

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

held on

**THURSDAY 4 JULY 2019, 7.00pm, at OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENTATION – WHARF UPDATE (EDF):**

Construction is keeping to schedule. Work will accelerate over the next couple of months. The planned completion date is winter 2020. Permanent offices will be erected towards the end of July and will be in place for 5 years. At its peak, there will be 30-40 personnel on site. There are noise monitors in place to ensure the noise does not exceed the permitted 85 decibels. If the noise does rise above this level an automatic message will be triggered and sent to SDC. The next large delivery which will be the main fuel tanks (from Slovakia) will be during October. Clarity was requested for 24 hr delivery of barges (EDF to respond). Regular updates will be provided by EDF.

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

- Replacement OPRA pavilion – a resident said he would not like to see a Portacabin on the Village Green as a replacement (see minute 35/19/2)
- Ward Cllr Julie Pay said the recent Cluster meeting attended by Andy Marsh and Sue Mountstevens was mainly focused on the raves on the Quantocks.
- Ward Cllr Mike Caswell said there will be Small Improvement Scheme (SCC) funding this year (£2k between 15 councils) and we should let him know if we have any suitable projects for consideration. **Action: Cllrs**  
Cllrs Pay and Caswell left the meeting at 7.23pm

**PRESENT:**

Julie Evans (Chair), Bob Birkenhead (Vice-Chair), Marie Beckley, Andy Darch, Tina Gardener, Lindsey Parsons, Rachel Perrett, Ward Cllrs Julie Pay and Mike Caswell, Aly Prowse (Clerk) and 4 members of the public.

**29/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

There were no apologies for absence.

**30/19 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6.6.19:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6.6.19 were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.

**31/19 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.

**32/19 PLANNING MATTERS:**

1. **39/18/00010** – Erection of 3 dwellings (plots 1,2 and 3) garages and formation of access, land at 9 Church Hill (AWAITING DECISION).
2. **13/19/00017** – Discharge of req. C14 surface and foul water at Combwich Wharf (AWAITING DECISION).
3. **13/19/00023** – Temporary laydown area for abnormal indivisible loads, including construction of hardstanding, fencing, gates, lighting, CCTV cameras, welfare facilities, landscaping and earthworks in relation to Combwich Wharf (AWAITING DECISION).
4. **39/19/00008** – Reinstatement of stone walled tennis court, Old Rectory, Church Lane, Otterhampton (GRANTED).
5. **39/19/00010** – 1 x Turkey Oak T6 and 1 x Oak T5 Crown, reduce by up to 3m height and spread, Hill House Christian Centre (SUPPORTED).
6. **39/19/00009** – EDF Provision of Shelduck mitigation works including replacement bird hide, new fence, information boards and signage. A fairly lengthy debate ensued; concern about the new bird hide adjacent to the replacement foreshore fence because of recent problems in this area (camping, parking, obstruction of farm gates and access) as additional visitor numbers may exacerbate the issues. The Steart residents will hold a meeting with Natural England to discuss further. There are also numerous errors within the application. The Chair said the Council will be guided by the outcome of this meeting.
7. **SCC 3627 2019** – Magnox Ltd – To allow importation of Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) from Sizewell, Oldbury and Dungeness sites to Hinkley A (CONSULTATION – NOTHING TO ADD).
8. **SCC 3628 2019** – Magnox Ltd – To allow importation of size reduced ILW skips from Sizewell, Oldbury and Dungeness sites to the on-site waste encapsulation plant at Hinkley A (CONSULTATION - NOTHING TO ADD).

**33/19 FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

1. **Bank Balances** - Current A/C £1467.74; Deposit A/C £16346.09; Reserve A/C £21714.65.
2. **The following payments were AGREED:**
  - a) Mrs A Prowse - £509.51 (June salary including £23.27 misc. office and other costs)
  - b) SDC - £962.26 (contested May 2019 Election fee)
  - c) RoSPA Play Safety - £115.80 (annual play area inspection)
  - d) K.Preston - £231 (gardening Apr-Jun; fuel and oil £37.42; play area weekly inspections £100)
  - e) SALC - £100 (councillor essential training for 5 councillors)
  - f) Citizens Advice Sedgemoor - £200 (donation for 2019/20) See minute 33/19/4
3. **Budget Monitoring Statement to 30.6.19**

A total of £13699.38 has been spent to 30.6.19 and income received totalled £16580.54. No questions were asked.
4. **Citizen's Advice Sedgemoor**

In recognition of the good works carried out by this charitable organisation, it was AGREED to give a £200 donation as proposed by B.Birkenhead and seconded by J.Evans.

