

**OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Draft MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
held on  
**THURSDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2021, 7.00pm (on ZOOM)**

*To be approved at the following meeting*

**DECLARATION(S) OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS:**

Parish Councillors – Dispensation for the Brookside Rd Housing Development. There were no other dispensations applied for or any declarations of members' interests.

**EDF – UPDATE ON COMBWICH WHARF (A Cockcroft, I Selby, J Macbrook and A Lynch).**

- Electricity generation is expected June 2026 (Unit 1) and 2027 (Unit 2). Costs are estimated to be circa £22-£23 billion, an £0.5b increase. The 6-month delay and increase in costs are as a result of Covid-19. The workforce will be increased from 5600 to 8500, at peak 2022/23, to try and recover some of the lost programme.
- The removal of the transfer slab at the wharf is complete; 60% of the piling has been done using vibration and drilling techniques rather than impact piling; the major invasive construction works are due to be finished summer 2021.
- Working hours are Monday to Friday 0800-1900hrs and Saturday 0800 to 1300hrs.
- I.Selby reported a low level of complaints; monthly updates will continue into the operational phase.
- Contact details are Tel 0333 009 7070; email [Hinkley-enquiries@edf-energy.com](mailto:Hinkley-enquiries@edf-energy.com); website [www.edf.energy.com/hpc](http://www.edf.energy.com/hpc)
- In response to a question from a member of the public (MOP), J Macbrook said the discharge for operational noise monitoring scheme is the last Development Consent Order to go into operation, recently submitted to Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) for consideration of the Environmental Health Officer. The priority will be for as little impact as possible. The MOP added that at the moment, the noise is not too intrusive, but when spending more time outdoors it could be more so. He also wanted assurances that consultation will take place with the parish council and residents. I Selby said that when the wharf moves into the operational phase, EDF intends to carry out an operational briefing.

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

Fly parking in the village is increasing, particularly at weekends because of visitors to WWT Steart Marshes. It may reduce once the Covid-19 situation improves and things get back to 'normal'. Whilst it is frustrating, there is not a lot we can do from dissuading it. There is a sign at the Combwich junction on the C182 advising Steart Marshes is 'straight on'. When the new marker posts are installed it may prevent parking along the verge by the play area. WWT is committed to develop a management plan to manage its visitors; we will make them aware of the impact in Combwich and request it forms part of its considerations. **Action: Clerk**

**Ward Reports**

Cllr. Caswell - several staff at County Hall are engaged at testing centres and vaccination hubs to help cope with the Covid-19 situation; he had previously supplied a report to councillors from Somerset County Council (SCC); the new CEO of SDC is Mr Bob Brown.

Cllr. Pay had previously circulated her report to councillors and had nothing further to add.

Cllr Pay left the meeting at 7.50pm

**PRESENT:**

Bob Birkenhead (Acting-Chair), Marie Beckley, Andy Darch, Julie Evans, Tina Gardener, Lindsey Parsons, Rachel Perrett, Aly Prowse (Clerk), Ward Councillors Julie Pay and Mike Caswell; 7 members of the public.

**19/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

There were no apologies for absence.

**20/21 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 7.1.21 and 28.1.21:**

The minutes of the meeting on Zoom held on 7.1.21 and the extraordinary meeting held on 28.1.21 were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.

**21/21 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, roof timbers) 60 Crossways AWAITING DECISION
3. **39/20/00007** – Erect a dwelling at 21 Riverside Combwich. GRANTED
4. **39/20/00010** – Erection of 2 agricultural buildings, Lower Hill Farm, Otterhampton. GRANTED
5. **39/20/00012** – Roof and change of use from silage clamp to silage clamp and livestock building. Lower Hill Farm, Otterhampton. AWAITING DECISION

6. **39/20/00015** – Erection of a dwelling, land to west of 14 School Lane, Combwich. Awaiting decision
7. **39/21/00001** – Replace 2 Velux windows on front elevation with 2 pitched roof dormer windows at 46 Estuary Park. This application was received on 3.2.21, too late for the agenda so it will be discussed at the next meeting. Extension granted until 5.3.21 for comments to SDC.
8. **13/21/00001** – Request for discharge requirement relating to C19 operational noise monitoring scheme at Combwich wharf. For information.
9. **39/20/00013** – Outline planning permission with some matters reserved, for the erection of up to 60 dwellings, a community hall, car parking, public open space and associated infrastructure. **OBJECTED**
  - The parish council submitted its objection to this application on 3.2.21. There are 51 comments on the SDC website to date; 96% of them are opposed to the proposal. A number of consultees have either objected or have submitted holding objections pending further information/clarification. Perhaps a key objection is from the Parrett Internal Drainage Board because of significant shortcomings within the Flood Risk Assessment.
  - If the application has to go to the Development Committee at its next meeting on 2.3.21, we would need to hold an extraordinary meeting.

#### 22/21 **FINANCE:**

1. **Bank Balances** - Current A/C £1522.36; Deposit A/C £21043.30; Reserve A/C £21112.32
2. **The following payments were AGREED:**
  - a) Mrs A Prowse - £544.89 (Jan salary £511.89, plus misc. expenses £18.61 & £14.39 Zoom subscription)
  - b) Mrs A Prowse - £334.99 (New printer)
  - c) Mr B Leathwood - £219.60 (Solopress – printing January Otter Tales)
  - d) JRB Enterprises - £308.16 (12 x 800 dog gloves)
  - e) SDC - £1166.40 (ground clearance at the Brook and Riverside by the play area)
  - f) Stormfly - £40 (install new printer)
3. **INCOME:**
  - a) Amazon - £96.81 (refund against inks for old printer)
4. **BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT TO 31.12.20:**  
To date, we have spent 65% of the precept (£26k). It is anticipated we will spend £25k by 31.3.21.  
Cllr Caswell left the meeting at 8.04pm

#### 23/21 **STEAR T WARD:**

A Darch had previously circulated his report; briefly, he has purchased some additional poles to be used along the common to identify the edge of the road in the event of flooding; the drainage pipe under the road near Dowells Farm requires replacement as it cannot take excess water away quickly enough and this needs to remain on the Drainage Board's agenda. Finally, he noticed a potential issue of soil erosion and hence water run-off underneath the brambles at the brook by Wharf Rd. R Perrett will take some photographs. This will be reported to the Environment Agency. **Action: Clerk**

#### 24/21 **REVIEW OF ACTION LIST:**

##### Play Area

- a. Wooden marker posts on verge – Highways has approved the style of bollards suggested. A specification can now be prepared to go out to tender, followed by the completion of the Section 171. **Action: Clerk.**
- b. Refurbishment of stone wall. T Gardener has made some enquiries regarding its history, but has been unable to find anyone with any knowledge of it.
- c. Wicksteed ground settlement claim. Due to its commercial confidentiality, this will be discussed after the meeting at a 'closed to the public' session.
- d. Dog fouling signage – various designs and suggestions had been circulated to councillors. A preference was stated for signage to be attached to existing infrastructure rather than to install additional posts. It was **AGREED** to spend up to the £99 balance we have in RLT2 funds, as proposed by J Evans and seconded by R Perrett. **Action: Clerk**

#### 25/21 **HIGHWAYS:**

Outstanding highways issues - In response to our email, K.Tyson submitted the proposed plan for the location of the warning signs for the play area (as agreed in June 2019) to confirm we are happy with the proposal. B Birkenhead agreed to take a look at the identified location.

**26/21 ENHANCEMENTS:**

1. Annual grounds maintenance contract - It was AGREED to request SDC Clean Surrounds to extend the existing contract for one year from 1.4.21 – 31.3.22 because of the continuing Covid-19 situation. As previously agreed, there will be 2 additional requirements to add i.e; to mow the area by the memorial tree adjacent to the WWT Steart Marshes entrance and to trim the banks of the brook by Wharf Rd up to 3 times per year as required. **Action: Clerk**
2. Dog Glove dispensers – The clerk reported that the dispensers are starting to go rusty and are getting difficult to open and lock and that it might be appropriate to consider whether to replace them or not. We are using twice as many bags now than when they were first installed, costing just under £600 per year. It was unanimously AGREED that once the existing stock of bags is used, we will remove the dispensers. Advanced warning that this service will be discontinued will be placed on the bins themselves, notice boards and in Otter Tales. **Action: Clerk**

**27/21 MEETING REPORTS:**

**12.1.21 – Village Hall.**

L Parsons previously circulated notes of the meeting. The main item of note is that grant applications for the village hall refurbishment are going well. £11k has been secured. A grant application to ACRE for £40k will be submitted shortly and 3 responses are awaited. The refurbishment will go ahead as soon as funding is in place.

**21.1.21 – Community Forum**

M Beckley previously circulated notes of the meeting. Key items included the Community Drop-In on Zoom regarding the increase in the Hinkley C workforce; Covid-19 champions have been appointed; 1000 Covid-19 tests have been undertaken since Christmas; the investigation into the damaged silo has been delayed due to Covid-19 but will be actioned and £4m in Community Grants has been paid out. The next meeting is 20.5.21

**28/21 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:**

9.2.21 – Village Hall

26.2.21 – SSG Meeting (T Gardener will attend if R Perrett has to work)

18.3.21 – Transport Forum

**29/21 CORRESPONDENCE:**

- 2 items of correspondence relating to additional traffic / parking difficulties in the village as a result of visitors to the WWT Steart Marshes. See the Public Session above (page 1).
- EDF Road sweeping along the Wharf Rd as requested by a resident. Councillors are happy for this to be carried out.
- An invitation was received from West Huntspill Parish Council to attend its meeting on 8.1.21 in relation to planning application 52/20/00024.

**30/21 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

1. Public Rights of Way – B Birkenhead
  - I Pring (Somerset PRow) advised of a GPS 'App' including the history of Combnich that will be installed along the nearby coastal access routes.
  - B Birkenhead suggested asking EDF to lay some hardcore along the muddy access path between Wharf Rd into Estuary Park (near the Angling Section gate) as part of the additional help they are willing to provide. J Evans suggested that a package of works should be put together for this additional support rather than a piecemeal approach. In addition, we do not know who has responsibility for the access.
2. Otter Tales – The next edition will be March 2021 (deadline 7.3.21).
3. School Liaison – Nothing to report.

**31/21 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be on Thursday 4 March 2021, 7pm (on Zoom).

This meeting closed at 8.35pm and was followed by a closed meeting to the public, to discuss the Wicksteed settlement offer relating to the play area surfacing.

Signed:

(Acting Chair)

Date: