

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on
THURSDAY 6 January 2022, 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 3rd February 2022

COMBWICH WHARF EDF UPDATE

Vicki Dingwall (Community Relation Manager for Hinkley Point C) and Alex Urrutia (Marine Operations Delivery Lead for EDF) gave a brief talk on the construction of the Combwich Wharf which is now in its final stages of completion. The 2nd quarter of 2022 will see the safety ladders being replaced and boats returning to the water. Also, the road will be widened. Alex spoke about the noise barrier which is working well, the noise is below the required decibels. Movement of heavy loads will be between 0700hrs and 2100hrs, deliveries will of course be subject to tidal movement (high tides) ¾ of loads will be placed into the bypass road, so this shouldn't affect the traffic. Notice will be given via letter and of course in the newsletters and you can also sign up for text message alerts via the Monkey app. Vicki said that the environment enhancements along the Wharf Road are being dealt with by Greenslades. The water safety equipment for the pill area will be agreed with the Combwich Boat Club, EDF will provide this equipment. R Perrett asked Vicki about Fly Parking this can be reported to the community relations Team at EDF by email or website.

Vicki and Alex left the meeting at 7.20pm

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

- Selection for councillors will take place on a Saturday, there will be 55 wards & two representatives per Division for the forthcoming elections.
- Hansons have moved away from using Dunball Wharf. Some deliveries will continue for Hinkley and National Grid. Gravity will be encouraged to use Dunball when construction starts.
- Covid has taken its toll on County Hall which is operating with a very small workforce for essential services i.e Social Care. Other personnel are supporting administration for the testing and vaccination centres within the region.
- Cllr Pay had nothing to add, apart from complaints have been received about Parish Council's not adhering to Code of Conducts so far there have been 22 complaints received within the district regarding this issue.

PRESENT:

Bob Birkenhead (Acting Chair) Andy Darch, Tina Gardener, Rachel Perrett, Mel Catchpole (Clerk). Ward councillors Julie Pay and Mike Caswell, 3 members of the public.

1/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Marie Beckley, Lindsey Parson, Julie Evans.

2/22 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 2.12.21:

The minutes of the meeting held at Otterhampton Village Hall on 2.12.21 were approved and signed by the Chair.

3/22 PLANNING MATTERS:

1. **39/21/00002** – Conversion of existing storage barn to living accommodation at Fender House, 6 Brookside approved.

2. **39/21/00003** – Application for Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas (as for 39/21/00002 above).
Approved

4/22 FINANCE:

1. **Bank Balances** - Current A/C £5070.09; Deposit A/C £22322.62; Reserve A/C £24735.42.
2. **The following payments were AGREED:**
 - a) Mrs M Catchpole - £707.04 (15 Nov – 31 Dec salary)
 - b) Mrs A Prowse - £560.92 (Dec salary £528.53, plus mis. Exp. £18.00 and £14.39 Zoom sub)
 - c) Mrs A Prowse - £50.00 (S171 licence for bicycle stands at Crossways)
 - d) SDC - £836.16 (Grounds maintenance Jul-Sep, dog bins Oct – Mar, little bins Apr – Sep)
 - e) K Preston - £216.00 (village gardening Oct – Dec £96 and weekly pay area inspections £120.00)The Proposed Precept of £26,000.00 as at the meeting on 9.12.21 was agreed, this will now be submitted to Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) by the 21.1.22
d) the budget monitoring statement was approved.

Cllr Pay and Cllr Caswell left the meeting at 7.40pm

5/22 STEART WARD (A Darch):

Otterhampton has some additional Tree allowance to be used up, it was agreed that Steart can take these trees or whips Robin & Aly Prowse have spoken to Natural England (NE) and they have agreed that there is space for them around the (NE) carpark it would be classed as ok as it is open to the public and is of benefit to the public. They would join onto areas that have been planted adding to some wildlife corridors. The W.I (women's institute) have discussed with (NE) about a tree on the coastal path unfortunately this cannot happen that is why the car park was suggested.

The sign for the Backrap has now been ordered and approved and a cheque has been issued by the Parish Council.

Most residents are now on 4G as there has been little contact from west Wi-Fi about their new system, it appears that they are struggling with connection with their provider. SWWISP, the original company who set up the system will be turning it off soon.

The national housing order to keep poultry inside is still in force, there have been quite a few outbreaks across the country so the likelihood is that the housing order will be in place for some time.

6/22 ENHANCEMENTS:

1. Bicycle stands at Crossways

Section 171 has been applied for and we are awaiting a response and once this has been granted works will be carried out by 'Take A Stand' Life Cycle UK

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. This is still ongoing and quotes will be required.

7/22 HIGHWAYS:

1. Dame Withycombe Hill Highways have agreed to install some additional warning to drivers for pedestrians crossing on the C182. These will be 2 danger warning signs with an added supplementary plate "pedestrians crossing" underneath. Parish Council to speak to residents to ask where they cross the road so Highways can place them in the correct position.
2. Re-lining of disabled bay (Riverside) Highways have now said it is their responsibility. This work will be added to the 2022/23 works programme.

8/22 TREES:

1. Large Ash (opposite Village Hall) and tree on grassed area by the Anchor Inn. The Parish Council has been advised that it is likely these trees have Ash Dieback. Following formal confirmation of this we will need to fell these trees; new trees will be planted to replace them. We will update and consult with residents as and when we have further information. **Action Clerk.**
2. The WI Oak sapling has been planted at Crossways this was carried out on Christmas Eve by Mr Robin Prowse and Bob Birkenhead.
3. The Flowering Cherry was also planted on Christmas Eve again at Crossway by Robin and Bob the Parish Council would like to thank them both. The Crab Apple has been planted in Steart Church grounds.

4. There is further availability of trees, it was agreed to use these trees (whips) for Steart.

9/22 REVIEW OF ACTION LIST:

1. General

- a) No 4 – Mobile Library – clerk to chase up with Cllr Caswell
- b) No 5 - Wharf Rd Enhancement – this will be carried out by EDF
- c) No 6 – Defect of broken kerb stones at bus shelter – this has now been repaired.
- d) No 7 – sign for Backrap this was approved and a cheque issued to Cllr Darch.
- e) No 8 – 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.
- f) Safety signage in connection with Otterhampton School – this will be revisited at end of 2022
- g) No 9 – Dame Withycombe Villas. This was discussed in agenda item 7/22
- h) No 10 – Trees with Ash Dieback. This was discussed in agenda item 8/22 1
- i) No 11 –Erosion of Grassed area opposite village hall. It was decided to monitor for the next 6 months.
- j) No 12 -Vehicle Messaging Activation (VMA) continue to monitor.
- k) No 13 – Potholes alongside the common it was agreed to wait until spring when the potholes have dried up
- l) No 14 – Relining of disabled bay. Agenda item 7/22 2
- m) No 15 – Bicycle stand at Crossway – awaiting 171 from Highway's agenda item 6/22 1
- n) No 16 – Water safety equipment for the Pill area, This will be carried out by EDF with guidance from the Motor Boat and sailing section.
- o) Allotments – this will be advertised in the Otter Tales the agreement will be private and not through the Parish Council.
- p) Combwich Ponds – still awaiting response from Dennis Groves Secretary of State, there has been no response from Bridgwater Angling Association.

10/22 MEETING REPORTS:

08.12.21 – Village Hall (L Parsons)

Report received by the Clerk: - the rest of the refurbishment will be starting on 10th January 2022; the bar area will be 1st the next meeting will be on the 12th January 2022.

08.12.21 – Steart Forum (A Darch, T Gardener & R Perrett representing Combwich)

The main discussion was around the proposed bridleway from wall common to Hinkley Point and the proposed cycleway on the bridleway from Combwich to Hinkley Point proposed by Hinkley Point C within the next month or so, Covid depending. Hinkley Point C will open a discussion and there will be some form of consultation process about plans and the public will be able to air their views. The main point of contact at the moment seems to be Andrew Goodchild. The areas of concern are: -

Surfacing of cycle way

The exact route

Consequences of integrations between livestock and users.

Disturbances to wildlife

Obtaining the correct permissions for passing over the various parcels of land (common and individual landowners)

Road Safety from the Wildlife and wetland trust (WWT) entrance to wall common

Whether to install a cattle grid or not.

(WWT) (Alys Laver) are coming forward with some ideas that may help with visitor issues such as parking and disturbance on the peninsula to reduce problems for residents and businesses and wildlife. Alys will choose to implement some issues which were raised in August which will be most effective.

11/22 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

12.01.22 - Village Hall

20.01.22 – Steart Forum

12/22 CORRESPONDENCE:

1. It was discussed to change the May 2022 meeting to 3rd of May to be before the elections on May the 5th. This could not be agreed because we didn't have a full council Clerk will book hall in anticipation of this date being agreed.
2. Environment Agency- Bridgwater Tidal Barrier Project will be carrying out ground investigation survey on land opposite the play area on or after the 4th January
3. General List
 - a. BHIB – Parish Council Insurance provider – we can anticipate a new year insurance quote in mid-April.

13/22 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES:

1. **Public Rights of Way (PRoW) – B Birkenhead.** Hill House Public right of way new footpath this has now been approved and the common seal has been issued.
2. **OPRA – T Gardener**
we have had a good December. The Christmas dinner went well although they were down on numbers, it was enjoyed by all. The Christmas tree was one of the best we have had, but they will need some additional help next year in erecting it.
3. **School – R Perrett**
Headteacher Claire Luce stated, she is disappointed about the library service no longer coming to school as are the Children. The Swimming bus situation is improving. Rachel will have Meeting with Claire at the end of the month. The Children came to the coffee morning on the 17th December 2021 with Christmas cards. Rachel attended the outside nativity which was lovely and enjoyed by all.

14/22 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 3 February 2022, 7.00pm at Otterhampton Village Hall.

The meeting finished at 9.00pm

Signed: Original signed by B. Birkenhead

(Chair)

Date: 3 February 2022