

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

DECLARATION(S) OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS:

There were no declarations of interest and no dispensations applied for. Member's Interests are disclosed at the time of taking Office. This information can be viewed on the Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) website.

PUBLIC SESSION:

A steel plate / cover adjacent to the cycle path on the C182 approaching Bolham reverberates quite loudly when heavy vehicles drive over it, which can be heard by residents in Estuary Park. A defect will be submitted on 'Fix My Street'.

Action: B Birkenhead.

Ward Councillor Reports

Cllr. Caswell

- The unitary bid is progressing. He urges the parish council to get involved with the consultation.
- He asked about the noise generated at Comwich Wharf. A resident said it is not too bad if inside your property, but it is 'deafening' if outside.
- The polling station on 6.5.21 to elect Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners will be Stockland Club. The Village Hall is unavailable due to its imminent refurbishment.

Cllr. Pay

- Nothing to add to her previously submitted report.

Cllrs Pay and Caswell left the meeting at 7.12pm

PRESENT:

Julie Evans (Chair), Bob Birkenhead (Vice-Chairman), Marie Beckley, Andy Darch, Tina Gardener, Lindsey Parsons, Rachel Perrett, Aly Prowse (Clerk), 6 members of the public.

32/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

There were no apologies for absence.

33/21 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 4.2.21:

The minutes of the meeting on Zoom held on 4.2.21 were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.

34/21 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. **39/20/00012** – Roof and change of use from silage clamp to silage clamp and livestock building. Lower Hill Farm, Otterhampton. AWAITING DECISION
4. **39/20/00015** – Erection of a dwelling, land to west of 14 School Lane, Comwich. GRANTED
5. **39/21/00001** – Replace 2 Velux windows on front elevation with 2 pitched roof dormer windows at 46 Estuary Park. Councillors said this could set a precedent as no other nearby properties have pitched roof dormer windows but did not think this was sufficient reason to object. The application was therefore SUPPORTED on a 6-1 majority vote.
6. **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. AWAITING DECISION

35/21 FINANCE:

1. **Bank Balances** - Current A/C £2239.79; Deposit A/C £16543.48; Reserve A/C £21112.51

2. **The following payments were AGREED:**

- a) Mrs A Prowse - £545.50 (Feb salary £511.89, plus misc. exp. £19.22 & £14.39 Zoom subscription)
- b) Mrs A Prowse - £101.57 (Dog Fouling and age-related signage for Play Area). RLT2 grant funded.
- c) Mr A Taylor - £50.00 (Fit bulkhead light in phone box/defibrillator)
- d) Stuart Todd Associates - £690.00 (SDC response to 39/20/00013)

3. OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT:

- a) To formally record unanimous approval to release £20000.00 contingency fund (previously agreed) from the Hinkley Point C Community Fund to enable the refurbishment works to proceed.
- b) Request for temporary storage on the common. L Parsons said this is no longer required as the ground is unsuitable as it is not level. Storage will be arranged in Bridgwater.

4. INCOME:

The grant application to use the balance of £99.23 from the RLT2 Fund for the play area signage (see minute 35/21/2b) was approved by SDC.

36/21 STEAR WARD:

Nothing to report other than very high tides due at the end of March/beginning of April.

37/21 REVIEW OF ACTION LIST:

1. Play Area

- a. Wooden marker posts on verge – It was AGREED to continue as planned with the wooden posts throughout rather than have stone boulders edging the track. The specification will now be sent out for tender. It was AGREED that we will submit a grant application to the Hinkley Point C Community Fund for this work. **Action: Clerk**
 - b. Refurbishment of stone wall. **Action Continues**
 - c. The Clerk had an ‘informal’ telephone conversation with Val Bishop on 2.3.21 to seek views of potentially seeking Hinkley C Community Funding for the resurfacing works. Val thought this was possible given the circumstances plus the ‘wear and tear’ element after 5 years, high use and footfall. The next Panel will be 20.4.21. Information will need to be sent to Val as soon after 1.4.21 as possible (normally 3 weeks before the Panel).
The Clerk will contact the company who previously tendered in November 2019 to give it the opportunity to revisit its tender. We will seek at least 2 other tenderers.
 - d. Age related signage i.e 12 years and under and Dog fouling signage has been received and will be erected shortly.
2. Fly parking in Combwich – WWT responded to our concerns and will include Combwich in its review of visitor management to WWT Steart Marshes.
 3. Soil erosion at the brook by Wharf Rd – The correct location was identified and photographs will be taken to enable the issue to be reported to the Environment Agency. **Action: R.Perrett/Clerk**
 4. Dame Withycombe Hill pedestrian signage – It was AGREED to press Highways again for some safety signage advising of pedestrians crossing the road. Councillors are very sympathetic towards the residents particularly those with young children and elderly persons having to cross the road to get to the village. **Action: Clerk**
 5. EDF additional community support when the wharf is operational – It was AGREED to place an article in Otter Tales asking for residents to suggest ideas for possible projects. **Action: Clerk**

38/21 ENHANCEMENTS:

Annual Grounds Maintenance Contract - SDC Clean Surroundings agreed to extend the contract for one further year with effect from 1.4.21 at the existing price. The additional work requested to trim and clear the bank of the brook by the defibrillator will cost £84 per occasion (up to 3 per annum). Councillors unanimously AGREED to accept these terms. **Action: Clerk**

39/21 MEETING REPORTS:

9.2.21 – Village Hall.

L Parsons previously circulated notes of the meeting. The refurbishment is due to commence within the next four weeks.

26.2.21 – SSG

T Gardner attended on behalf of R Perrett. Notes of the meeting were previously circulated. Hinkley B will stop generating electricity in 2022, 45 years after it first produced electricity. There was also an interesting briefing on ‘fusion’ a possible future source of clean electricity.

40/21 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

9.3.21 – Village Hall

18.3.21 – Transport Forum

41/21 **CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. CPRE membership – it was unanimously AGREED to re-join the CPRE at a cost of £36 per annum. **Action: Clerk**
2. C182 roadworks at Bolham Bridge – works to strengthen Bolham Bridge on the C182 are due to commence on 15.3.21 between the hours of 1900-0500 from Monday evenings through to Saturday mornings and expected to last for 4 weeks.
3. Temporary closure of Riverside – works by Wessex Water are planned to commence on 15.3.21 for a period of up to 5 days.
4. General list
 - a. The Anchor Inn requested if some tables and benches could be placed on the Common between the wall and the play area when the pub reopens after lockdown. In principle, councillors were minded to support the request. However, the decision will be deferred pending the outcome of further enquiries including insurance and licencing considerations, consultation with the neighbours and the proposed management of any potential anti-social behaviour issues. The Anchor Inn will be advised of this in the interim. **Action: Clerk**
 - b. A virtual Public Enquiry run by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) will be held starting on 7.6.21 as EDF seeks to vary its permit to remove one of the measures of the existing permit regarding the Acoustic Fish Deterrent.
 - c. NALC/SALC – The existing regulations that allow local authorities to hold meetings remotely will cease from 7.5.21 and unless the Government extend these regulations beyond this date, face to face meetings must resume. NALC is currently working with a number of national bodies to press the government to extend these regulations due to Covid-19 uncertainties. The parish council should prepare for all scenarios.

42/21 **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

1. Public Rights of Way – B Birkenhead
 - The Ramblers Association is conducting a survey of unused PRoW. Bob and Carol Birkenhead do a lot of checking the PRoW in the parish so are aware of where all the PRoW are.
 - B Birkenhead and B Leathwood have followed up with SCC on the progress of the Combwich Ponds issue. The consultation has been concluded and we hope it will not be long before we are advised of the deliberations.
2. The deadline for Otter Tales articles is 5.3.21.
3. School liaison – R Perrett will follow up the conversation with C Luce regarding the replacement seesaw in the play area.

43/21 **DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be on Thursday 1 April 2021, 7pm (on Zoom). The Annual Assembly and Annual Meeting will be held on 6.5.21

This meeting closed at 8.20pm and was followed by a closed meeting to the public, to discuss a commercially sensitive matter.

Signed: Original signed by J.Evans

(Chair)

Date: 1 April 2021