

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on

THURSDAY 2 December 2021, 7.00pm at Otterhampton Village Hall

As per agenda Nicola Hale the SDC/EDF Community Safety Officer, was unable to attend the meeting but will be in attendance on the 6th January 2022

DECLARATION(S) OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS:

There were no declarations of interest or 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

1. Ward Councillor Reports

Cllr Caswell

- The elections for County, District & Parish Councils, are due to take place in May 2022. It has been confirmed there will be 110 councillors, excluding parish councillors, and vesting day is likely to be 1st April 2023. This is still to be confirmed
- The poor broadband in the Steart & Otterhampton areas is now being addressed. Improvement, should start in the spring and be in place by the end of 2022
- The Mobile Library is still servicing the village stopping at the Post Office and the Pill, but not at the school. This was confirmed in an email from the Somerset County Council Library Manager on 2nd November 2021. Cllr Caswell was asked to find out why Otterhampton Primary School is excluded whilst some schools still receive the service. Clerk to send the email from the SCC Library Manager to Cllr Caswell.
- Housing needs assessment (HNA) Cllr Caswell has spoken to Duncan Harvey who authorised a HNA to be undertaken.
- Cllr Pay spoke about the increase of the work force at Hinkley Point which will increase from 5,000 personnel to 7,000. This will bring an increase in housing needs and extra traffic on the local roads. Hinkley Point will also be coming down hard on fly parking which is becoming an issue once again

PRESENT:

Bob Birkenhead (Acting Chair), Marie Beckley, Andy Darch, Tina Gardener, Rachel Perrett, Lindsey Parsons, Mel catchpole (Clerk). Aly Prowse in attendance Ward councillors Julie Pay and Mike Caswell, 3 members of the public.

144/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Julie Evans.

145/21 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 4.11.21:

The minutes of the meeting held at Otterhampton Village Hall on 4.11.21 were approved and signed by the Chair, (subject to 139/21 to amend Gas Turbine to Generator Transformer)

146/21 PLANNING MATTERS:

1. **39/21/00002** – Conversion of existing storage barn to living accommodation at Fender House, 6 Brookside Rd. AWAITING DECISION.
2. **39/21/00003** – Application for Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas (as for 39/21/00002 above). AWAITING DECISION.

147/21 FINANCE:

1. **Bank Balances** - Current A/C £6598.34; Deposit A/C £22322.44; Reserve A/C £24735.22.
2. **The following payments were AGREED:**
 - a) Mrs A Prowse - £590.94 (Nov salary £528.53, plus misc. exp.£48.02, & £14.39 Zoom sub)
 - b) Mr M Ingram - £712.00 (Combwich track repairs – original quotation reduced by £100.00)
 - c) SDC - £610.80 (Grounds maintenance Apr – Jun)
 - d) SDC - £836.16 (Grounds maintenance Jul-Sep, dog bins Oct – Mar, little bins Apr – Sep))
 - e) B Birkenhead – £26.82 (Paint for buoy)
 - f) B Leathwood – 225.31 (Solopress Otter Tales printing, November)

148/21 STEART WARD (A Darch):

A report was previously circulated. The main items included a letter from the Animal Plant & Health Agency (APHA) advising of new housing measures to protect poultry and captive birds from avian influenza across the UK. It is a legal requirement from the 29th November 2021 for all bird keepers to keep their birds indoors and follow strict biosecurity measures in order to limit the spread and to eradicate the disease.

The wording was agreed for a sign explaining the small area of land (known locally as Backrap in Steart) recently enhanced with trees, shrubs, and hedging. The sign will be ordered and paid for by the Parish Council
Action A Darch.

149/21 ENHANCEMENTS:

1. Bicycle stands at Crossways

'Take A Stand' Life Cycle UK has been contacted and will provide 4 bicycle stands. These will be located to the side of the bus shelter and will be sunk into the ground, and should the area become boggy then we will gravel over, this was agreed by councillors. We are still waiting to hear from Highways whether a Section 171 is required.

Cllr Pay & Cllr Caswell left the meeting at 7.35 pm

2. Play area Paths

A specification and subsequent tender process is still required to reinstate some of the paths. We need to determine who will produce the specification. Action all

150/21 HIGHWAYS:

1. Dame Withycombe Hill This is an ongoing concern regarding the safety of residents who live here. The PC to contact Katherine Tyson (Highways) and the Police to request a site visit to discuss the issues and try to determine a way forward.
2. Re-lining of disabled bay (Riverside) Highways have said it is not their responsibility. We responded advising that they installed it initially so does their advice still stand.

151/21 TREES:

1. Large Ash (opposite Village Hall) The Parish Council has been advised that it is likely the large Ash opposite the Village Hall has Ash Die back. This needs to be proved by supplying various samples. We will check the correct process with the Sedgemoor District Council Landscape Officer **Action Clerk**. If the tree is diseased, it will need to be removed, and a subsequent replacement discussed. The residents will need to be advised as a matter of courtesy.
2. The WI Oak sapling will be planted at Crossways, opposite the bus shelter
3. The Flowering Cherry & Crab apple trees have been collected. They are bare root and will need to be planted as quickly as possible. The Flowering Cherry will be planted at Crossways and the Crab Apple in Steart Church grounds.

152/21 REVIEW OF ACTION LIST:

1. General

- a) No 3 – Annual Wharf Rd Maintenance – Contract placed 24/11
- b) No 5 - Wharf Rd Enhancement – We are awaiting a response following an EDF meeting on 30.11.21.
- c) No 8 – Signage and 'Slow' markings on the road warning of the play area. A playground sign has been erected but it is not in the location as per the Highways map. A complaint was received by a resident objecting to the sign. Highways were requested to reposition the sign on 11.11.21 as per the agreed location. Awaiting a response.
- d) No 11 - Erosion of gravel area in front of cottages opposite the village hall. Limited to what can be done, discussed use of sleepers, but more research required.
- e) No 13 – A meeting was held on 22.11.21 between interested parties. It was agreed all forms of media were useful and effective. However, the OPRA website needs updating and will be pursued. Further discussions will be held to try and obtain assistance with the production of Otter Tales.

- f) No 14 – following the query regarding a potential Abandoned vehicle in Ship Lane the householder has decided to say they own this layby. Somerset County Council will need to be provided with evidence to enable the County records to be amended.
- g) No 22 – Combwich Ponds. Now been given the go ahead to be reopened to the public once again. Hopefully this will take place at the end of January. There are still some issues to be resolved.
- h) No 19 – Memorial bench. Awaiting design to be submitted
- i) No 20 – Water safety rescue equipment for the pill area. EDF to discuss with the Motorboat and Sailing Section.
- j) No 21 – Allotments – a resident in Brookside Road has offered his back garden for this purpose. The Parish Council felt that this would need to be a private arrangement.

153/21 CHANGES TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

This was covered during Cllr Caswell's ward councillor report earlier in the meeting. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda as issues will be dealt with when they arise.

154/21 MEETING REPORTS:

10.11.21 – Village Hall (L Parsons)

Notes of the meeting were previously circulated. Key points included increase of hire charges from the 1st January 2022, phase two of refurbishment should have started late November and be completed by mid-January, a new logo has been agreed and the next meeting will be 8th December at 7.30pm

18.11.21– EDF Workforce uplift joint forum (T Gardner) T Gardener said she has a briefing report she will circulate to councillors

25.11.21 - EDF Transport Forum (Gary Perrett) Mr Perrett provided an update from this meeting which advised that from the number of tides each year i.e., 706, that only 20 can be used to transport loads to the wharf. The loads will be transported to Hinkley Point on Sundays using Abnormal Indivisible Load (AILs) trailers. In addition, a large flat barge will be placed permanently in the Wharf delivery area of the pill.

155/21 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

08.12.21 - Village Hall

08.12.21 – Steart Forum

09.12.21 - Precept

156/21 CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letter from APHA advising Asian influenza measures – see minute 148/21
2. External Play Area Inspection this has been booked for June 2022
3. General List
 - a. Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service have started their draft community risk management report.
 - b. Village hall have advised of increase hire rates to £250.00 per year.
 - c. An email from a resident complaining re metal fencing on Brookside Road. The Clerk has explained that it is a safety requirement for it to be metal and not wood.

157/21 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES:

1. **Public Rights of Way (PRoW) – B Birkenhead.** Nothing to report
2. **OPRA – T Gardener**
 - a) Thank you to the PC for support with the Annual Firework display, they were the best ever, the weather was fine and over £500.00 was collected in donations. The BBQ was also a great success.
 - b) The senior persons Christmas Dinner is on 4.12.21
 - c) The Christmas tree lights will be turned on Sunday 5.12.21 by the Reverend Jan Church.
3. **School – R Perrett**
R Perrett had a meeting with the Head Teacher on 22.11.21. They discussed the conflict of vehicles parking along Brookside Road and the large buses to take the children swimming arriving at the same time and finding it difficult to turn and park. The Head is going to talk to the bus provider to see if smaller buses can be used. There have been some concerns of people entering the grounds when School is closed, they are reviewing security measures

158/21 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 6 January 2022, 7.00pm at Otterhampton Village Hall.

The meeting finished at 9.10pm

Signed:

(Chair)

Date: 6 January 2022