

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on

THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2019, 7.00pm, at OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

To be approved at the following meeting

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:

There were no declarations of interests or dispensations applied for. Member's Interests are disclosed at the time of taking Office and updated if and when necessary. This information can be viewed on the SDC website.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Ward Reports

Cllr Pay – Cllr Pay submitted a written report prior to the meeting. She highlighted the useful and interesting Parish Cluster meeting held on 8.10.19.

Cllr Caswell – SDC councillors are now “in purdah” (unable to electioneer for any party) until the Election; at the SSG meeting it was confirmed that the Hinkley Point Emergency Zone will remain at a 3.5km circumference around the site and should there be a nuclear incident, iodate tablets will be issued to all residents within this zone; during the recent large load into Comwich wharf it was clear that the new barge, which is on order, is necessary following the difficulties experienced by the existing barge.

General

1. **Fly Parking.** This has become problematic again on Brookside Rd. Between 11.10.19 and 30.10.19, a resident of Comwich has sent 18 emails to EDF reporting vehicle registrations, and a further 12 up to 7.11.19. The fly parking team has put final notices on 3 vehicles. Some of the vehicles belong to EDF employees who live in the village within 800 metres of where the vehicles are parked such as Nursery Cl and Church Hill. This is not permitted within the terms of the employee contract. This condition requires enforcement and will be raised with D.Eccles and also at the next Transport Forum. **Action: Clerk/A.Darch**
2. **Temporary Footpath along the haul road behind Comwich Wharf.** The footpath has become very slippery and possibly dangerous. It is very narrow, has a lot of footfall and is bordered either side by a barbed wire fence. EDF (Luke Stevens) will be advised. **Action: Clerk**
3. **Vegetation (ivy) growth on the footpath along Riverside.** The village gardener will be asked to cut this back to allow unhindered access along the footpath. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Caswell and Cllr Pay left the meeting at 7.15pm

PRESENT:

Julie Evans (Chair), Bob Birkenhead (Vice-Chair), Marie Beckley, Andy Darch, Tina Gardener, Lindsey Parsons, Rachel Perrett, Aly Prowse (Clerk), Cllr Caswell, Cllr Pay and 2 members of the public.

69/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

There were no apologies for absence.

70/19 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3.10.19:

The minutes of the meeting held on 3.10.19 were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.

71/19 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. Environment and Archaeological Reports are available to download from the SDC Website (AWAITING DECISION).
2. **3/32/19/041** – EDF Provision of Shelduck mitigation works relating to West Somerset and Taunton Council boundary (foreshore fence and 2 information boards). The SDC element has been granted (SUPPORTED)
3. **39/19/00011** – Application of lime render (listed building application) 60 Crossway (AWAITING DECISION)
4. **39/19/00012** – Relocation of the existing Polden bird hide, signage and information boards at Steart peninsula to nearer the riverbank at Comwich (GRANTED)
5. **39/19/00013** – Outline (all matters reserved) for a detached two bedroomed dwelling, 21 Riverside (AWAITING DECISION)
6. **39/19/00014** – Repairs to leaking roof, chimney stacks, damaged roof timbers (Listed Building Consent) 60 Crossways (FOR DISCUSSION)

72/19 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

1. **Bank Balances** - Current A/C £1319.79; Deposit A/C £20365.22; Reserve A/C £24700.00.
2. **The following payments were AGREED:**
 - a) Mrs A Prowse - £506.35 (October salary including £19.50 misc. office and other costs)

- b) Parish On Line - £36.00 (Annual Subscription)
 - c) SDC - £579.00 (Grounds Maintenance Contract and play area Jul-Sep 2019)
 - d) Sedgemoor Tree Services - £120.00 (T20 removal on Wharf Rd)
 - e) Pains Fireworks - £874.80 (Annual firework display)
 - f) INCOME – £100.00 (OPRA – annual rent for barn on Brookside Rd)
3. **HMRC VAT Reclaim to 31.3.19**
The Clerk has submitted a claim totalling £1812.12 for VAT paid during the financial year 1.4.18 - 31.3.19.
4. **Half Yearly Accounts to 30.9.19**
The half yearly accounts to 30.9.19 were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.
5. **Precept Meeting**
It was AGREED to hold the precept meeting prior to the next parish council meeting on 5.12.19 at 6pm.

