

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on

THURSDAY 5 MARCH 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

Cllr Pay submitted a report; of particular note:

- The budget for 2020/21 was set; a balanced budget with no cuts to public services. At the full county meeting members voted to approve the Council Tax and Housing rents for 2020/21 with an increase in council tax of £5 per year on a Band D property. J.Pay left the meeting at 7.15pm

Public

- The number of vehicles fly parking in the village for February was 19.
- Only 5 people attended the EDF Combwich Wharf drop-in session earlier today. Councillors suggested the afternoon session might not suit everyone and that it might be beneficial to attach future sessions to either a parish council meeting or Friday coffee mornings. This will be fed back to EDF. **Action: Clerk**

PRESENT:

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

121/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Marie Beckley.

122/19 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6.2.20:

The minutes of the meeting held on 6.2.20 were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.

123/19 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. **39/19/00001** – Erect 2 dwellings (plots 4 and 5) and single storey extension to south elevation of previously approved garage to for a triple garage, 9 Church Hill, Combwich. No comments were received from residents. Councillors had no further observations other than previously identified. **Action: Clerk**

124/19 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

1. **Bank Balances** - Current A/C £1433.46; Deposit A/C £14387.12; Reserve A/C £24705.13.
2. **The following payments were AGREED:**
 - a) Mrs A Prowse - £506.35 (February salary including £20.11 misc. office and other costs)
 - b) B.Leathwood - £219.60 (Printing costs for March 2020 Otter Tales, Solopress)
 - c) BT - £1.00 (cost levied to adopt the BT telephone kiosk)

125/19 STEART WARD:

The works on the new foreshore fence and replacement hides have started and due to the weather and tidal conditions, the ground is in a terrible state, particularly in the area of the foreshore fence; this includes part of the Somerset Coast Path. We will ask that the contractor makes good the ground. **Action: Clerk**

Clerks Note post meeting – I have been advised that work on the new hides has been postponed until June. If the ground is still not suitable the work will then commence in October. The foreshore fence will continue. EDF has given its undertaking to restore and/or enhance the ground at Steart Gate with how it found it.

126/19 HIGHWAYS:

1. Erosion of verges at Crossways and Biffens Corner
The damage created to the verge at Crossways was due to a Hanson lorry that tried to help a bus that was stuck and therefore, a one-off incident. However, there is damage to the kerbs at the entrance by the bus shelter and further erosion of the grassed areas because vehicles are driving over them. Highways previously advised it does not have the funding to replace kerbs. The incident that happened at Biffens Corner (tyre marks on the verge close to the properties) though regrettable, was likely to be a one-off

- incident. The ongoing bad weather has highlighted the inadequate width of the road as erosion of the verges and several tyre marks on them are all along the C182. We will raise this at the Transport Forum and whether there is any provision to restore the verges at the end of the Hinkley C build. **Action: A.Darch**
2. Dame Withycombe -There is a dip in the road at the far end of the Crossways layby on the C182. B.Birkenhead suggested reporting this defect on-line (Fix My Street or SCC Report a Problem).
 3. Biffens Corner – A meeting with L.Hackling (Highways) has been arranged for 24.3.20. It is hoped that the homeowner will be available to speak to Mr Hackling. **Action: Clerk**

127/19 ITEMS FROM THE LAST MEETING:

1. **Review of the Action List (for actions not covered by the agenda):**
 - No 1** – A request for a “No parking for HPC personnel using HPC Transport” sign in Brookside Rd was declined by EDF as it is against its policy.
 - No 3** – Invite 3 contractors to discuss landscape actions for Wharf Rd. **Action Ongoing.**
 - No 4** – The adoption of the BT phone box has been approved, so the application for the two new defibrillators can be prepared and submitted for approval. **Action: Clerk**
 - No 8** – Bus shelter – ask Highways if permissions are required if we wish to replace it. **Awaiting response.**
 - No 14** – A letter was sent to residents apologising for daffodil planting on the grass at the entrance of River View, advising we would lift them and plant elsewhere if residents asked us to do so.
 - No 15** – Write to Highways re subsidence issue to a property on Church Hill. **Awaiting response.**
 - No 17** – Erosion of grass verge in front of cottages opposite the Village Hall. Ask Highways if there is a viable solution to stop the verge receding further. **Awaiting response.**
 - No 18** – Write to Highways to ask if we could introduce a parking time limit in the lay-by opposite the Post Office. **Awaiting response.**
2. **Fly Parking**
Whilst EDF did not agree to the “No parking” sign in Brookside Rd. the Chair suggested we ask EDF if the 300m rule (EDF employees residing in the village should not park within 300m of the bus shelter to catch the staff bus) could be reviewed to an appropriate distance for Combwich. Speak to Immy Selby in the first instance and in parallel, try and find out how other villages are affected (Nether Stowey and Stogursey) **Action: Clerk.** Subsequently if appropriate, consider raising at the Transport Forum.
3. **OPRA Replacement Pavilion (T.Gardener)**
A little progress has been made. The nearest resident to the proposed location is happy with the proposal.
4. **Somerset Chairman’s Award for 2020**
Confirmation required if couples are permitted to be nominated. Nomination(s) will be required at the April meeting. **Action: Clerk**

