a printer in the CPC offices and share production/usage costs subject to an approach to the editorial team of the Cannington Target to consider if they would use the facility, thus to help justify the costs; keys to the office would be issued for access and usage of the photocopier would be restricted to authorised individuals. CPC initially agreed a shared costs proposal of 1/3 CPC and 2/3 OPC. The next step if these proposals are agreed will be to invite a supplier(s) to discuss further. Barry said he believed it would be more cost effective to have a 5-year lease agreement over an outright purchase. J.Evans said copiers can be unreliable, but Barry replied that under a lease agreement a four hour call-out would be part of the contract. R.Perrett commented that an A3 photocopier would be useful to print planning documents. There was reluctance to commit a significant percentage of precept money to a contract to lease this without further review of written costings and contribution thereto from other potential users.
 - b. D.Cather referred to the previous minutes 145/17/3 where it was suggested we print the May Otter Tales using an online supplier as another option, at our cost. This suggestion was AGREED. **Action: B.Leathwood**
4. **Visit of Mr P Flaherty, SCC Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Andy Coupe**
 From the dates provided by the CEO we will offer 13th or 14th April. D.Best, B.Birkenhead, B.Leathwood, R.Perrett and A.Prowse said they would try to be available. **Action: Clerk**
5. **Community Plan**
 A meeting has been arranged for 2.5.18. The group will comprise some of the existing OPPT members plus some new volunteers including Pete and Connie Sanders. Nicole Wigley said she would be happy to help with proof reading. Initially, the group will put a draft plan together using the existing plan as a base and will look to revise the format to make the document more appealing.

159/17 PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY:

1. It was AGREED we would aim to co-opt at the May parish council meeting. Notices will be placed on the notice boards, website and B.Leathwood's email group on 6.4.18. The two people who previously expressed an interest will be emailed separately. The closing date for applicants will be on 29.4.18 and interviews will be held on 1.5.18.

2. D.Best advised he would like to step down as Vice-Chairman this year. He has enjoyed his time, but he had only agreed to stand in 2015 when so many of the then councillors stood down. He believes the Vice-Chair should be in the position to eventually succeed the Chairman.

Cllr Pay left the meeting at 8.25pm

160/17 ENHANCEMENTS:

1. Tree Maintenance Strategy Sub Group. This will include D.Best, J.Evans and R.Perrett who will arrange a meeting shortly. J.Doble will be invited to be part of the group. An annual budget of £1000 was AGREED.
2. Pete and Connie Sanders whose father, a longstanding Combwich resident, had recently passed away said they would like to donate a tree in his memory and would like the Group to make a recommendation to the type and location where it could be planted. **Action: All**

161/17 MEETING REPORTS:

14.3.18 – Village Hall (B.Leathwood)

The funding application to the Heritage Lottery for a feasibility study has been approved upon its resubmission. A door to door survey will be undertaken, followed by the production of detailed plans.

20.3.18 – Parish Roads and Transport

The meeting was held in conjunction with A.Coupe, the Police and EDF. It was a very useful meeting as a lot of issues were aired and explanations given as to why suggestions could or could not be actioned aiding thus our understanding. The key issues and actions are as below:

1. A programme of localised maintenance works along the C182 will be sent to the parish council.
2. Determine drainage works required and carry out remedial repairs to the Bolham Lay-by.
3. Bus Shelter and SPS buses
 - A.Wagstaff assumed passengers were being collected from the bus shelter, but this has not happened for 2 months. He will investigate.
 - The new timetable for April will be amended to confirm the pick-up point from the bus shelter and not the C182 lay-by.
 - Monitor the effect of buses collecting from the bus shelter again. Keep PC Lawson informed.
 - A.Wagstaff is currently investigating the use of a “round robin approach” for minibuses between Hinkley C and Combwich. D.Cather said this is now operational between the estimated times of 6am – 8pm. Outside these hours, a few people may need to be collected from the lay-by on the C182.
4. The stones on the Cannington to Combwich cycleway has been reported to Clean Surrounds, SDC who have responsibility for keeping the cycleways clear of debris.
5. A pedestrian crossing at the Combwich junction is not feasible as for safety reasons it would need to be located at least 100 yards south of the junction.
6. A 40mph speed limit was dismissed as both SCC and the Police felt it would be ineffective along this stretch of road. Data for speeding is based on an 85% percentile of vehicle speeds recorded, dismissing 15% of drivers as these do not drive within limits whatever they are. It has been demonstrated by recent speed monitoring along this stretch of road (as observed by J.Evans joining PC Lawson on a couple of recent monitoring sessions) that generally the 85% percentile of drivers do observe the speed limits.
7. Dame Withycombe layby – the Small Improvement Scheme fund has closed for 2018 works and is unlikely to be available until 2020 so we need to source funding elsewhere. A.Coupe suggested the use of grass crete may be a quicker and cheaper solution particularly if services and BT lines are a consideration. A meeting has been arranged with Highways on 11.4.18 to consider this and other options.
8. Accidents between Combwich and Biffen’s Corner. PC Lawson said there are more accidents here than at Clayland Corner which has chevron signage. She suggested we approach Highways to replace the reflective posts with chevron signage. This will be discussed at the meeting on 11.4.18.
9. A Variable Messaging System (VMS) has been agreed for Clayland Corner which PC Lawson said would have more value at Biffens Corner. A.Coupe agreed to talk to EDF about relocating the VMS to our parish.

In addition, B. Birkenhead asked if Highways would consider erecting a “Stop” sign at the Brookside Rd / C182 junction. This will be raised on 11.4.18. **Action: Clerk.**

J.Evans will compile an article for Otter Tales on road safety and transport issues. **Action: J.Evans**

162/17 FORTHCOMING MEETING NOTIFICATION:

11.4.18 - Village Hall

3.5.18 – Transport Forum

9.5.18 – Village Hall AGM

17.5.18 – Community Forum

163/17 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION:

1. General List

- a) S.Barton advised that a Fun Day will be held on 14.7.18. She asked if we could arrange for the grass to be cut just before the event and also arrange white lining on the grass for the races. It was AGREED that we would do this and cover any charge if made for the white lining. **Action: Clerk**
- b) Avon and Somerset Police newsletter.
- c) Open Spaces quarterly publication.
- d) The Somerset Library Consultation has been extended until 13.6.18.

164/17 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES:

1. Hinkley Liaison

This heading will be removed in future as all Hinkley items are now covered within the various Forums and SSG meeting under the "Meeting Reports" agenda item.

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

Nothing to report.

3. OPRA (B.Leathwood)

Due to the appalling weather only 40 children attended the Easter Egg Hunt; the Easter Sunday quiz was quite successful and a walk has been arranged for this coming weekend to Knighton, Stogursey.

4. Village Hall

See 161/17 above.

5. Otterhampton Parish Project Team (OPPT)

A further Expression of Interest has been received from the Combwich Sailing and Boat Club for a tractor to help clear silt from the public slipway and to launch craft whilst the slipway at the wharf is unavailable during the construction works. The application will be considered at a specially arranged meeting of OPPT.

6. School Liaison (R.Perrett)

R.Perrett had attended the School for a meeting but unfortunately the Head, Andy Sandercock was not at the School. Rachel understands that because the Mobile Library is unable to turn around at the School it will no longer use this as a stop. Members are concerned at the impact this will have on the Library Service for the Village as a whole as school children make up the majority of its customers. Rachel will check the newsletter to confirm the statement and then we will write to the School expressing our concern. **Action: R.Perrett/Clerk.**

7. Public Rights of Way (B.Birkenhead)

Nothing to report.

8. Otter Tales (B.Leathwood)

- a) Fewer articles than normal had been received for the March issue. The closing date for the next edition will be 3.5.18.
- b) N.Wigley raised the problem of inconsiderate parking on Church Hill (and other areas of the village) making vehicular access difficult at times. It was AGREED to bring this to the attention of residents via an item in the forthcoming Otter Tales. **Action: B.Leathwood/Clerk.**

9. Otter Wheels




This service is working very well.

165/17 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on Thursday 3 May 2018 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. This will include the Annual Parish Assembly and the Annual Meeting. It was suggested and AGREED to provide some refreshment at the end of the meeting e.g. wine, soft drink and nibbles to try and encourage more parishioners to attend, making the evening more sociable and appealing. This will be advertised widely. **Action: Clerk**

The meeting ended at 9.15 pm.

Signed:



(Chairman)

Date: 3 May 2018