

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on

THURSDAY 6 DECEMBER 2018, 7pm, at OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

PUBLIC SESSION:

A member of the public asked if a light could be provided at the bus shelter. The Chairman has already submitted a request for this to Somerset Passenger Solutions but the request was rejected. Cllr Caswell said he will put a request through to SCC (possibly via the Small Improvement Scheme process) and will also speak with Western Power if we could supply the relevant information to him. **Action: Cllr Caswell & Clerk.** The Chairman said we will pursue all avenues to try and get a light installed.

Ward Reports

Cllr Caswell

- The SDC Local Plan will be submitted to Full Council for approval (or not) early in the new year.
- A planning application has been submitted to SCC for the Hinkley 'A' Importation of Pond Skips. A special SSG meeting will be held in early January to discuss it.
- The Hinkley A turbine hall is now in the process of being demolished.

Cllr Pay

- Cllr Pay has just returned from a period of absence following a foot operation. She has attended a licensing review meeting which is required to be undertaken every five years.
- She also attended a Parish Cluster meeting and was disappointed that it was poorly attended; only represented by 5 parishes and one district councillor. B.Leathwood said that the Cluster meetings had not gone well since the enforced reorganisation by SDC. Cllr Pay will take this up for us with SDC. **Action: Cllr Pay**

PRESENT:

Dave Cather (Chairman), Bob Birkenhead, Barry Leathwood, Murray Lister (from 7.20pm), Rachel Perrett (until 8pm), Ward Cllrs Mike Caswell and Julie Pay, Aly Prowse (Clerk) and 4 members of the public.

82/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Dick Best and Julie Evans.

83/18 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1.11.18:

The minutes of the meeting held on 1.11.18 were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman.

84/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:

B.Leathwood declared an interest in agenda item 11c (minute 92/18/3a). No other 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.

85/18 PLANNING MATTERS:

1. **39/18/00008** – Variation of Condition 6 (39/16/000003) to allow opening windows at the Anchor Inn on to Ship Lane. The application has been WITHDRAWN.
2. **39/18/00009** – External alterations to Otterhampton Village Hall. PERMISSION GRANTED.
3. **39/18/00010** – Erection of 3 dwellings, garages and formation of access, land at 9 Church Hill. This is an application to renew planning consent that will expire shortly. Although we understand there is an issue regarding land ownership on the plot, this is a civil matter. Clarification is required on the position of the garages to ensure they are within the red line. **Action: Clerk**
4. **SDC Training 27.11.18.** The Clerk attended the training which was very useful. It would be useful for all councillors to receive this training. Slides of the presentations have been circulated to councillors.

86/18 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

1. **Bank Balances** - Current A/C £1642.11; Deposit A/C £16338.15; Reserve A/C £12403.22.
2. **The following payments were AGREED:**
Mrs A Prowse - £528.78 (Nov salary inc. £27.14 misc. office costs and £46.02 WWI commemorations)
Pains Fireworks - £859.20 (OPRA firework display)
Solopress (B.Leathwood) - £311.00 (Print November Otter Tales)
Amazon (B.Birkenhead) - £36.99 (long handled bulb planter). Thanks to Carol & Bob for planting the sack of daffodils from SDC.
3. **Income**
£716 – OPRA (re firework display)

4. Precept Meeting 29.11.18 (Steering Group)

- a. Following the precept meeting, the 'working version' spreadsheet was updated and a 'proposed version' created dated 2.12.18. It was recommended that the precept rise from £23k to £26k. The only change from that meeting was the Clerk's increment, it had been suggested she be awarded 2 increments but after speaking with the Chairman, the Clerk suggested one increment should be paid as some of the work she undertakes is voluntary. This was AGREED.
- b. The Clerk also provided some analysis of the precept and its impact on an average Band D Tax Payer for the 4 years from 2016/17 to date. This showed an increase of £28.80, from £58.93 to £84.42 (43%).
- c. In addition, a table showing the Reserves' fund items was produced for the same period which totals £18850. Reserves are set aside each year to cover likely future expenditure e.g. buoy maintenance, election costs, Combwich track, play area, computer equipment and the tree steering group. We also retain 25% of the precept for emergencies.
- d. After detailed debate, it was AGREED that the precept for 2019/20 will be submitted to SDC for £26000 as proposed by B.Leathwood and seconded by M.Lister. **Action: Clerk**

Ward Cllrs Pay and Caswell left the meeting at 7.55pm

87/18 ITEMS FROM THE LAST MEETING:

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

No 5 – Hinkley C site visit – It was AGREED to wait until the lighter evenings before proceeding with a visit. M.Lister will still pursue trying to gain permission for us to take the 'non- tourist' route on site.

