

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

held on

**THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER 2019, 7.00pm, at OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL**

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:**

T.Gardener declared an interest in item 7b (OPRA replacement pavilion) minute 88/19/2. No dispensations were 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**

Councillors recorded their sincere condolences to Cllr Pay whose husband had recently passed away.

Cllr Caswell

- Cllr Caswell presented the SCC briefing sheet for parish and town councils for December. He will be attending a meeting on 6.12.19 to discuss the broadband roll out (Connecting Devon and Somerset).
- SDC will be producing a Transport Strategy to 2050 which will include roads, public transport, cycling, housing infrastructure, the Bridgwater Barrier and also examining the rail link on the former ROF site. The Plan will become a substantial document similar to the SDC Local Plan and will be put out for public consultation hopefully within a year. Highways England will have input to the Plan. Highways is currently reviewing Junctions 22, 23 and 24 to determine the ability of the junctions to accommodate the planned housing and business growth in the area.
- The new Squibbers Way bridge will be open on 16.12.19.

**General**

- Bolham Layby – An increasing number of lorries are starting to use the layby again. The Clerk has sent photos of Hanson lorries to A.Coupe and D.Eccles. A copy will also be sent to Cllr Caswell. **Action: Clerk**  
Cllr Caswell left the meeting at 7.20pm

**PRESENT:**

Julie Evans (Chair), Bob Birkenhead (Vice-Chair), Marie Beckley, Andy Darch, Tina Gardener, Rachel Perrett, Aly Prowse (Clerk), Cllr Caswell and 3 members of the public.

**82/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Cllr Pay and L.Parsons (from the main meeting, she had attended the Precept meeting).

**83/19 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7.11.19:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7.11.19 were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.

**84/19 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 & Archaeological Reports are available to download from the SDC Website (GRANTED).
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 (GRANTED)
3. **39/19/00011** – Application of lime render (listed building application) 60 Crossways (AWAITING DECISION)
4. **39/19/00013** – Outline (all matters reserved) for a detached two bedroomed dwelling, 21 Riverside (AWAITING DECISION)
5. **39/19/00014** – Repairs to leaking roof, chimney stacks, damaged roof timbers (Listed Building Consent) 60 Crossways (AWAITING DECISION)

**85/19 FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

1. **Bank Balances** - Current A/C £2859.08; Deposit A/C £18384.91; Reserve A/C £24702.05.
2. **The following payments were AGREED:**
  - a) Mrs A Prowse - £510.99 (November salary including £21.00 misc. office and other costs)
  - b) Mrs A Prowse - £18.68 (Hampshire Flag Co – Welsh, Scottish & NI Flags)
  - c) Stormfly (J.Wigley) – £35.00 (Investigate fault with laptop and replace CMOS battery)
  - d) SDC - £167.23 - (Play area bins Apr – Sep 2019)
  - e) Sedgemoor Tree Services - £960.00 (Willow and Bramble Removal, vegetation & weed kill by brook)
  - f) B.Leathwood - £231.80 (Solopress – November Otter Tales)
  - g) JRB Enterprises - £305.76 (12 x 800 dog gloves)
  - h) Mendip Community Transport - £100 (donation re slinky bus) see minute 92/9/2

### 3. Income

- a) HMRC - £1812.12 for VAT paid during the financial year 1.4.18 - 31.3.19
- b) OPRA - £729 Pains Fireworks

### 4. Precept Meeting

Following the meeting earlier, the precept spreadsheet will be revised to reflect the discussion and circulated to councillors. It will then be presented for approval at the January parish council meeting for submission to SDC by 24.1.20. **Action: Clerk**

#### 86/19 STEAR T WARD:

A meeting of the Steart Borehole project was held on 11.11.19. A new borehole location has been identified. This should deliver greater opportunities than first envisaged if water is present. Subject to some infrastructure enhancement if water is not present, then it would enable water to be held back in the ditch network which would be an improvement on what is there currently.

#### 87/19 HIGHWAYS:

##### 1. Biffen's Corner

We have now heard back from Highways who agreed to discuss the vegetation issue in the Spring when we are able to see the impact of the vegetation when in fuller growth and subject to information that has recently been received. A.Darch had updated A.Coupe at the Transport Forum.

##### 2. Winter Services

No volunteers came forward from the November Otters Tales article for a snow warden for Comwich. However, various councillors are key holders for the Brookside Rd garage to obtain grit if required. M.Beckley suggested we purchase a wheelbarrow to keep in the garage to enable the 25kg bags of grit to be transported around the village. This was AGREED. **Action: Clerk**  
**B.Birkenhead** AGREED to move the 20 bags of grit from the OPRA barn to the garage in case it is required.

#### 88/19 ITEMS FROM THE LAST MEETING:

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

**No 1** – Bus shelter light – **Work complete**

**No 3** – Life belt on floor on the common. **Action complete**

**No 5a** – Church Hill traffic calming measures – awaiting photographs of cars parked inconsiderately which will then be sent to Highways. Vegetation at Biffens Corner (see 87/19/1). Response to be sent to K.Tyson. **Action: Clerk**

**No 5b** – Wharf Rd Sub group. The sub group met on 4.12.19. It is a very complex issue trying to determine ownership and responsibilities of the Wharf Rd, access road, verges and structures. B.Birkenhead AGREED to look through the box of records. **Action: B.Birkenhead.** However, EDF (including the boat club), Wessex Water and the Angling Section have permitted use of the road.

**No 7** – Post and rail fence at the brook. **Work complete**

**No 9** – Bus shelter – quotation received to repair the crack; we had one response from the Otter Tales article requesting ideas for a replacement bus shelter to not replace it with a modern Perspex design, but with something similar to the stone structure as it is a characterful feature at the village entrance.

**12** – Comwich Ponds – The telephone interviews are now complete. A report will be written which will be put out for consultation during January 2020.

**No 15** – A quotation has been received to carry out maintenance on the two large trees by and opposite the village hall for £300 each plus VAT. We had also asked for a quote to carry out the same works to the tree outside 41 Riverside which was not received and will be followed up. Subject to the price being acceptable, we will request that all 3 trees are done by 31.3.20. **Action: Clerk**

**No 18** – Somerset Road Safety Presentation (Route 60+) 5.3.20. We have had interest from residents so the event will go ahead. Further advertising will be carried out nearer the date. **Action: Clerk**

##### 2. OPRA Replacement Pavilion (T.Gardener)

Progress has stalled due to unforeseen circumstances; hence the project will not be able to meet the next Hinkley C Community Fund Panel meeting date of 7.2.20. **Action: Ongoing**

##### 3. Fly Parking

EDF has put a lot of effort in to crack down on the increase in incidents we are seeing (mainly Brookside Rd). We are encouraged to keep reporting vehicles who we believe are offending.

##### 4. Removal of ivy and wall edge of Riverview

When the ivy which had been impeding access along the footpath, was removed it revealed the small wall beneath it to be in a very fragile state and in danger of falling over. Following attempts to find out if it belonged to anyone, including Highways, the parish council made a decision to take it down for safety reasons. It won't be replaced. A resident asked if a tree could be planted in its place but it was thought that

tree maintenance is costing a lot of money at the moment and future tree planting must be done with careful planning. We have some daffodils that will be planted there.

**5. Replacement Combwich Defibrillator**

T.Gardener had obtained a quotation for 2 defibrillators from the South Western Ambulance Service (Community Public Access Scheme) a supported package renewable every 4 years at a cost of £2800. We have a quote to replace/rewire the new one by the telephone box for £75 and we await a quote to install the other one at the Anchor Inn. Once this has been received, we will submit an application to the Hinkley C Community Fund. **Action: T.Gardener/Clerk**

**89/19 ENHANCEMENTS:**

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

B.Leathwood and the Clerk met a representative from Redlynch at the Play Area on 2.12.19. He was very scathing of the play area surfacing and highly critical of Wicksteed's work and lack of customer care. He did not think the surface was anywhere near fit for purpose and suggested we at least look at legal proceedings. He could not understand a company such as Wicksteed suggesting anything other than an engineered base especially as the existing slide was installed on one. We asked Redlynch to provide a quotation to remove the existing surface, to install an engineered base 100mm thick and install Tiger Mulch surfacing so that if we decided to go down this route, subject to finances, we would know what we are dealing with. Nb the cost estimate will not be minuted as we may go out for other quotations. However, the cost was only £2k more than what Wicksteed originally charged us without an engineered base. It was AGREED to try and arrange an initial meeting with SDC Legal Services to find out if we had a case against Wicksteed. **Action: Clerk** (BL, AD and possibly TG to attend).

