

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

on

THURSDAY 3 MAY 2018, IN OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

Present:

Dave Cather (Chairman), Dick Best (Vice-Chairman), Bob Birkenhead, Barry Leathwood, Rachel Perrett, Aly Prowse (Clerk) and 4 members of the public.

Apologies:

Apologies were received from Dist Cllr Julie Pay, J.Evans (attending the Transport Forum).

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (full transcript below):

"Good evening. I hope you are all well, and welcome to your Otterhampton Parish Council's, Annual Assembly.

Everything changes, and indeed John Berry left for sunnier climes, vacating the chair in January. Somehow, I was nominated and I'll admit with some reluctance, I agreed to step into the role. I'm glad I did though.

I like being the chair of your Parish Council. I enjoy working with your other councillors, they are all amazingly nice, helpful people, with a wealth of backgrounds and experience, and they are all volunteering their time and doing their best to represent you and your Parish.

How they do this varies considerably, from considering 22 planning applications, attending lots of outside forums and committees, a range of plantings, from 500 daffodils to 1000 trees, speaking to you, hosting drop in sessions, organising repairs and maintenance around the villages, various training courses, liaising with district and county councils as well as local organisations, tirelessly campaigning for C182 safety and infrastructure measures, and a host of other things, big and small, including attending your Parish Council meetings once a month.

Like all of you, we live somewhere intimately experiencing HPC, with all of its many implications, both short and long term.

We all deal, daily, with the huge changes this extraordinary project has brought, from vast increases in local traffic, enormous disruption due to roadworks, the started, and future, work on the Wharf, fly parking in the village, new faces, new employment opportunities, and community investment opportunities (your CIM fund now stands at close to £600,000! Your ideas will decide what its spent on. Want to make a difference? Get involved.)

I feel it's not what happens to you that counts, so much as how you deal with it. Help us to guide the future of your parish. If you want to know more about what we do, please do come along to your parish meetings, we aren't scary and while we may not supply the drama of a West Wing, we are also not quite your vicar of Dibley".

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS:

The Clerk presented the Annual Accounts which showed a net bank balance of £22.9k; £14.5k of this is held in reserve for ongoing obligations.

INCOME for the year was £27.4k, a net reduction from the previous year of £63k. The previous year we received a £51k grant for the Play Area and a £5k grant for the Steart Backrap project, VAT was £10k less in 2017/18. This was offset by the increase in the Precept of £2k and £1k grant received in 2017/18 for a defibrillator at Steart.

EXPENDITURE for the year was £23.3k, a decrease from the previous year of £69.2k. This variance was largely due to Play Area expenditure of £55.7k and a corresponding reduction in VAT of £17.6k. This was offset by one-off expenditure for safety barriers and a new fence alongside the brook by Brookside Rd of £3.2k and other minor miscellaneous items of £0.9k.

The full Accounts, together with the Audit return will be placed on the Website (mid to late May). The Clerk will be very happy to answer any queries residents may have on any aspect of the parish council finances.

PUBLIC SESSION:

No items were raised during the public session.

The meeting ended at 7.20pm

Signed:
(Chairman)

Date: