

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

held on

**THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2020, 7.00pm, at OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL**

**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**

Both Cllr Caswell and Cllr Pay submitted reports; of particular note:

- The Gigaclear contract for "Connecting Devon and Somerset" (CDS) has been cancelled due to delays and its inability to agree an acceptable recovery plan with the Government. CDS is in the process of securing a new provider.
- Discussions are ongoing regarding the proposal for a Unitary Council for the County. SDC is not in support of this, favouring 'joint working' with other District Councils.
- 'Recycle More' initiative from 2020 including a change to collection days. More information to follow.

**Public**

- A report was given on the numbers of vehicles fly parking in the village; October (23 vehicles); November (22); December (9) and January (42). A suggestion was made to approach EDF/Highways to ask if we could erect temporary signage along Brookside Rd (in particular) advising "No parking for HPC personnel using HPC Transport".

**Action: Clerk**

**PRESENT:**

Julie Evans (Chair), Bob Birkenhead (Vice-Chair), Andy Darch, Tina Gardener, Lindsey Parsons, Rachel Perrett, Aly Prowse (Clerk), County & Dist. Cllr M Caswell, Dist. Cllr J Pay, 3 members of the public.

**108/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies for absence were received from Marie Beckley.

**109/19 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9.1.20:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9.1.20 were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.

**110/19 PLANNING MATTERS:**

1. **39/19/00011** – Application of lime render (listed building application) 60 Crossways (AWAITING DECISION)
2. **39/19/00014** – Repairs to leaking roof, chimney stacks, damaged roof timbers (Listed Building Consent) 60 Crossways (AWAITING DECISION)
3. **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. Councillors are in support of this application. **Action: Clerk**

**111/19 FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

1. **Bank Balances** - Current A/C £1582.79; Deposit A/C £15886.38; Reserve A/C £24704.05.
2. **The following payments were AGREED:**
  - a) Mrs A Prowse - £509.33 (January salary including £22.48 misc. office and other costs)
  - b) Mrs A Prowse - £45.48 (Trees for Parish Seminar, Tree Strategy Group 29.1.20)
  - c) Woodland South West - £354.00 (vegetation clearance along Wharf Rd)
  - d) B.Leathwood - £241.56 (Printing costs for January 2020 Otter Tales, Solopress)
  - e) M.Ingram - £529.00 (new fence at brook and repairs to bus shelter)
  - f) SDC - £180 (Grounds maintenance contract and play area November 2019)
3. **Budget Monitoring Statement to 31.12.19**  
The budget monitoring statement to 31.12.19 was APPROVED.

**112/19 STEART WARD:**

1. Works on the new foreshore fence and replacement hides will commence shortly.
2. The Environment Agency has approved the application to drill a test borehole.

#### 113/19 **HIGHWAYS:**

1. Bob Birkenhead asked if intended proposals re investigation of vegetation removal at Biffens Corner plus the Vehicle Activation Messaging system could be accelerated. Cllr Caswell said he will request an update from Highways. **Action Cllr Caswell.**
2. Highways will be asked if there is any signage that could be introduced in School Lane to improve the safety aspect for school children and residents. **Action: Clerk**

#### 114/19 **ITEMS FROM THE LAST MEETING:**

1. **Review of the Action List (for actions not covered by the agenda):**  
**No 1** – The tree maintenance works in the vicinity of The Common were completed during January.  
**No 4** – The temporary footpath at the Haul Rd has been repaired and appears to be a substantial job.
2. **OPRA Replacement Pavilion (T.Gardener)**  
A little progress has been made regarding the planning application process. Again, very unfortunate circumstances have prevented progress with the land proposals. **Action Ongoing**
3. **Replacement Combwich Defibrillators**  
We are awaiting formal approval from BT to retain the phone box to house the new defibrillator. The quotation to rewire the defibrillator into the phone box for £75 was APPROVED. The phone box will need to be repainted using specialised paint and check for its state of repair before commencing the works. It was unanimously AGREED to submit an application to the Hinkley C Community Fund for £4k. **Action: Clerk**
4. **Wharf Rd Sub Group**
  - a. D.Stokes confirmed that EDF is responsible to maintain the road.
  - b. The sub group met to discuss landscaping along the verges and decided professional advice will need to be sought. Three contractors were selected and these will be invited to meet with the sub group. **Action: Clerk**

Cllrs Caswell and Pay left the meeting at 7.55pm

#### 115/19 **ENHANCEMENTS:**

1. **Play Area ground settlement and safety surfacing issues**  
Following advice sought from our Insurance Company (BHIB) a list of information including a timeline of events and details of the issue were requested. **Action: Clerk**
2. **Heritage Notice Board**  
The Combwich Boat Club will be advised that the parish council is generally supportive of a Heritage Notice Board to be erected on The Common overlooking the pill upon receiving the dimensions/proposals. **Action: Clerk/M.Beckley**
3. **Suggestions for flags**  
The next flag to be flown will be to celebrate St David's Day on 1 March 2020.

Tina Gardener left the meeting at 8.00pm

#### 116/19 **MEETING REPORTS:**

##### 14.1.20 – Village Hall. Lindsey Parsons reported the following:

- The Bowls Club are struggling to meet the existing rent and will undertake a survey with existing members; an advert is being created to place on the new village hall Facebook page
- The new cleaning contract is to be discussed with contractors
- The health and safety policies are under review
- All Village Hall policies are to be logged on the Charity Commission website
- Finishing touches are being made to the business plan before it is put to OPPT, parish council and other grant funding organisations

##### 23.1.20 – Community Forum. Marie Beckley previously submitted a comprehensive report of the meeting. Key points include:

- The tragic accident that involved a bus and cyclist (a local resident) on the C182. At that time a name was not released.
- The current workforce is 4837; 529 apprentices; 40% of the crane operators are women; 260 mental health first aiders to support workers; conversations with local authority departments are taking place to increase the workforce; it is proposed that 900 people will be the total compliment of staff when the site is complete.
- Hinkley C will produce 7% of the UK's energy upon completion.
- Of the Hinkley C Community Fund budget of £23.8m, £3m has been awarded in community grants so far
- Aggressive bus driving was raised. There is now intelligent on-board monitoring (which includes speed monitoring) on all of the 125 buses.
- The community bus will continue throughout the construction phase, approximately seven years.

##### 29.1.20 Trees for Somerset Seminar.

Rachel Perrett said it was an interesting day and that as we already have a tree strategy group we are slightly ahead of other parishes. The planting of trees is being promoted because of climate change and flooding issues.

If we proceed with the management of the Brownie Copse, we could perhaps include bird boxes and plant species to encourage butterflies and bees.

### **3.2.20 Brownie Copse (Tree strategy group)**

The group are liaising with M.Ward (Somerset's Brilliant Coast Project) and a further meeting will be held in the next couple of weeks.

#### **117/19 FORTHCOMING MEETING NOTIFICATION:**

11.2.20 – Village Hall

5.3.20 – Somerset Road Safety Presentation (Route 60+)

26.3.20 – Transport Forum

#### **118/19 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION:**

##### **1. General List**

- Francis Darch Grounds Maintenance – Requesting consideration for any future tenders for work locally
- Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme (QLPS) has received £2.6m funding for a five-year scheme to enhance the landscape of the Quantocks (200km<sup>2</sup> scheme)
- Comwich resident - Bulb planting of the verge at the entrance to the River View estate was not welcomed by some residents who maintain the area as part of their deeds. The old stone from the wall that was taken down is still there and it was suggested it be removed or used to rebuild the wall. We will write to the residents to apologise and also offer to remove the daffodil bulbs once they have flowered. **Action: Clerk**

##### **2. Somerset Chairman's Award for 2020**

A couple of names were put forward but we will keep the list open for a few months as nominations do not need to be submitted until May. We need to check if couples are eligible to be nominated. **Action: Clerk**

##### **3. Church Hill Subsidence**

Following a surveyor's report, a resident of Church Hill suggested a large heavy vehicle was the likely cause of cracks in his wall. He asked the parish council to consider if large vehicles apart from say, refuse collections & oil deliveries can be warned off from entering the village. We will check with Highways as this is likely to be outside of our remit. **Action: Clerk.**

##### **4. Kerb edging in front of houses of the common**

A resident asked if we could consider edging the grass in front of the cottages opposite the Village Hall with 'kerbing' as vehicles parking alongside are gradually eroding the grass. We would need to check with Highways. **Action: Clerk**

#### **119/19 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

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

Nothing to report.

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

- a. It was AGREED not to ask for the footpath that runs alongside Riverside Farm to the gate beyond the last dwelling to be extinguished as it may be beneficial if we proceed with the Brownie Copse proposals.
- b. The resident previously involved with the footpath diversion behind her property in Otterhampton has asked that it be put on hold indefinitely or cancelled. This was AGREED in principle unless anyone else came forward who wanted the diversion to proceed.

##### **3. Otter Wheels**

Nothing to report.

##### **4. Otter Tales**

The next Otter Tales deadline for the March issue is 23.2.20, slightly earlier than normal due to holidays.

##### **5. School Liaison**

- The issue of parking (and speeding) at the School or in School Lane was again raised by the Head with new parents. The Head is trying to encourage parking away from the School e.g. along by the brook in Wharf Rd
- It is hoped a further coffee morning can be held.

#### **120/19 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 5 March 2020, at 7.00pm in Otterhampton Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 8.50pm.

Signed: Original signed by J.Evans

(Chair)

Date: 5 March 2020