**OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**held on**

**THURSDAY 3 March 2022, 7.00pm at Otterhampton Primary School**

**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.

1. **General**

* Mr Leathwood Informed the PC that the next Otter Tales will be the last before the elections in May.
* Mr Gripton spoke about the HERAS fencing which was proposed to go onto the Pill, this will not now take place.
* Mr Gripton also asked about the Brookside Road development and has there been any further applications, he also discussed the Design and Access Statement which was not supplied with the original application and that SDC are not addressing the Tier 3 guidelines

1. **Ward Councillors Reports**

Cllr Caswell

* Sedgemoor District Council and Somerset County Council are still operating business as usual until the elections in May. The Councils will be entering a period of purdah from 21st March until after the elections
* He discussed the recent storms which affected our area quite badly and the measures SDC had in place to cope with this kind of emergency. He felt more could have been done but it was a very difficult situation as most village halls etc had no power.

Cllr Pay

* Spoke about the recent Cluster meeting she attended and that it was very badly attended by this ward.

**PRESENT:**

Bob Birkenhead (Acting Chair), Andy Darch, Tina Gardener, Rachel Perrett, Lindsey Parsons, Mel Catchpole (Clerk). Ward councillors Julie Pay and Mike Caswell, 6 members of the public.

**31/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies for absence were received from Julie Evans (observed via zoom) and Tina Gardener

**32/22 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 3.2.22**

The minutes of the meeting held at Otterhampton Village Hall on 3.2.22 were APPROVED and signed by the Acting Chair.

**33/22 CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENT:**

* B Birkenhead announced that J Evans and M Beckley have tendered their resignations. M Beckley with immediate and effect and J Evans would remain until 7.04.22 meeting unless a new chairman could be co-opted at this meeting.
* Mel Catchpole has also resigned as Clerk and her employment will terminate on 07.03.22
* B Birkenhead thanked them for their work for Otterhampton Parish Council.
* B Birkenhead was nominated for Chairman and was voted in unanimously
* R Perrett was nominated for Vice Chairman and was again voted in unanimously

**34/22 RECENT STORMS**

The storms over the weekend of 18.02.22 highlighted to the PC how ill-prepared we are as a village, although most of the village looked after each other it was impossible to open an emergency centre as there was a lack of power at all suitable venues (School, Village Hall and Anchor Inn). Jamie Jameson from EDF kindly opened their cabin on the Wharf for residents to use for hot water and phone charging facilities. It also brought to the attention of the PC that the Emergency Plan needs updating.

Cllr Caswell and Cllr Pay left the meeting at 7.45pm

**35/22 PLANNING MATTERS:**

1. **39/21/00011** – Erection of porch, demolition of existing porch and conservatory, installation of cladding, window reconfigurations and installations at 5 Riverside, Combwich. SUPPORTED
2. **39/21/00012** – Erection of side extension and formation of a new driveway at Moxhill Farm. SUPPORTED
3. **39/18/00010** – Application previously granted for 5 dwellings on Church Hill The site is currently being cleared and concerns were raised that there may be bats in a small shed on the site. No buildings can be demolished between 1st March and 31st August.

**36/22 FINANCE:**

1. **Bank Balances** -Current A/C £8745.38; Deposit A/C £9544.53; Reserve A/C £24735.02.
2. **The following payments were AGREED:**
3. Mrs M Catchpole - £598.04 (1-28 Feb Salary £576.72 plus broadband and stamps £21.32)
4. Mrs A Prowse - £14.39 (Zoom subscription 15.02.22 to 15.03.22)
5. Mr B Birkenhead - £421.92 (Emergency repairs to the phone box following recent storms)
6. **Budget Monitoring Statements**

The budget monitoring statements for January and February 2022 had previously circulated to all councillors and were APPROVED

1. **Bank Mandate**

This needs to be updated in view of recent resignations.

**37/22 STEART WARD (A Darch):**

A Darch outlined his recent report which included the recent storms with the power cuts and damage in Steart. Dick Best was thanked for fitting the new sign for the ‘Backrap’. The Bridgwater Bay NNR Management Plan has been put out to a public consultation; this will be put in the next Otter Tales so that the community can comment. The trees donated by SDC have been collected and will be planted soon by volunteers from Natural England, thank you to everyone involved in this project.

**38/22 LOCAL HERITAGE LIST:**

South West Heritage Trust is compiling a Local Heritage List, this is a new project to record heritage assets. The scheme will give special, ‘locally listed’ status to distinctive and noteworthy buildings, sites and monuments.

Items the PC would like to include on this list are; WW2 radio bunker at Steart, the Fives Wall at the Anchor, the Lych Gate at St Peters Church and the buoy on the pill.

**39/22 ENHANCEMENTS:**

1. **Bicycle stands at Crossways**

These have now been installed by the bus shelter and are being well used. Bob and Carol Birkenhead were thanked for organising this project. A letter will be sent to Take a Stand Life Cycle UK thanking them for providing the stands.

1. **Play Area Paths**

R Birkenhead has completed a draft specification for this work following a site meeting with a contractor. The draft has been sent to councillors for approval and a further 2 contractors would be contacted for quotes.

1. **Wharf Road vegetation clearance**

This is still ongoing. It will require an immediate tidy up, B Birkenhead will contact Luke Stevens with reference to the report received from EDF. The longer-term plans for the working party will be put on hold until after the elections

1. **Phone Box repairs**

The door came off and broke during the recent storms. B Birkenhead has purchased a new door frame and will repair and refit it. He will also consider means to stop this happening again. Our Insurance Company has been contacted and it is hoped that we can recovery some of our costs.

1. **Village Sign – removal of old post**

Jamie Jameson (EDF) had previously agreed to remove this and also the speed sign on Wharf Road. B Birkenhead will contact him

1. **Defibrillators**

It was agreed to fund the hire of the village hall for a meeting for the volunteers who check the defibrillators and possibly for training in the future

1. **HERAS fencing at the Pill**

As discussed in the public session this will no longer be happening.

**40/22 HIGHWAYS:**

**1.** Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AIL) movements between Combwich and Hinkley Point.

There will be an article in the next Otter Tales which will show a QR code which when downloaded on to a mobile phone will give information on the movement of AILs. The next AIL movements are planned for 26 and 27 March 2022 with loads for National Grid.

**41/22 VEGETATION:**

**1. Grounds Maintenance Contract**

This has been updated and circulated to councillors for consideration. This will be agreed after A Darch has spoken with the village gardener.

**2. Large Ash (opposite Village Hall) and Ash on verge by the Anchor Inn**

Two quotes have been received for the removal of these trees. Bridgwater and Taunton College will be contacted for advice and if this is a suitable project for their students, Once a decision has been made all residents in the vicinity of the trees will be notified.

**42/22 HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY:**

Letters have been sent to all households in the parish advising of the survey and can be completed online, surveys can also be submitted by post.

**43/22 PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATION:**

This was discussed in the village hall meeting report.

**44/22 MEETING REPORTS:**

**13.10.21 – Village Hall (L Parsons)**

L Parsons outlined her recent report to the PC. This described the update on the refurbishments which included; acoustic clouds, new oil tank, windows, cooker extractor and accessibility ramp.

Queens Jubilee Celebrations – The Village Hall committee held a separate meeting on 24.02.22 to discuss the Jubilee celebrations and the involvement of the committee members. It was agreed that a Jubilee/Fun Day celebration would take place on Saturday 4th June 2022. A further meeting has been arranged for Monday 7th March inviting user groups and other parish organisations.

The committee agreed that although COVID restrictions were to be relaxed, they would continue to suggest that anti-bacterial gel is used while in the hall and tables and chairs to be wiped down after use.

**25.02.22 – Hinkley Point SSG (B Birkenhead)**

B Birkenhead attended this meeting. There were presentations on the future of Hinkley Point B, which is ceasing generation in July this year and going into 3 years of defueling and on the waste management at Hinkley Point A. There were further presentations by the Office for Nuclear Regulation and the Environment Agency. The meeting concluded with a presentation on the Bridgwater Tidal Barrier. B Birkenhead will circulate the brief notes from the meeting once received.

**45/22 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:**

07.03.22 – Village Hall, Queen’s Jubilee

09.03.22 – Village Hall

17.03.22 – EDF Transport Forum

19.05.22 – EDF Community Forum

**46/22 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

1. **Public Rights of Way (PRoW) – B Birkenhead.** Nothing to report
2. **OPRA – T Gardener.** No report
3. **School – R Perrett.** Nothing to report

**143/21 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 7 April 2022, 7.00pm at Otterhampton Village Hall.

The meeting finished at 9.04pm

Signed: Original signed by R Birkenhead (Chair) Date: 7 April 2022