

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

held on

**THURSDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2022, 7.00pm at OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL**

**143/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Amanda Gibbons

**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 (INCLUDING WARD COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**1. Ward Councillors Reports**

Cllr Pay

- Cllr Pay's role as a district councillor is reducing due to the incoming unitary council. She currently sits on the Audits & Standards Committee, which will meet on 1<sup>st</sup> December, and the Licensing panel and attends parish council meetings.

Cllr Caswell

- Cllr Caswell is carrying on with full council sessions. There is a meeting about the Tidal Barrier on 30<sup>th</sup> November with a full public session in the afternoon at St. Mary's Church. His role is also reducing. The Regulation Committee met today. There will be some parliamentary boundary changes.

Cllr Bolt

- The LCN (Local Community Networks) consultation period has finished and the results are being collated. There will be some boundary changes.

**2. General**

- The playground sign has not yet been fixed.
- Not happy with the lack of progress on Highways issues, the signage requested for Dame Withycombe cottages was asked for two years ago.
- The School Lane sign needs to be replaced.
- There should be a 20mph limit in the village.

**PRESENT:**

Lindsey Parsons (Chair), Gina Mear (Clerk), Mike Haycraft, Tina Gardener, Andy Darch, Rachel Perrett (Vice Chair), Connie Sanders and two members of the public.

**144/22 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 03.10.22**

The minutes of the meeting held on 03.10.22 were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.

**145/22 PLANNING MATTERS:**

- a. **39/22/00005** Church Farm, Steart – erection of detached garage/workshop (retrospective) – No observation/Comment, councillors agreed unanimously. It was noted that the councillors were disappointed that the planning permission was being sought retrospectively.

**146/22 FINANCE:**

**1. Bank Balances** - Current A/C £12,783.07 Deposit A/C £28,327.29; Reserve A/C £20,095.96.

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

- a) K Preston - £258.00 (Village Maintenance)
- b) SALC - £190.00 (Chair, Cllr, Clerk Training)
- c) Pains Fireworks - £974.40 (Fireworks)
- d) SDC - £167.23 (Play Area Bin)
- e) SDC - £668.93 (Dog Bins)
- f) G Mear - £602.00 (Clerk's Salary)

**3. Income Received**

- a) None

**4. Six Monthly Accounts**

The accounts were presented by the Clerk and signed by the Chair.

### **147/22 STEART WARD**

A Steart village meeting was held and the proposed Hinkley cycle path was discussed and there was a unanimous vote against it. The main concerns were over safety. There is currently a trial of Kay's kitchen van in the Steart Marshes carpark. Avian Flu – from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November all birds need to be kept inside or contained outside. There has been no news on missing teenager, Freddy.

### **148/22 HIGHWAYS**

Cllrs Bolt and Caswell have spoken with K Tyson of Highways regarding the outstanding issues. Some of the jobs are with contractors but there is no date on when they will be completed. Cllr Bolt is plugging away and will meet with K Tyson again.

### **149/22 ENHANCEMENTS:**

1. Wharf Road Action Plan – Several parish councillors met with K Read of the Greater Landscape Development Fund at Wharf Road. She made a number of suggestions on how to improve the Wharf Road area. A separate meeting will take place to carry this forward. Quotes for work on the trees are needed.
2. Removal of old village sign post – A name and number was given to pursue. This is still to be done. **ACTION: CLERK**
3. Volunteers required for planting of spring bulbs – A Darch will ask if any residents in Steart wish to plant some bulbs, maybe the WWT would like to plant some near their carparks. Some can be planted on the grass verge at the bottom of Nursery Close around the trees.

**ACTION: A DARCH**

Cllr Pay left the meeting.

### **150/22 MEETING REPORTS:**

1. **19.10.22 – Village Hall (L Parsons)** There will be fundraising events to get users into the hall. The Ukraine evening is taking place on 26<sup>th</sup> November, tickets are £10pp. There will be quiz nights and the Stoggymen will be performing in March. With regards to the Warm Space, the trustees are going to see if they can obtain a grant.
2. **18.10.22 – Steart Forum** The proposed cycle path was the main item and the community is going to send a letter to EDF. A metal surface is not wanted.
3. **28.10.22 – SSG** There was a vote for a new chair and Leigh Redman won the vote. The National Decommissioning Authority advised that the fuel is being removed from Hinkey B first and this will take 3.5 – 5 years to complete. There was one incident reported involving contamination from the flask being delivered from Sellafield but it was dealt with very quickly in Somerset with no risk to the public.

Cllr Caswell left the meeting.

4. **28.10.22 – Village Hall AGM** The outgoing committee was asked to stand again. This was proposed by B Leathwood and seconded by E Marriott and three new trustees joined. Volunteers were asked for to help man the Warm Space. It was suggested that a generator or suitable alternative be purchased.
5. **01.11.22 – School Meeting** Ofsted visited on Wednesday and Thursday of this week, the report will not be published for six weeks. C Luce has asked the community fund for a grant for enhancements to the field. Numbers in the preschool are low.
6. **Decommissioning of Hinkey B** As above. There have been public sessions and there is information online.

### **151/22 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES**

1. Public Rights of Way (B Birkenhead) The broken sign on Dame Withycombe Hill has been reported. B Birkenhead will be reporting a broken stile.
2. OPRA (T Gardener) The fireworks display is due to be held this Sunday depending on the weather. The Christmas dinner is taking place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December and the Christmas tree light switch on will take place on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **152/22 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:**

1. 09.11.22 – Village Hall
2. 17.11.22 – Transport Forum
3. 30.11.22 – Tidal Barrier

**153/22 REVIEW OF ACTION LIST (For items not on the agenda)**

3. Biffens Corner Vegetation – chase L Hackling of Highways to find out current situation.
4. Communication Mediums – There might be someone who is able to take over Otter Tales from B Leathwood. The website needs an overhaul. The village hall has its own website. A Darch may know of someone who can help with the village website. The parish council's Facebook page needs to be advertised.
8. Combwich Ponds – B Leathwood will try to get an update on the situation.
10. New Grounds Maintenance Contract – A new contract needs to be in place for April 2023 so this needs to be discussed in January about going out to tender.
13. Bus Shelter – A Darch to chase M Ingram to look at and quote for repairs.
14. Brownie Copse – A request for volunteers to tidy the site will be put in Otter Tales.
17. OPC Garage – M Beckley has a key which L Parsons will have. T Gardener's key works and has given it to the Clerk.
18. Completed items will be removed from the list. Regarding the land opposite the shop and ownership of the tree, a name has been given to help access Land Registry. The foliage around the Otterhampton grit bin needs to be cut back. A Darch to ask someone to do this. Regarding the willow trees on the bank at the bottom of Church Hill, Clean Surrounds (SDC) can quote for this work. The two trees that need removing, A Darch to make enquiries.
20. Play Area action points – there may be tools in the OPC garage that can be used to tighten the hedgehog rocker. Clerk to check for tools and advise A Darch. Ask Clean Surrounds if they are able to clean the shelter.
21. Not listed – a Victorian postbox in Steart needs to be added to the heritage list.

**154/22 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION**

- a. OPC What'sApp group – everyone agreed to having a group on the basis that A Gibbons agrees. The group will only be used for urgent matters and notifications and not discussions.
- b. Somerset Bus Partnership – P Travis of Somerset Bus Partnership held the meeting, there is a bus recovery grant available until March 2023. Bus champions were asked to lobby their MPs. Passengers dropped by 30% while operating costs increased by 40%. There is also a Bridgwater Bus Partnership.
- c. General List. An email was received about a Community Hall Climate Adaption workshop, this will be sent on to S Barton. An email was received to say that in future the precept will be paid in one instalment in April instead of two payments.

**155/22 GOVERNANCE**

There was a unanimous vote to adopt SDC's Code of Conduct.

**156/22 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022, 7.00pm at Otterhampton Village Hall.

The meeting finished at 9.15pm

Signed:

(Chair)

Date 1 DECEMBER 2022