**34/19 STEART WARD:**

Following last month's sub group meeting, residents are monitoring the obstructive parking and camping situation which has increased within Steart recently.

**35/19 ITEMS FROM THE LAST MEETING:**

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

**No 6** – Wall subsidence in Ship Lane – M.Beckley said the situation has deteriorated within the last few weeks and she believes a collapse or slippage has become more likely. We will attempt to make contact with the houseowner advising our concerns and also to try and find out if there are any plans to repair the wall. **Action: Clerk**

**No 7 & 15** – Chase Highways for the outstanding works within the parish. Ward Cllr M.Caswell has emailed K.Tyson to request a progress update.

**No 8** – Willow and bramble clearance by the brook – tenders are due on 9.8.19. During the site visits the Clerk will ask contractors to price for preventative regrowth of brambles at the recently cleared area beyond the Brownie Copse.

**No 11** – Combwich Ponds Appeal – B.Leathwood previously circulated a report to councillors. Barry was thanked for all his hard work co-ordinating the response on behalf of not only the parish council but the parish as a whole.
2. **OPRA Replacement Pavilion**
  - a. Following the suggestion to site the replacement pavilion beneath the WWT fence, just off the Combwich track, OPRA looked at the site but declared it unsuitable as too much of the slope would have to be dug out. This would not be permitted anyway as the bank forms part of the flood defence.
  - b. T.Gardner suggested the portacabin could be erected on its original site. Some concern was expressed that a portacabin on the common would not be aesthetically pleasing and a clad shipping container was suggested as an alternative. This may be a slightly cheaper option too.
  - c. It was suggested that a scaled drawing of the triangular piece of land beyond the brownie copse is done showing the building located to the far right of the area and to discuss with the resident as it may be more acceptable. Any building would need to have a paved surround for easy access. Part of the footpath would have to be distinguished or diverted. It would however, be better to have the building this side of the track as it would not need to be on stilts to avoid flood inundation on the other and it would not be subject to SSSI considerations. B.Birkenhead said he will revisit the whole area to investigate other possible sites. In principle, the parish council would support a clad shipping container, subject to planning consent. Another suggestion was to contact SDC Planning department for some pre-application advice.
3. **Vehicle Activated sign at Biffens Corner**

A.Coupe confirmed this is still planned to go ahead but not as a stand-alone system for Otterhampton, it will be incorporated into driver information and associated traffic management across the wider area throughout Sedgemoor. Once the detail has been worked out, we will be advised of timeframes etc.

**36/19 ENHANCEMENTS:**

1. **Play Area ground settlement and safety surfacing issues**

Wicksteed's initial response regarding the black substance deposited on clothes and skin during hot weather is that it is a result of carbon blacking. Ecotumble is made from shredded recycled rubber which is then colour coated; during use, the colour coating may wear off leaving the recycled rubber, which then

results in carbon blacking. Obviously, we are out of the warranty period, but Wicksteed has contacted the manufacturer to see what options are available and has subsequently asked for photographs to enable them to review the issue. **Action: Clerk**

**2. Play area - willow screen**

A suggestion was received from a resident to consider replacing the bramble hedge by the play area with a willow screen. Whilst a nice idea, councillors were not in favour because of its high maintenance.

**3. Play area – annual external inspection**

The inspection identified three areas to monitor for deterioration and one area to make good: -

- a) agility trail - the natural splits in the timber if they exceed 8mm at sections used to grip/grasp
- b) multiplay – surface repair joints for separation
- c) Swing basket – some chain wear, replace before 40% wear. B.Birkenhead will take a look at the chains as he may have some that could be used. **Action: B.Birkenhead**
- d) Uneven surface by the junior swing – make good. This item is awaiting the outcome of minute 36/19/1 above.

A copy of the report has been given to K.Preston who carries out the weekly inspections of the play area.

**4. Suggestions for flags**

It was decided to keep the 'Somerset Flag' flag as the default flag until another suitable occasion warrants it to be changed.

