

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on
THURSDAY 1 DECEMBER 2022, 7.00pm at OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

157/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Amanda Gibbons, Andy Darch, Julie Pay, Brian Bolt.

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. General

- Combwich Ponds – contact from Somerset County Council has not been forthcoming though a response was received during the meeting. It is currently in a queue waiting to be looked at by the planning inspectorate. B Leathwood will send the documents in respect of the application to all councillors and to the district councillor, all councillors were in agreement.

PRESENT:

Lindsey Parsons (Chair), Gina Mear (Clerk), Mike Haycraft, Tina Gardener, Rachel Perrett (Vice Chair), Connie Sanders and one member of the public.

158/22 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 03.11.22

The minutes of the meeting held on 03.11.22 were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.

159/22 PLANNING MATTERS:

None

160/22 FINANCE:

1. **Bank Balances** - Current A/C £10,868.63; Deposit A/C £28,330.32; Reserve A/C £20,098.11.
2. **The following payments were AGREED:**
 - a) Otterhampton Village Hall - £11.25 (Room Hire – Steart Forum)
 - b) SDC - £180.00 (Grass Cutting)
 - c) SALC - £75.00 (Training)
 - d) B Leathwood - £267.03 (Otter Tales Printing)
 - e) G Mear - £960.24 (Clerk's Salary, including arrears)
3. **Income Received**
 - a) SDC - £1049.37 (CIL relating to planning application no. 39/20/00015 – School Lane)
4. **Increase in Homeworking Allowance**

To be deferred until after the precept has been agreed.
5. **Precept**

There was an opening revenue reserve of £24,000, the current year forecast is showing an underspend and it was agreed unanimously to keep the precept at £26,000.

161/22 PERMANENT CHANGE OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

To give more time to prepare monthly accounts for meetings everyone was in agreement to change the day of the meetings to the second Thursday of the month.

162/22 CLERK'S POST

The councillors gave praise to the clerk's work so far. Probation has been extended until the end of February.

163/22 UNITARY COUNCIL

An email was received from J Roberts, Chair of Nether Stowey Parish Council regarding the proposed LCN boundaries and that they won't be decided until after vesting day. It was suggested that a meeting be held to discuss this. OPC to attend once a date is known. Some district councils have had to pay for services where others haven't so uniform charges are needed.

164/22 STEART WARD

No report.

165/22 HIGHWAYS

No report.

166/22 ENHANCEMENTS:

1. Wharf Road Action Plan – A meeting to discuss the way forward is to be held on Thursday 5th January. Tenders for tree removals need to be back by 19th December.
2. Removal of old village sign post – This has now been completed.
3. Bus Shelter Repairs – The repairs on the bus shelter have been completed. It was suggested that as the walls are independent of each other it would be good to get someone to look at it. It was suggested that it might be time to replace the bus shelter with something similar. The clerk will contact SCC Highways regarding this.
4. Village Maintenance – a date to be arranged. To go on the next agenda.

167/22 MEETING REPORTS:

1. **09.11.22 – Village Hall (L Parsons)** The report has been circulated to all councillors.
2. **11.11.22 – Rights of Way Legislation** Report not received.
3. **17.11.22 – Transport Forum** Awaiting meeting report.
4. **30.11.22 – Tidal Barrier** The tidal barrier will be going behind the new police station on Bristol Road, Bridgwater. There will be changes to the bank near the ponds/towards Cannington with minimal changes to the wharf. It will be reviewed in 15 years. The Environment Agency will be talking to the residents in the cottages next to the river.

168/22 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

1. Public Rights of Way (B Birkenhead – email report) SCC have replaced the signpost at the bottom of School Lane but not the signage. There used to be a school sign on this post which disappeared a long time ago. The clerk has contacted SCC for a new school sign. The broken stile on the path from Brookside Road to Hill House has been reported.
2. OPRA (T Gardener) The Christmas tree has been erected and the light switch on will be at 5pm this Sunday. The Christmas dinner is this Saturday. Donations received at the firework display were just over £200. New ideas for events are needed.

169/22 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

1. 14.12.22 – Village Hall

170/22 REVIEW OF ACTION LIST (For items not on the agenda)

To be discussed in January.

171/22 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION

- a. OPC What'sApp group – All councillors agreed to keep the group and whoever posts the message will need to ring C Sanders as she doesn't have access to What'sApp.
- b. Memorial Bench – An email has been received requesting a memorial bench – site to be confirmed with the person requesting it. Everyone was in agreement that a bench can be placed but will need to be made of composite material.
- c. Tidal Barrier – Soil Sampling – A letter was received from the Environment Agency advising that soil sampling will be carried out along the bank of the River Parrett between 28th November and 16th December.
- d. Cycle Path Debris – An email was received noting debris left after hedge cutting on the cycle path between Comwich and Cannington and through Steart Marshes. This was forwarded to the

- clerk at Cannington PC who contacted Bridgwater & Taunton College who advised they will be contacting their contractor. An email was sent to A Laver of the WWT re Steart Marshes but a response was yet to be received.
- e. Airband Community Internet – An email was received introducing F Cross as the Airband Community Liaison Officer for our area. F Cross will be contacting us at a later date with a view to attending parish council meetings.
 - f. UKSPF Rural Fund – An email was received with details of the UK Shared Prosperity Rural Fund though as the closing date for applications was 30th November, it was deemed too tight a deadline to apply for funds that we may be able to get through similar applications to the Greater Quantock Landscape Development Fund.
 - g. Warm Space- request for donation – An email was received from S Barton, Village Hall Chair, requesting a contribution for providing a warm space. The village hall has applied for a grant. The councillors agreed to the principle of a donation but require more information regarding costings and uptake.
 - h. Electric Fence – A Facebook message was received reporting that a resident's dog had an electric shock on an electric fence that has been placed along the public right of way in a field off Brookside Road and there is no warning signage. Clerk to write to the landowner.
 - i. Volunteer Responses – Three people have been in touch following the Otter Tales' requests for volunteers for different projects. This item will be discussed at the next meeting.
 - j. Somerset Emergency Community Contacts – An email has been received from the Somerset Local Authorities' Civil Contingencies Unit at SCC asking for three people to be added to the database of Somerset Emergency Community Contacts.
 - k. OPRA Barn Roof – OPRA has reported a leak in the roof, this will be checked and reported back.

172/22 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 12th January 2023, 7.00pm at Otterhampton Village Hall.

****Please note the change of date****

The meeting finished at 9.10pm

Signed:

(Chair)

Date 12 JANUARY 2023