73/19 **STEART WARD:**

A.Darch previously submitted a written report. He highlighted the response to WWT (copied to the parish council) regarding its Engagement Hub presentation at the previous parish council meeting. The response was coordinated by the Steart Residents' Group Chair, representing the views of members of the community who attended the presentation.

74/19 **HIGHWAYS:**

1. **Biffen's Corner**
The vegetation at Biffens Corner has died back somewhat, but obviously will grow back in the spring potentially worsening the visibility if not kept under control. A.Darch will raise the issue again at the Transport Forum as we have completed our action to talk to the houseowner. Action/help will now be required from Highways. The Clerk will brief A.Darch outside of the meeting.
2. **Winter Services**
- a. There are 10 bags of grit in the Brookside Rd garage and a further 20 in the OPRA barn. The Clerk has requested some bags of grit from Highways for the grit bin on Otterhampton Hill.
 - b. A.Darch volunteered to be the 'snow warden' for Steart. A request will be placed in Otter Tales for a volunteer for Combwich and Otterhampton. **Action: Clerk**

75/19 **ITEMS FROM THE LAST MEETING:**

1. **Review of the Action List (for actions not covered by the agenda):**
- No 1** – Bus shelter light – following an issue with a diesel leak, work will resume on 18.11.19.
 - No 3** – Life belt on floor on the common. M.Beckley had spoken with T.Reason who hadn't appreciated the life belt belonged to the Boat Club. He will be advised. **Action: M.Beckley/Clerk.**
 - No 5a** – Church Hill traffic calming measures – awaiting photographs of cars parked inconsiderately which will then be sent to Highways. **Action Ongoing.** A delivery lorry was witnessed reversing down School Lane with some difficulty and at a time when school children were leaving, as it could not use the turning circle. R.Perrett will raise this when she next meets the School Head.
 - No 5b** – Sub group to look at subsidence and access issues on Wharf Rd. **Action Ongoing**
 - No 12** – Combwich Ponds – telephone interviews with interested parties have been taking place recently.
 - No 13a** – There doesn't appear to be quite so many Anchor Inn A boards at Crossways at the moment, but it will be mentioned to the Landlord so the number doesn't creep up again. **Action J.Evans**
 - No 13b** – The Clean Surrounds Team have made a good job of clearing the brambles from the common. **Action: Complete**
 - No 13c** – The weed spraying in the village is still outstanding. SDC to be chased. **Action: Clerk**
 - No 15** – Discuss options for trees outside the Village Hall and 41 Riverside. **Action Ongoing**
 - No 18** – Clarify the power source for the defibrillator at the Anchor Inn with landlord. **Action: T.Gardener**
2. **OPRA Replacement Pavilion (T.Gardener)**
A formal arrangement will be pursued with the landowner for the proposed location of the OPRA pavilion(s); the proposed location will be discussed with the nearby resident; OPRA is aiming to submit the planning application in December; funds will be applied for from the Hinkley C Community Fund; the estimated total of £20k includes 2 portacabins, solar panels and a replacement lawn mower.
3. **Replacement Combwich Defibrillator**
Once the power source at The Anchor is resolved, we will go ahead and order both defibrillators from the Hinkley C Community Fund. **Action: T.Gardener/Clerk**
4. **Somerset Road Safety Presentation (Route 60+)**
Stockland Parish would like to have the opportunity to attend an event organised by us so the Clerk has booked the session for 5.3.20. Otterhampton Village Hall has also been booked. The event will be advertised in the November Otter Tales and will also be placed on notice boards, the Combwich website and in the Post Office. **Action: Clerk**

5. Fence Around the Brook by Wharf Road

A quote for £479 was received to remove the old fence and to erect a new 17 metre post and three rail fence as a safety measure. This was unanimously APPROVED and the contract will be placed. **Action: Clerk**

6. Bus Shelter

- a. A local builder was asked to give a quotation to a) repair the damaged pillar and/or b) to repoint and refurbish the bus shelter. His view was that the stone is too poor to repoint and in addition it would not be cost effective as the foundations are inadequate. Ideally the walls should be sitting on a 12" foundation, but the whole base is only an estimated 4" depth. His recommendation therefore, is to carry out a repair to make the pillar safe, for which he quoted £50, whilst we consider future options. This was APPROVED. **Action: Clerk**
- b. The bus shelter was built in 1987. We have for a few years been considering to either refurbish or replace the bus shelter. We will canvas resident's views and suggestions through Otter Tales and include a discussion during the precept and the next parish council meeting. We also need to discuss the situation with Highways who own the land. **Action: Clerk**

76/19 ENHANCEMENTS:

1. Play Area ground settlement and safety surfacing issues

Wicksteed have responded to our complaint basically not accepting any responsibility for the problems that have arisen at the play area. They have offered to recoat the surfacing where the carbon blacking has occurred at a 'discounted price' but we believe this would not be satisfactory/long lasting. We are naturally disappointed and whilst we believe the safety surface is not fit for purpose, if we were to pursue legal action this would be very protracted and no doubt very costly. It was AGREED that we would seek prices elsewhere to install an engineered base with new safety surfacing. Meanwhile we will respond to Wicksteed advising we are unhappy with the response and considering our options. We will also have a conversation with Val Bishop (Somerset Community Foundation) regarding possible funding from the Hinkley C Community Fund for the remedial work. **Action: Clerk**

2. Suggestions for flags

The 'Help the Heroes Flag' is currently flying to commemorate Remembrance Day (the large poppy will also be displayed at the entrance to the village). The next flag to be flown will be on St Andrews Day 30.11.19, and thereafter the 'Merry Christmas' flag over the Christmas period. Nothing then until St David's Day, 1 March 2020.

77/19 MEETING REPORTS:

3.10.19 – Community Forum. We did not attend as this clashed with the parish council meeting.

8.10.19 – Village Hall. L.Parsons reported that tenders have been received for the refurbishment. A preferred contractor has been identified and copies of plans will be uploaded shortly on the Combwich website. The treasurer had reported that funds are currently low; an electric meter will be used to monitor usage/user groups; in future, a deposit will be requested for bookings and there are new terms and conditions for Hall hire.

8.10.19 – SDC Joint Parish Cluster Meeting. No-one able to attend.

25.10.19 – SSG. R.Perrett previously submitted a brief report (see also Cllr Caswell's report above). B Station recently had 2 safety incidents with staff which were noted as a great disappointment; it has also reached its 13th anniversary since the power station last had a Nuclear Reportable Event (NPE).

26.10.19 – SALC AGM. No-one able to attend.

78/19 FORTHCOMING MEETING NOTIFICATION:

12.11.19 – Village Hall

19.11.19 – SDC Planning Training (B.Birkenhead, L.Parsons and the Clerk)

21.11.19 – Sedgemoor South West Cluster Meeting (L.Parsons and R.Perrett)

21.11.19 – Transport Forum

29.11.19 – School Liaison

79/19 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION:

1. General List

- a) Notification of VE Day (8 May 2020) the 75th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe. This will be included in Otter Tales together with the website details (www.veday75.org) for anyone interested in organising an event in the parish. **Action: Clerk**
- b) Otterhampton Village Hall Committee – Hall refurbishment update No 3.
- c) Superfast Broadband Consultation – for Otter tales and Combwich website. **Action: Clerk**

80/19 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES:

- 1. Otterhampton Parish Project Team (OPPT)**
The next panel date will be held in February; date to be advised.
- 2. Public Rights of Way (PROW) (B.Birkenhead)**
Nothing to report.
- 3. Otter Wheels**
Additional drivers are still required.
- 4. Otter Tales**
The next Otter Tales deadline is 10.11.19, followed by 5.1.20
- 5. School Liaison**
R.Perrett will be meeting the Head in two weeks.

81/19 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 5 December 2019, 6.00pm (Precept) 7.00pm (Main meeting) in the Harbour View Club.

The meeting ended at 8.55pm.

Signed:

(Chair)

Date: