**OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**held on**

**THURSDAY 9 JANUARY 2020, 6.30pm, at OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL**

**COMBWICH WHARF UPDATE (EDF - Immy Selby, Ross Edwards, Phillip Manning, John Legg & Jamie Jameson)**

Representatives of EDF gave an update on the latest plans. 2020 will be the main phase of works at the wharf with construction activity at its peak. Piling activity is due to begin in late spring using reduced sound methods, limiting the impact of construction on local residents. Once the piling activities are complete, works will start on construction of the Transfer Slab (the area onto which deliveries will be offloaded from the vessel and forms a large part of the abnormal loads quay). It is anticipated that the bulk of the works will be completed by the end of 2020 before deliveries commence in 2021. The update was attended by 19 residents.

 Cllr Pay left the meeting after the presentation

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:**

There were no declarations of interest and no 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 Caswell submitted a written report prior to the meeting.

**Public**

1. A resident advised that following the recent heavy rain, there was flood water in Brookside Rd that had run off the field behind it.
2. Fly Parking – The Chair thanked one of our residents for doing a marvellous job in relation to the fly parking in the village and the provision of regular reporting to both EDF and the Clerk.
3. A resident asked if a limit could be placed upon the amount of time (say 20 minutes) vehicles could park in the layby opposite the Post Office to ensure users of the Post Office could park there. We will talk to Highways in the first instance. **Action: Clerk**

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of Murray Lister who served on the parish council from May 2018 to May 2019. A card was sent to Holly his widow, and his children from the parish council. His funeral will be on 16.1.20, 1.30pm at Taunton Deane Crematorium. Donations can be made via <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/dale-lister> or the Brain Tumour charity in memory of Murray c/o Keith C Britton & Son, Funeral Directors, 10 High St, Yatton BS49 4JA.

**PRESENT:**

Julie Evans (Chair), Bob Birkenhead (Vice-Chair), Marie Beckley, Tina Gardener, Lindsey Parsons, Rachel Perrett, Aly Prowse (Clerk), 4 members of the public.

**95/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Caswell and Andy Darch.

**96/19 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5.12.19:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5.12.19 were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.

**97/19 PLANNING MATTERS:**

1. **39/19/00011** – Application of lime render (listed building application) 60 Crossways (AWAITING DECISION)
2. **39/19/00013** – Outline (all matters reserved) detached two bedroomed dwelling, 21 Riverside (GRANTED)
3. **39/19/00014** – Repairs to leaking roof, chimney stacks, damaged roof timbers (Listed Building Consent) 60 Crossways (AWAITING DECISION)
4. **Environment Agency** – Notice of application to use land temporarily in connection with the Bridgwater Tidal barrier. Inspection of plans between 19.12.19 - 13.2.20. Any objection or representation to the Secretary of State by 3.2.20. Agenda item next month. **Action: Clerk**

**98/19 FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

1. **Bank Balances** -Current A/C £1816.68; Deposit A/C £17385.64; Reserve A/C £24703.00.
2. **The following payments were AGREED:**
3. Mrs A Prowse - £511.85 (December salary including £25.61 misc. office and other costs)
4. Mr K Preston - £286.50 (Gardening Oct-Dec; including £100 play area inspections)
5. **Income**
6. Western Power - £3.90 (Wayleave re telegraph pole on the common)
7. **Approve Precept**

The precept for 2020/21 was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED at £26000 (same as this year) as proposed by T.Gardener and seconded by M.Beckley. **Action: Clerk**

**99/19 STEART WARD:**

There was nothing to report.

**100/19 HIGHWAYS:**

1. K.Tyson (Highways) was advised that we would not be pursuing ‘wig-wags’ at the bottom of Church Hill.
2. The recent issue of problems caused by vehicles parking in Church Hill too close to the junction will be highlighted in Otter Tales to request that people park with due regard to the safety and consideration of others.

**101/19 ITEMS FROM THE LAST MEETING:**

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

**No 1 –** TheBolham laybyis an absolute mess, not helped by the ditch recently dug that just seems to fill up with the excess water which then flows into the layby. The repairs are largely ineffective.

**No 4** – The temporary footpath at the Haul Rd will be repaired towards the end of January.

**No 7** – A wheelbarrow to be stored in the Brookside Rd garage to transport grit and sand in the event of an emergency has been purchased. **Action Complete.**

**No 8** – Wharf Rd Vegetation Clearance. This has been done. **Action Complete**

**No 9** – Bus shelter – Ask Highways that in the event of us wishing to rebuild/replace the bus shelter whether we would need to seek its permission. **Action ongoing.**

**No 12** – Combwich Ponds – written report provided by B.Leathwood.

* The Rights of Way Officer advised that all the stakeholder interviews are complete and he is in the process of producing a draft report; this report will be placed on the SCC website.
* The applicant B.Leathwood (representing the parish council) and the landowners will be written to and will have 6 weeks to respond. Following this, ‘other interested parties’ e.g. Ramblers and Natural England will have 4 weeks to comment.
* By April, all replies should have been submitted and will be incorporated into a final report which will be the rationale to come to a decision which will be published on the SCC website.

**No 15 –** A quote to undertake maintenance to the tree outside of 41 Riverside for £200 plus VAT was APPROVED. The work will be carried out by the end of January. **Action Clerk.**

**No 19** – BT has been advised, via S.Houlet (SDC who is coordinating the responses) that we wish to retain the telephone kiosk to house the new defibrillator. **Action: Complete.**

**No 20** – The tickets for members of the Tree Strategy Group to attend the Trees for Somerset Seminar on 29.1.20 have been purchased. **Action Complete.**

1. **OPRA Replacement Pavilion (T.Gardener)**

No progress has been possible since the last meeting. **Action Ongoing**

1. **Fly Parking**

Vehicles fly parking in the village will continue to be reported to EDF, who investigate every instance. A report of the actions carried out by EDF is sent to the Clerk which is very useful.

1. **Replacement Combwich Defibrillators**

The quotation to install/connect the new defibrillator at the Anchor Inn has been received for £265. A revised quotation will be required to rewire the defibrillator into the telephone kiosk. **Action: T.Gardener**

Once this is received, we will have the total cost of the project which if approved, will be subject to a Hinkley Point C Community Fund application. **Action: Clerk**

1. **Wharf Rd Sub Group**

The sub group met to discuss the issues which would need to be resolved before any recommendations are made. B.Birkenhead reviewed all the old deeds and documents and produced a report. This mainly highlighted that Nuclear Electric (EDF), Wessex Water, and the Angling Section have access along the road. B.Birkenhead has arranged a meeting with D.Stokes to confirm that it is EDF’s responsibility to maintain the road. Landscaping of the verges (although ownership of the strip of land abutting the pill has never been claimed through Land Registry) is considered parish council responsibility. Once the meeting with D.Stokes has taken place, the sub group will meet again to make recommendations for landscaping.

**102/19 ENHANCEMENTS:**

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

A meeting was held on 3.1.20 with S.Hellard, a representative of SDC’s Legal Department plus the Clerk and B.Leathwood. S.Hellard thought we had a reasonable case to make a claim from Wicksteed. In the first instance he advised us to contact our Insurance Company to check if we had Legal Services cover, plus some insurance companies insist on using its in-house legal team. **Action: Clerk**

1. **Suggestions for flags**

The next flag to be flown will be to celebrate St David’s Day on 1 March 2020.

**103/19 MEETING REPORTS:**

**10.12.19 – Village Hall.** Lindsey Parsons reported the following:

* Health and safety checks are completed regularly as per the schedule
* EDF has installed a SMART meter in the kitchen
* A cleaning contract has been produced as a requirement of the Charity Commission
* The Treasurer’s report to 31.12.19 reported a profit of £188
* The Village Hall is in the process of producing its own website
* The trustees are awaiting final refurbishment costs before putting the Business Plan together. It is hoped the work can commence May/June 2020 over a 6-month period to be done in stages to ensure user groups are still able to use the facilities.

**104/19 FORTHCOMING MEETING NOTIFICATION:**

29.1.20 – Trees for Somerset seminar.

23.1.20 – Community Forum

12.2.20 – The Sedgemoor Conversation 10.00am at the SDC Offices.

5.3.20 – Somerset Road Safety Presentation (Route 60+)

**105/19 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION:**

**General List**

SDC – Advising it has new branding, recognising that it is now both a business and a local authority. Guidelines and logos will be produced during January. Also, SCC is doing a roadshow around the county showcasing its new and existing services and is looking for events it could attend to publicise these services.

SCC – Information on the consideration of the local five authorities becoming a Unitary Authority. This is likely to be a long process.

Mendip Community Transport - Thanking us for the £100 donation.

**106/19 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

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

There are three applications in the pipeline; Village Hall; 2 Defibrillators; OPRA replacement pavilion.

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

See minute 101/19/1 No 4 above. Nothing further to add.

1. **Otter Wheels**

Additional drivers are always required/welcome. The 1000th journey is likely to be in the spring and will have a special celebration.

1. **Otter Tales**

The next Otter Tales deadline which would normally be early March is likely to be brought forward to the end of February. The date will be confirmed at the next meeting.

1. **School Liaison**
* The Christmas coffee morning held at the School was a success and enjoyed by all who attended. It is hoped that a further coffee morning can be held.
* The continual issues associated with the drop-off and pick-up of school children including as a consequence, vehicles having to reverse back down School Lane (including lorries) has been raised with the Head Teacher. She does all she can to encourage safe driving, parking away from the School at a point where children can be walked from and to, and has had the PCSO at the school to discuss the problem. There doesn’t appear to be an available or workable solution currently.

**107/19 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 6 February 2020, at 7.00pm in Otterhampton Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 8.25pm.

Signed: Original signed by J.Evans (Chair) Date: 6 February 2020