Action Ongoing: M.Lister (Apri/May 2019).

No 6 – Dame Withycombe Hill works – Work commenced 3.12.18 and is expected to be completed within 7-10 days.

No 8 – The 6 bags of winter grit have been ordered from Highways.

No 11 – After debate it was AGREED the wording on the new sign at the entrance to the Combwich track will read "No Unauthorised Vehicles beyond this point" and will now be ordered. **Action: Clerk.**

No 12 – Combwich Ponds – B.Birkenhead has been advised that our appeal will be the first on the list to be dealt with in 2019.

No15 – Parking opposite the Village Hall - M.Lister said the base of the parking area is not suitable to allow white lining of it for spaces. **Action complete.**

No 18 – Affordable Housing presentation – SDC will attend the February meeting to talk to the parish council.

No 21 – Repaint the Combwich Buoy – M.Lister advised his friend is waiting for the first dry weekend to carry out the works. **Action Ongoing**

R.Perrett left the meeting at 8pm (after giving her school report, minute 93/18/3)

2. Parish "Welcome Information Sheet"

This is now complete and will be issued to all households together with the Emergency and Community Plans when the Community Plan has been updated following the Open Day. The information sheet will then only be circulated to incomers to the parish. **Action: Clerk.**

3. Replacement Notice Boards – Expression of Interest

a) The Clerk obtained two quotations for two new notice boards. Subject to some minor amendments the quotations excluding installation were for £4556 and £3217 respectively. If we wish to have flat headers instead of Arc shaped headers we could save £390 which would reduce the cost to £2827. Members AGREED we will go with the cheapest quote from Signscope and that we will have flat headers. We will go to a local contractor for a quotation to erect both boards. **Action: Clerk**

b) The Expression of Interest (EOI No 7) prepared by the Clerk was APPROVED as proposed by D.Cather and seconded by B.Leathwood. This will be submitted early January for consideration of the Hinkley C Community Fund awards panel at the end of January. **Action: Clerk**

88/18 COMMUNITY PLAN & VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT OPEN DAY (8.12.18):

Everything is arranged for the Open Day on 8.12.18. It is hoped that there will be a good number of people in attendance.

89/18 ENHANCEMENTS:

1. Flag suggestions for flagpole

The erection of the flagpole and the Help the Heroes Flag flying for the WW1 Commemorations was well received by residents. It was AGREED to purchase a Christmas Flag (the design aimed mainly for children). In addition, we will purchase a Union Jack of a substantial quality to fly during the year and a George Cross for St Georges day. **Action: Clerk.** Residents are welcome to make suggestions for flags they might like to see atop the flagpole.

2. Traffic Calming near play area

M.Lister said he is concerned at the speeds of traffic in the vicinity of the play area, believing it is an accident waiting to happen. Members agreed. We will request a site meeting with Highways to discuss what options we have available for traffic calming measures in this area. **Action: Clerk.**

3. Storm damage to Willows by brook/Wharf Rd

If J.Doble is at the Open day on 8.12.18, we will raise this with him as this is an area within the Tree Strategy group identified for enhancement. **Action: J.Evans** (as per email of 2.12.18) However, in the event of an emergency situation action is to be taken immediately. **Action: Clerk**

4. Broken Finger posts at the Combwich and Otterhampton junctions

An arm from the finger posts at both junctions have been snapped off. Whilst neither incident was witnessed it seems likely that they were broken off during the transportation of EDF's unusually wide loads to Hinkley Point C (9-metre-wide tunnel boring machines). The Clerk had specifically written to EDF prior to the movements to ask that care be taken with the Otterhampton one as she felt it might be at risk, particularly as a lot of the roadside furniture was being taken down in anticipation of the wide loads. We will write to EDF requesting the repair of both posts. **Action: Clerk.**

90/18 MEETING REPORTS:

1.11.18 – Transport Forum

Notes of the meeting had been previously circulated by J.Evans. The main items raised included Combwich Wharf (works expected to start March/April 2019 and completion during quarter 2/3, 2020); now that J23 and the south plaza at HPC are available, drivers should not be having rest breaks in local laybys; the jetty at Hinkley Point should be operational by Spring 2018 and there are 3370 people now on site.

14.11.18 – Village Hall Meeting

The Clerk previously circulated notes from this meeting. The majority of the meeting was taken up with the Village Hall refurbishment project. The next meeting will be on 12.12.18.

15.11.18 – Community Forum

B.Birkenhead attended this meeting and gave a brief summary of the key points. Formal minutes are awaited.

20.11.18 – Parish Cluster Meeting

B.Leathwood and the Clerk attended this meeting and echoed the comments of Cllr Pay as per her Ward Report in the public session above.

21.11.18 – EDF (Dog bins)

R.Perrett and the Clerk met with Luke Stevens (EDF) to discuss the dog bin options on Wharf Rd. It was AGREED he would talk to SDC about replacing the existing bin with a larger one and to install a new one on the grass where the footpath meets the Haul Rd entrance gates. The Clerk did advise Luke that the parish council should not be liable for costs. He did indicate that EDF has a maintenance budget and thought EDF will meet the costs.

91/18 FORTHCOMING MEETING NOTIFICATION:

12.12.18 – Steart Forum

18.12.18 – SALC AGM (apologies to be tendered as no-one able to attend. **Action: Clerk.**

11.1.19 – Special SSG

92/18 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION:

1. St Peter's Church Bells in Combwich

A letter of complaint was received from a parishioner objecting to the Church clock chiming on the hour through the night. This had been forwarded to Revd Alison Waters as it is not within the remit of the Parish Council. However, councillors and members of the public present said they would not like the chimes to be turned off. The Vicar has made an appointment to speak to the parishioner regarding her concerns.

2. Stockland Bristol Cycle Path Proposal

After much debate, Members felt they could not support this proposal with either financial or general support. From a financial prospective, although Mr Sivyler suggested we might offer some funding from our Hinkley C Mitigation Fund, as a principle we will not spend this fund outside of the parish and particularly on an item that would not offer community wide benefit for our residents, nor would we spend money on a third part asset (the land belongs to the Environment Agency); these reasons also apply in the use of our Precept. It was thought that very few if any of our residents would use it. This stance was supported by members of the public present. Members also thought the estimated cost of the proposal was very high. Regarding a general letter of support, members suggested the cycle path would not be well used and asked if there is evidence of support amongst the Stockland residents. A response will be sent to Mr Sivyler outlining the reasons why the proposal is not supported, and also to suggest that if he could demonstrate the support of Stockland residents plus any incidents involving cyclists at the junction, members would reconsider a general letter of support. **Action: Clerk.**

3. General List

- a) Citizens Advice Sedgemoor – Requesting a donation. Members said the CAB provides a worthwhile service which benefits our residents and AGREED a donation of £100 as proposed by B.Birkenhead and seconded by M.Lister. **Action: Clerk.**
- b) Environment Agency – Bridgwater Tidal Barrier exhibition on 7.12.18 at St Marys Church, Bridgwater.
- c) EDF – Various letters regarding the likely disruption due to the tunnel boring machine delivery at the Comwich wharf and the ongoing transportation to Hinkley Point.
- d) Comwich Sailing Club – An update on the success of the Gig Section and plans for the future. They also wish to discuss with the parish council ideas for a Comwich festival weekend in 2020.
- e) NALC – Launch of its digital mapping toolkit.
- f) SCC – Public Rights of Way consultation until 28.1.19. The Clerk has passed the information to B.Birkenhead to review and respond. **Action: B.Birkenhead.**

93/18 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES:

1. Steart Ward & Defibrillators (D.Best)

Nothing to report.

2. OPRA (B.Leathwood)

- a) OPRA has been busy following the Christmas activities. The senior citizen's dinner was a great success and the Christmas tree and lights erected by M.Gardener, M.Fookes and B.Leathwood, look very nice. OPRA also provide a tree for Steart. Our thanks to all the OPRA members and volunteers for once again putting on these activities which are free of charge.
- b) Work is ongoing to research information for the replacement pavilion on the common. OPRA was pleased to receive the support of the parish council.

3. School Liaison (R.Perrett)

- a) Some of the defibrillator team have held defibrillator educational sessions with the children.
- b) The school children will be singing at the coffee morning before Christmas.
- c) Rachel spoke to the Village Hall Committee at the Open Day to suggest the Hall refurbishment plans could be displayed at the School as agreed with the Head.
- d) B.Birkenhead (as an individual) will report the missing School 'warning' sign in School Lane to Highways.
- e) The next meeting with the Head will be on 21.1.19

4. Public Rights of Way (PROW) (B.Birkenhead)

- a) B.Birkenhead continues to walk the PROW in the parish carrying out minor repairs where possible and reporting other issues to SCC.

5. Otter Tales

The deadline for articles for the next edition will be 6.1.19. Members AGREED to continue the online printing for Otter Tales for the foreseeable future as recommended during the precept meeting.

6. Otter Wheels

B'Leathwood reported that 430 journeys have been undertaken; there are 16 drivers currently but they would like more and there are just over 40 registered passengers.

94/18 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The date and time of the next meeting will be on Thursday 3 January 2019, 7.00pm at Otterhampton Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 9.05pm.

Signed:
(Chairman)



Date: 3 January 2019