**37/19 MEETING REPORTS:**

**12.6.19 Village Hall**

L.Parsons gave a summary of the main points of the meeting:

- Meeting dates will now be on Tuesday evenings
- The committee were very grateful to the parish council for the £500 grant towards the asbestos removal (OPRA also gave £500)
- All residents will be advised of the plans for the Hall to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO); a new form of legal entity designed for non-profitable organisations to reduce bureaucracy for the charity. The Hall's constitution states that parishioners within a radius of 3 miles can have the opportunity to have their say
- The refurbishment plans for the Hall have been submitted to the architect. Councillors asked if residents, OPPT and the parish council will have the opportunity to view the final plans before being submitted to OPPT for approval. Lindsey will take this back to the next meeting.

**24.6.19 Councillor Essentials training**

Councillors generally found this course very useful. If we contact S.Pritchard (SALC) he will email 'The Good Councillor' publication that can be downloaded. **Action: Clerk**

**28.6.19 SSG**

B.Birkenhead gave a brief resume of the meeting. Minutes will be circulated when received.

**38/19 FORTHCOMING MEETING NOTIFICATION:**

9.7.19 – Village Hall

29.7.19 – Being a Successful Chair training

1.8.19 – Transport Forum

8.8.19 – Hinkley C Site Visit

15.8.19 – Community Forum

**39/19 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION:**

**1. General List**

- a) Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service – Service delivery operating model proposal. The consultation runs from 1 July – 20 September 2019. Nearest venue to us will be on 27.8.19, 12 noon – 4pm at Bridgwater Library.
- b) SDC – Review of polling districts and polling places following the May election. The Village Hall is rated as a good and accessible location.

**2. Bolham layby - Temporary Prohibition of Vehicles**

This Order has been made by SCC. It will come into operation on 2.7.19 and will remain in force for 60 months. The effect of which will be to introduce a temporary prohibition of vehicles in the layby and will only apply when indicated by traffic lights. The Order has been made because works are proposed as the road surface is damaged and deemed unsafe to the public.

**40/19 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

**1. Defibrillators**

The options to replace the existing defibrillator in Combwich are being considered. Cannington has recently obtained one through St John Ambulance on a lease basis. This costs £1800 for four years and includes servicing and replacement components, such as batteries and defibrillator pads. The possibility of a further defibrillator was discussed but a location with an electricity supply would need to be sourced. Varying advice is given for the distance required for its effectiveness; for example, St John Ambulance quote within 200m, whereas the British Heart Foundation says 600m. **Action ongoing: T.Gardener/Clerk**

**2. Otterhampton Parish Project Team (OPPT)**

- a. Expression of Interest (EOI No 11) – IT equipment for Otterhampton Primary School  
The net total was £8584.92 (which includes 10% match funding by Friends of Otterhampton School). The EOI, approved by OPPT on 25.6.19, was unanimously supported as proposed by B.Birkenhead and seconded by A.Darch. **Action: Clerk**
- b. T.Gardener advised that OPRA will be submitting an application to the Hinkley C Community Fund for a replacement mower as the existing ones' steering has failed. New mowers are very expensive so quotations are being sought for second hand ones which could still cost up to £15k. As Funds will be required at time of purchase, V.Bishop has suggested OPRA source 3 quotations and submit an EOI to the value of a £15k budget so if approved, the money will be made available to spend up front..

**3. Public Rights of Way (PROW) (B.Birkenhead)**

Adopt a footpath

B.Birkenhead will place an article in Otter Tales asking for volunteers to help maintain four of the most widely used footpaths in the parish. Problems can also be reported via

[www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem-with-a-public-right-of-way](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem-with-a-public-right-of-way)

**4. Otter Wheels**

The AGM was well attended. The pricing structure was reviewed. An article will be placed in Otter Tales requesting more volunteer drivers emphasising that drivers can do as little or as much as they are able. The scheme continues to grow in popularity.

**5. Otter Tales**

The next OtterTales is planned to be distributed week commencing 15.7.19.

**6. School Liaison**

R.Perrett met with Claire Luce on 4.7.19: -

- The walking bus concept will be looked into
- The school hall is available for community use, and could possibly be called upon during the refurbishment of the Village Hall
- The school sports day will be held on 13.7.19 and will be open to the community

**41/19 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:**

1. Village Walk – This will be held on Monday 5 August. Meet at the bus shelter at 6pm.
2. Parish Council meeting – The next meeting will be held on Thursday 5 September, 7pm in Otterhampton Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 9.14 pm.

Signed: Original signed by J.Evans

(Chair)

Date: 5.9.19