The Clerk had a brief conversation with V.Bishop re possible funding from the Hinkley C Community Fund. She thought it unlikely we could get additional funding, although it would be worth a try especially if we could prove we had exhausted all attempts to claim from Wicksteed.

**2. Wharf Rd Vegetation Clearance**

A quotation was received from Wood-Land South West Limited to clear the vegetation along the Wharf Rd for £295 plus VAT. The price has been held for the past 4 years. It was AGREED to go ahead with the work. **Action: Clerk**

**3. Suggestions for flags**

The Christmas Flag will be flown, followed by a flag for St David's Day, 1 March 2020.

**90/19 MEETING REPORTS:**

**12.11.19 – Village Hall.** We had been asked to consider the tender received for the refurbishment to give the trustees an idea of how much we would be prepared to 'release/support' from the Hinkley C Community Fund so they would know how much external grant funding they will need to secure. Councillors were taken aback at the high cost and said we could not agree to any figure unless and until we had sight of a business plan and a breakdown of the tender to ensure value for money and a return on the investment. Councillors would also like to know the value of the building. The Community Council for Somerset would expect both OPPT and the parish council to undertake due diligence against the funding criteria, and to apply the same principles as for any project applying for Hinkley C Community funding. We will respond to the Trustees accordingly. **Action: Clerk**  
**19.11.19 – SDC Annual Planning Training.** This was very useful and interesting. Slides of the presentation have been circulated to councillors.

**21.11.19 – Sedgemoor South West Cluster Meeting.** This had not been particularly useful. Notes from the meeting have been circulated.

**21.11.19 – Transport Forum.** There will now be only 3 meetings per year of the Forum. Notes from the meeting will be circulated once received.

**91/19 FORTHCOMING MEETING NOTIFICATION:**

10.12.19 – Village Hall

29.1.20 – Trees for Somerset seminar. It was AGREED to pay for the volunteers in the Parish Tree Strategy Group to attend this seminar at a cost of £11.47 per head. **Action: Clerk**

12.2.20 – The Sedgemoor Conversation 10.00am at the SDC Offices. M.Beckley may be able to attend.

**92/19 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION:**

**1. General List**

BT payphone removal consultation within Sedgemoor – We have received notice of BT's intention to remove the public payphone from the village. If we wish to retain the service, we need to make a case by 13.1.20 and/or in addition if we would like to physically retain the phone box we can do so for £1 but must advise what we would use it for. It was AGREED we would not want to lose the phone box from the village

and would make a case to retain it, suggesting we use it as a library (then we could consult the residents later). **Action: Clerk**

**2. Mendip Community Transport – request for a donation**

It was AGREED to donate £100 as some of our parishioners still use the Slinky Bus service (Tuesdays).

**Action: Clerk**

**3. EDF meeting request with the parish council 8.1.20 or 16.1.20**

As we subsequently AGREED to change the January parish council meeting from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> January, we would ask if EDF could attend this rather than those suggested and to also ask the reason for a separate briefing. **Action: Clerk**

**4. Recruitment for Sedgemoor's Customer Panel**

No-one present was able to commit to this invitation. It is open to all residents in Sedgemoor.

**93/19 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

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

There are no applications going forward for approval at the February Panel on 7.2.20.

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

B.Birkenhead has written again to EDF to complain about the state of the temporary footpath during the Combwich wharf works and has agreed to meet with L.Stevens on 10.12.19 at the location.

**3. Otter Wheels**

One new driver has volunteered and another will be joining shortly. An average 10 journeys are being undertaken each week and some 750 journeys have been completed since the scheme began. The 1000<sup>th</sup> journey will have a special celebration.

**4. Otter Tales**

The next Otter Tales deadline is 5.1.20.

**5. School Liaison**

R.Perrett previously circulated the notes from her meeting with the head on 29.11.19. The school will be hosting the regular Friday coffee morning at the school on 13.12.19 and may also visit residents of the Old Vicarage before Christmas. Parking issues are regularly raised with the School Governors and parents.

**94/19 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9 January 2020 (**note one week later than normal**), 7.00pm in the Harbour View Club.

The meeting ended at 9.12pm.

Signed: Original signed by J.Evans

(Chair) Date: 9 January 2020