128/19 ENHANCEMENTS:

1. **Verge damage at entrance to Combwich track**
Vehicles parking on the verge have caused considerable damage. The Chair asked if we should consider widening the verge to create parking spaces or whether we should take action to prevent the parking. It was AGREED that as the track is part of the Village Green, permanent parking would not be permitted so we will seek measures to stop vehicles parking there. The Clerk contacted Cannington Quarry. Boulders are available at £20 per ton, but unable to deliver. We will contact M.Ingram to ask if he could collect and put the boulders in place. **Action: Clerk.**
2. **Village Sign storm damage**
The sign broke away from the post and fell to the ground during the recent stormy weather. This is the second time we have had similar problems. Members concluded that the sign is too heavy for the post and we need to consider the safety angle if repaired and replaced. We discussed whether the sign could be reconfigured, perhaps set within a feature on the ground. Agenda item for the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**
3. **Play Area ground settlement and safety surfacing issues**
The required information was supplied to the Insurance Company but we have not received a response. This will be chased. **Action: Clerk.**
4. **Annual Ground Maintenance Contract**
It was AGREED to request Clean Surroundings for a quotation for the annual grounds maintenance contract to commence 1.4.20. **Action: Clerk**
5. **Suggestions for flags**
 - a. The next flag to be flown will be to celebrate St Patrick’s Day 17 March 2020.
 - b. A resident requested that a ‘Gay Pride Flag’ is flown during June. Members wished to think about this request as currently we only tend to fly flags celebrating notable dates e.g. St Georges Day and we needed to be careful at setting a precedent and other considerations such as volunteer effort raising the flags, plus costs. Agenda item for next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

129/19 MEETING REPORTS:

11.2.20 – Village Hall. Lindsey Parsons reported the following:

- The new cleaning contract is in place
- New banking policy in place making payments easier
- No health and safety issues
- The fund-raising event on 22.2.20 raised just over £500
- The preparations for the Fun-day on 4.7.20 are going well
- The Business Plan and Hinkley C funding application are with CCS for review prior to submitting to OPPT.

13.2.20 – Tree Strategy Group. The Chair provided a report from the meeting. It was agreed that as a group, it would recommend to the parish council the proposal to commence a project for the Brownie Copse to clear some of the brambles, create pathways and to plant some established trees obtained from an existing site (that were to be removed) during early March at no cost. This will be followed by organising a community afternoon making bird boxes and insect hotels. In the medium term, it is proposed to expand the area both in front (i.e. towards Riverside Farm) and behind the copse (where the single beech tree has been planted). This was AGREED by members. B.Birkenhead said this work will provide an opportunity to open up footpath BW/10.

28.2.20 – SSG

R.Perrett advised she has a number of reports that she will circulate to members if requested.

A Station

- Major work replacing the large glass panes that cover the turbine hall and reactor buildings is being done for safety reasons. The glass is being replaced with Perspex sheets.
- Following previous reported problems with lifting equipment, more time sourcing equipment has been undertaken, to ensure it is fit for purpose

B Station

- Reactor 4 was safely shutdown on 21.2.20 for planned maintenance and graphite inspection programme.
- Reactor 3 had an unexpected controlled reactor shutdown last week due to fire protection pipework leaks. This is being urgently investigated and repairs are ongoing.

5.3.20 - Somerset Road Safety Presentation

This was well organised and enjoyed by those who attended. Unfortunately, only 12 residents attended, possibly due to the appalling weather on the day. A thank you letter will be sent to Mr Greenhalgh. **Action: Clerk**

130/19 FORTHCOMING MEETING NOTIFICATION:

10.3.20 – Village Hall

26.3.20 – Transport Forum

26.3.20 – Joint Parishes Cluster Meeting

131/19 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION:

General List

A resident expressed concern that vegetation works on the Wharf Rd might mean the lack of a potential green and pleasant space. The Clerk responded that this was not the intent, but we are looking to maximise a low maintenance and cost option to improve the current untidy space.

132/19 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES:

1. Otterhampton Parish Project Team (OPPT)

The next panel meetings are 24.4.20 (papers by 1.4.20) and 31.7.20 (papers by 1.7.20).

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

Due to the endless wet weather, the footpaths are in a terrible state everywhere. Reference minute 125/19 above, B.Birkenhead will report the condition of the Coast Path to SCC if appropriate.

3. Otter Wheels

Nothing to report.

4. Otter Tales

Nothing to report.

5. School Liaison

A.Darch asked if children could be dropped off at the School early without the need to pay (i.e. the Breakfast Club) which might help to spread the volume of vehicles at peak times. This will be discussed at the next meeting with the Head Teacher. **Action: R.Perrett.**

133/19 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 2 April 2020, at 7.00pm in Otterhampton Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 9.00pm.

Original signed by :

J.Evans

(Chair)

Date: 14.7.20