

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on

THURSDAY 3 JANUARY 2019, 7pm, at OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

SOMERSET'S BRILLIANT COAST PROJECT (Mark Ward, Somerset Wildlife Trust)

Mark outlined the aims of the project to develop and deliver community engagement, education and volunteering initiatives across the Somerset coast, its wildlife and landscapes. Its aims are to connect local people with the coastal environment to help look after and value it. The project, mainly funded by the Hinkley C Community Fund, started in August 2018 and will last for 3 years. Mark would like to identify 6 parishes along the Somerset coast who would like to be involved and to come up with project ideas. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

PUBLIC SESSION:

No items were raised in the public session.

PRESENT:

Dave Cather (Chairman), Julie Evans (Vice-Chairman) Dick Best, Bob Birkenhead, Barry Leathwood, Rachel Perrett, Ward Cllr Julie Pay (until 7.20pm) Aly Prowse (Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

95/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Murray Lister.

96/18 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6.12.18:

The minutes of the meeting held on 6.12.18 were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman.

97/18 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.

98/18 PLANNING MATTERS:

1. **39/18/00010** – Erection of 3 dwellings, garages and formation of access, land at 9 Church Hill. Clarification is awaited from SDC regarding the red line on the plans submitted with this application. **Action: Clerk.** It was noted that there are 5 objections against this application. A decision is awaited.

99/18 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

1. **Bank Balances** - Current A/C £1514.34; Deposit A/C £16338.86; Reserve A/C £12403.75.

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

Mrs A Prowse - £489.00 (Dec salary inc. £32.75 misc. office costs)

Hill House Christian Centre - £20.00 (Stear Forum)

Wicksteed - £180.00 (Ground settlement works, final invoice)

Wood-land Southwest Ltd - £354.00 (vegetation clearance on Wharf Rd)

3. **Precept**

The precept (£26000) was submitted to SDC. A detailed approved version as at 6.12.18 was circulated to councillors.

100/18 ITEMS FROM THE LAST MEETING:

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

No 1 – Combwich bus shelter light. The Clerk emailed the Highway Lighting Team for advice on the procedure to install street lighting. Once a response is received, we will request a site meeting to obtain advice on the options available, together with costs. The Chair re-iterated that work requests of this nature to agencies such as SCC need to be carried out formally through the Clerk. However, employees of EDF required to use bus transport could channel complaints such as an unlit bus shelter, to their employer.

No 7 – Purchase a Union Jack and a George Cross for the flagpole. These have been purchased. There followed a long debate as some members questioned whether it is appropriate to fly the Union Jack within the current political climate. It was AGREED that it would not be flown at least until after Brexit. It was then AGREED to purchase and fly the Somerset Flag. **Action: Clerk.** In addition, suggestions for flags to be flown in future will become a monthly agenda item. **Action: Clerk**

No 8 – 6 bags of winter grit have been ordered. This will be chased as there has been no response from Highways. **Action: Clerk**

- No 11** – Broken Finger Posts - After a second email to EDF outlining the reasons why we believed the recent movement of the wide loads were responsible for breaking them, it agreed to repair them and will arrange collection of the posts early in the New Year. **Action: Ongoing**
- 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.
- No13** – Support letter to Stockland Bristol Parish Meeting regarding the Cycle Path. **Action: Complete**
- No 14** – £100 donation to Citizens Advice Sedgemoor. **Action: Complete**
- No 15** – Public Rights of Way Consultation. B.Birkenhead is progressing. **Action: Ongoing.**
- No 16** – Affordable Housing Survey. It was AGREED to start the meeting at 6.45pm to accommodate the presentation. **Action: Clerk**
- No 17** – New notice boards for Combwich. Awaiting quote to dismantle and dispose of the existing notice boards and erect new ones. Once received the Expression of Interest will be submitted to the Hinkley C Community Fund. **Action: Clerk**
- No 18** – Repaint the Combwich Buoy – Unfortunately the offer to repaint the buoy by a local volunteer has thus far not materialised. The weather is affecting the paintwork, and there are quite a few areas of bare wood. Therefore, as the weather is likely to worsen which could leave the buoy vulnerable to further deterioration, it was AGREED to request a quote from a local contractor to repaint the buoy at the earliest opportunity. **Action: Clerk**

2. Dame Withycombe Hill Layby

This work was completed just before Christmas. It was generally felt that a great opportunity has been missed to make the layby wider. It would appear that the layby was widened only from the 1.9m to the 2.4m statutory width although the Clerk emailed Highways to ask if there was any specific reason why they did not use more of the verge to make it wider There has not been a response thus far.

3. Replacement sign at entrance to Combwich track.

It was AGREED the sign will have yellow writing on a green background and edged in red as proposed by D.Cather and seconded by R.Birkenhead. A quotation will be obtained from a local contractor to move the existing sign to replace the vandalised one near the WWT entrance and erect the new sign. **Action: Clerk**

4. Community Plan Open Day 8.12.18

The Community Plan and Village Hall Refurbishment Open Day went well. There were circa 52 residents who attended and a number of suggestions were made. The majority of comments received concerned Highways and Transport. One thing the working group thought might evolve were ideas for perhaps a change of vision or new ideas to improve the community. However, what became fairly clear is that residents are generally happy with where they live and only minor tweaks here and there are required to help make our parish a better place to live. The comments will be summarised for inclusion in the Community Plan by the working group. This will be done during January or February. The Emergency Plan and Welcome Information sheet were well received. These documents together with the Community Plan were also made available at the coffee morning on the 7.12.18 which was attended by circa 35 people.

5. Dog Bins at Wharf Rd

SDC has provided a cost to install and empty a new dog bin on a weekly basis at Wharf Rd. It is for EDF to respond to SDC and confirm if it is willing to meet the initial and ongoing cost of this service.

101/18 ENHANCEMENTS:

Area around the brook at Wharf Rd/Brookside Rd - This area is included for enhancement under the work of the tree strategy group. The initial report and costings will be obtained from J.Doble. He will also be invited to the March parish council meeting to talk through the proposals. **Action: J.Evans.**

102/18 HIGHWAYS:

1. Traffic calming near the play area

The Clerk emailed K.Tyson (Highways) on 2.1.19 to ask for a site meeting to discuss traffic calming options near the play area. Awaiting a response (see also 102/18/3).

2. Road safety concerns in the village

As part of a school exercise, J.Evans received 7 letters from schoolchildren outlining their concerns about speeding traffic, lack of pavements, lighting etc and in particular on the route to the school. A voluntary one-way system around the village was suggested as this had worked previously. It was AGREED to work with the school and residents to pursue this initiative again. A featured article will be written for the March publication of Otter Tales. **Action: B.Leathwood and J.Evans.** An appropriate response will be sent to the school. **Action: Clerk.**

3. Biffen's Corner

Included within the email to Highways above (minute 102/18/1) was a request to discuss the Biffen's Corner junction with a view to speaking with the landowner.

4. **Bolham layby**

The layby is in a dreadful state again. The surface has broken up and flooding has occurred. Following the recent flash flood, water was running from the layby down the drive of the adjacent property. Lorries are also parking up in both this layby and in the entrance to the Haul Rd opposite. A burger van is operating from the layby which may not be helping the situation. An Otterhampton resident complained about the signage that is advertising the burger van along the verge. It is not known if the burger van has an appropriate license to operate which will be checked. **Action: Clerk.** The situation has subsided over the holiday period, but a complaint will be made to EDF, A.Coupe (SCC), Highways, SDC and copied to the Police once we have obtained photographic evidence. **Action: Clerk**

103/18 **MEETING REPORTS:**

12.12.18 – Steart Forum (D.Best)

1. Concerns had been expressed at the weakening and erosion of the sea defences between Wall (Stearth) and Catsford (Stolford) commons. The Bristol Port Company together with the Environment Agency will continue to monitor the situation and have agreed to carry out repairs if necessary. It would be catastrophic for the area if inundated.
2. Steart borehole project – Finances have been secured to undertake a feasibility study which is the first phase. The study will determine if there is water available and the quality/suitability of it to use on the peninsula (not for domestic use).
3. Natural England are planning to upgrade hides on the peninsula and to erect better fencing across the foreshore, funded by EDF.

12.12.18 – Village Hall Meeting (B.Leathwood)

The committee were pleased with the Open Day which attracted many comments, particularly with regard to the reduced size of the kitchen. Where possible, the comments will be taken on board. Overall, the committee were pleased it had consulted more widely.

18.12.18 – SALC AGM

The Clerk had tendered our apologies as no-one had been available to attend.

104/18 **FORTHCOMING MEETING NOTIFICATION:**

- 9.1.19 – Village Hall
- 11.1.19 – Special SSG
- 31.1.19 – Transport Forum
- 7.2.19 – Community Forum (D.Best has tendered his apologies as it clashes with the parish council meeting)

105/18 **CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION:**

1. General List

- a) Mendip Community Transport - requesting a donation. As the slinky bus is still providing a service to residents, councillors AGREED to donate £100 as proposed by B.Birkenhead and seconded by B.Leathwood. **Action: Clerk**
- b) SCC – Advising it is no longer able to provide a community mobile Speed Indicator Device (SID) programme but is able to support local communities that wish to purchase and manage the mobile SID signs themselves.
- c) SDC – Requesting we complete a Play Area Quality Audit to enable it to gain an understanding of how parish councils rate play area and open spaces in their parishes. **Action: Clerk**

106/18 **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

1. Steart Ward & Defibrillators (D.Best)

Stearth residents recently held a residents' group meeting to which Otterhampton residents had been invited. A.Laver (WWT) also attended to ask if residents would be happy to agree to a request from a local author for WWT Stearth Marshes to be included in his travel book "Secret Somerset". Those present said they would prefer not to agree to this request mainly because of traffic and visitor number implications. A. Laver accepted this and will respond to the author accordingly.

2. OPRA (B.Leathwood)

OPRA would like to support and/or develop a local history project based on old photos and documents of the parish. OPRA will place an article in Otter Tales requesting residents take photos etc to the February village market where it will have a scanner and computer available to scan the items. Hopefully an exhibition will be held and there may also be the potential to update the Millennium Book.

3. School Liaison (R.Perrett)

Nothing to report.

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

B.Birkenhead is currently undertaking a survey of the public footpaths in the parish on behalf of SCC. SCC would like to understand the usage and maintenance considerations of the PRow in each parish. Bob will liaise with adjoining parishes whose footpaths overlap with ours. **Action: B.Birkenhead.**

5. Otter Tales (B.Leathwood)

In an effort to reduce printing costs, B.Leathwood will request a 5 day delivery rather than a 3 day delivery. This will cost £219 instead of £230. The deadline for articles is 6.1.19.

6. Otter Wheels

The service is going well.

107/18 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The date and time of the next meeting will be on Thursday 7 February January 2019, **6.45pm** at Otterhampton Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 9.20pm.

Signed: J.Evans (Vice-Chairman) Date: 7.2.19