

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on
THURSDAY 14 JULY 2020, 7.00pm
via ZOOM

DECLARATION(S) OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS:

Marie Beckley and Bob Birkenhead declared an interest in item 11/20 Junior Oars for Gig Section. There were no other 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 advised the next SCC 'blue report' would be available soon.
- Cllr Pay was unable to attend.

PRESENT (via Zoom):

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

8/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

There were no apologies for absence.

9/20 MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 2.7.20:

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 2.7.20 were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.

10/20 CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF OPPT FOR THE VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT EOI:

1. J.Evans advised that OPPT had met and discussed the Village Hall Refurbishment and unanimously decided not to recommend support for the EOI as it stands. B.Leathwood advised there were two main reasons for this a) OPPT considered the cost at £732k (including the £450k applied for from the Hinkley C Community Fund) was considerably higher than it anticipated. b) OPPT had very recently been made aware of the possibility of an outline planning application for a housing development at the entrance of the village that may result in land and/or funds to build a new community hall. There is of course uncertainty re timing of this and no guarantees that planning consent would be given, although the housing development does form part of the SDC Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment for the period 2021-2026.

2. OPPT would like the Trustees to obtain a quotation based on a minimum refurbishment to keep the building safe and sustainable pending more information becoming available on the housing development; hopefully, in time for the next Panel in October (meeting papers to V. Bishop by 1.10.20, Panel date 30.10.20, and in parallel, OPPT will consult with the community re potential options available; a) Support the proposed refurbishment, spending £450k from the parish fund b) Support an application to carry out 'essential and urgent' works in the interim until the position of the housing development is known (subject to land/money the option then would be to pursue a new community hall or further refurbish the existing one). The parish council supported the recommendations of OPPT.

3. OPPT will report back to the parish council after its meeting on 27.7.20.

11/20 CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF OPPT RE JUNIOR OARS FOR GIG SECTION EOI:

OPPT recommended approval of this EOI to the value of £2160 (£2400-10% match funding) as although the Gig Section has received £40165 funding already, this application is directed at a different demographic. The Parish Council supported this application 5/5 votes (2 members had declared an interest so could not vote).

12/20 SCC UNITARY COUNCIL PROPOSALS:

1. Councillors had read the SALC and SLCC report following a debate around local government reorganisation to build a set of recommendations from the parish perspective. The report does not favour any particular type of local government structure but proposes seven recommendations that any new arrangement in Somerset should adopt. Members were generally in agreement with the proposals. The Clerk will draft and circulate a response to SALC for members' consideration. **Action: Clerk**
2. SCC has a full council meeting on 29.7.20 to discuss the proposals. It has been suggested that the Leader of SCC Mr D Fothergill, plans to seek a resolution to dissolve SCC in May 2021, form a shadow CC for a year and then try to form a single council for Somerset on 2022. This will need the permission of Parliament.

13/20 **REVIEW OF PLAY AREA RE-OPENING FOLLOWING EASING OF COVID-19 LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS:**
B.Birkenhead had fixed the children's swing and appropriate signage (using the SDC model) was erected in and around the play area and on notice boards. The play area has been well used and aside from one complaint regarding the black residue left on children's shoes, hands and clothing, no other issues have been identified.

14/20 **ZOOM:**
The meeting finished abruptly as we exceeded the time limit of 40 minutes. Post meeting (via email) it was AGREED that we would obtain a monthly subscription for Zoom at £11.99 plus VAT which would allow up to 100 participants and meeting length of up to 24 hours. **Action: Clerk**

15/20 **DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:**
The next scheduled meeting will be on Thursday 3 September, 7pm, venue to be confirmed nearer the date.

The meeting closed at 7.54pm.

Signed:

(Chair)

Date: