

**OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

held on

**THURSDAY 3 February 2022, 7.00pm at Otterhampton Village Hall**

**COMBWICH WHARF EDF UPDATE**

Vicki Dingwall (Community Relation Manager for Hinkley Point C), Alex Urrutia (Marine Operations Delivery Lead for EDF) and Jamie Jamieson (Marine Service Manager in Site Operations) gave an update on the Combwich Wharf construction, what has been completed, minor works outstanding and the Barge on Barge(B2) Concept.

Outstanding works include; replacement of 2 of the 11 emergency ladders on the wharf, additional acoustic fencing and additional planting of native trees/hedging.

A National Grid delivery is planned for the wharf at the beginning of March and will be transported to HPC in 3 loads. Members of the public can sign up for notification of future vehicle movements between the wharf and Hinkley Point C via a QR code. This should already have been made public.

It is hoped to use a Barge on Barge (B2) concept to enable an 8-hour window on every tide rather than the usual 1½ hour window to unload at the wharf.

An open day at the wharf is being planned for local residents only, in May or June 2022.

Wharf Road – the vegetation clearance will also include specialist tree work which can't be undertaken by Hinkley Point C volunteers. Vicki Dingwall had made enquiries with Somerset Community Foundation and said we could apply to the Small Projects Fund. *Post meeting note; Otterhampton Parish Council is unable to apply to this fund as we have unspent Community Impact Mitigation Funds previously awarded to us.*

Jamie Jamieson apologised profusely for the delivery driver who came through the village in error when trying to make a delivery to the wharf. Damage to the common will be put right and paid for by the delivery company.

**The EDF Team left the meeting at 8.00pm**

**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 Pay will not be standing for the new Somerset Council. **Cllr Pay left the meeting at 7.50pm**

A member of the public brought to the Parish Council's attention overhanging vegetation on Riverside outside Walford House. Clerk to write to resident asking to clear for safety reasons.

**PRESENT:**

Tina Gardener (Acting Chair) Andy Darch, Rachel Perrett, Lindsey Parsons, Marie Beckley, Mel Catchpole (Clerk).  
(1 member of the public).

**15/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies for absence were received from Julie Evans (Julie observed from Zoom but did not participate in the meeting) and Bob Birkenhead.

**16/22 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 6.1.22:**

The minutes of the meeting held at Otterhampton Village Hall on 6.1.22 were approved and signed by the Acting Chair, Tina Gardener.

**17/22 PLANNING MATTERS:**

There were no planning matters to report

**18/22 FINANCE:**

1. **Bank Balances** - Current A/C £5070.09; Deposit A/C £20322.81; Reserve A/C £24735.64.
2. **The following payments were AGREED:**
  - a) Mrs M Catchpole - £614.71 (1 – 31 Jan salary 576.72, plus miscellaneous expenses. broadband £18.00 and Mouse for laptop £19.99)
  - b) Mrs A Prowse - £777.39 (1/12<sup>th</sup> Annual Salary at SCP 24 wef 1.4.21 @ £14.90 per hour Actual hours aid re handover to new clerk at Dowells Farm) 50 x £14.90 = £745.00 (plus miscellaneous expenses. £18.00 and £14.39 Zoom sub)
  - c) Mr Barry Leathwood Otter Tales printing cost January 2022 - £225.31
  - d) SDC - £836.16 (Grounds maintenance Jul-Sep, dog bins Oct – Mar, little bins Apr – Sep))
  - e) Receipts – Wayleaves – £3.90 OPRA Fireworks - £729.00
  - f) The budget monitoring statement for January 2022 was circulated to all councillors in advance of the meeting.

**19/22 STEART WARD (A Darch):**

WWT is not happy with the BBC's Winter Watch programme recently transmitted. They were specifically asked not to encourage visitors to Steart Marshes which was ignored. A noticeable increase in visitors has been since the programme was aired.

**20/22 ENHANCEMENTS:**

1. **Bicycle stands at Crossways**  
These are due to be put in on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022
2. **Play Area Paths**  
Andy Darch suggested some contractors that the clerk can request quotes from. The specifications for this work still need to be completed.
3. **Wharf Road**  
The vegetation clearance was discussed in the HPC update at the beginning of the meeting. HPC need to be contacted for details of the tree work identified, so that competitive quotes can be obtained and then funding can be sourced.
4. **Fly Olympic Rings for duration of winter Olympics**  
It was agreed to fly this flag, and then after the Somerset Flag

**21/22 HIGHWAYS:**

1. **Dame Withycombe Hill**  
The Police had offered to come and advise the Parish Council on the most suitable place to install the pedestrian warning signs. It came off the Action Sheet as an outstanding highways issue. There are a number of standing agenda items just to ensure they are not overlooked.
2. **Disabled Bay Markings (Riverside)**  
It was agreed to monitor the situation when the new highway work maintenance schedule takes place in the spring of 2022

**22/22 TREES**

**Large Ash (opposite Village Hall) and tree on verge area by the Anchor Inn.**  
Ash dieback is easier to identify in the Spring when they begin to leaf. We can then make an informed decision.

**23/22 HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY**

This is due to take place week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022, it will be an on-line survey Parish Council to advertise this and encourage parishioners to respond to this survey even if no need is identified. The Parish Council to place necessary posters etc around the village put onto websites etc.

#### **24/22 MAY 2022 ELECTIONS**

When information is available this is to be published on all notice boards and websites.

#### **25/22 REVIEW OF ACTION LIST:**

##### **1. General**

- a. No 1 –Annual Wharf Rd Maintenance– vegetation clearance – Matt Peaster contacted and will be doing in the next few weeks
- b. No 2 - Slow marking sign at play area this has now been approved to be moved and will be dealt with on the Highways list for the forthcoming year.  
Safety signage in connection with Otterhampton School – this will be revisited at end of 2022 no change on these issues again revisit during the fourth coming year
- c. No 3 –Erosion of Grassed area opposite village hall. It was decided to revisit this in the Spring
- d. No 4 -Vehicle Messaging Activation (VMA) at Biffens Corner. The VMA used to be activated when vehicles were travelling at 45mph, it is now activated at a much lower speed.
- e. No 5 – Potholes alongside the common it was agreed to wait until spring when the potholes have dried up
- f. No 6 – Combwich Ponds – still awaiting response from Dennis Groves Secretary of State, there has been no response from Bridgwater Angling Association.

#### **26/22 MEETING REPORTS:**

##### **12.1.22 – Village Hall (L Parsons – report previously circulated)**

Phase 2 of the refurbishments began on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022; priority was given to the bar area including a feature wall & treatment to damp areas in the bar and main hall, installing stage lighting and installing acoustic panels in the bar, main hall and skittle alley to reduce echo sounds. In the next few weeks 2 new windows will be installed in the bar, a new double bunded oil tank & base and the long-awaited accessibility ramp will also be put in place. A new external notice board and a new fire-resistant noticeboard in the entrance hall will be installed, the latter will display the names of various grant providers including the Parish Council. We have received a few complaints about the external sensor light. Unfortunately, this is too powerful and will be replaced. A temporary solution is currently in place pending electricians coming back to replace the light. The end of year accounts will be sent to the Charity Commission. The next meeting will be on the 9.2.22

##### **Stear Forum**

No meeting has taken place

#### **27/22 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

09.02.22 - Village Hall

19.05.22 – Community Forum

17.03.22 – Transport Forum

#### **28/22 CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Tidal Barrier Project – a letter has been received from the Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs, for the **application for the proposed Bridgwater Tidal Barrier order and for deemed planning permission.**
2. EDF Lorry Damage.  
This was discussed at the beginning of the meeting Jamie Jamieson and Vicki Dingwall both have said that the damage on the common would be repaired (tree strap and tyre marks). They also apologise for any distress caused, and have assured the Parish Council that this would not happen again.
3. Further correspondence has been received from a parishioner about the brook at the junction of Church Hill and Brookside Road. It was agreed that the area will look softer in the spring when rushes and other vegetation grows and that the Parish Council stands by its original decision based on safety and maintenance costs not to plant more vegetation.

**29/22 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

1. **Public Rights of Way (PRoW) – B Birkenhead.** will continue to monitor the diversion of footpath BW25/14 near to Lower Hill Farm.
2. **OPRA – T Gardener.** No report
3. **School – R Perrett**

R Perrett had a meeting with Head Claire Luce on 24.01.22. return to school after the Christmas break has gone smoothly. Also There have been no further problems with persons entering the school grounds. The school is hoping to have more school trips and activities if the current covid situation allows. The children enjoyed their time at the Brownie Copse on the 19<sup>th</sup> January and it is planned to return again in the summer. There has been an increase of dog excrement directly outside the school, It was noted that it appears to have increased in the village generally at the moment.

**30/22 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting is on Thursday 3 March 2022, 7.00pm at Otterhampton Village Hall.

The meeting finished at 8.50pm

Signed: Original Signed by B Birkenhead

(Chair)

Date: 3 March 2022