

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on

THURSDAY 12 JANUARY 2023, 7.00pm at OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

1/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Andy Darch, Julie Pay, Mike Caswell.

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

- B Bolt reported on the unitary council and highways which are included below.

PRESENT:

Lindsey Parsons (Chair), Gina Mear (Clerk), Mike Haycraft, Tina Gardener, Rachel Perrett (Vice Chair), Connie Sanders, Amanda Gibbons and Brian Bolt.

2/23 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 01.12.22

The minutes of the meeting held on 01.12.22 were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.

3/23 PLANNING MATTERS:

- a. **39/22/000013** Greenacre, Bolham Bridge. Proposed erection of 2no. two storey extension to the East and West elevations on site of existing (to be demolished), with 1no. balcony to the West elevation, and 1no. single storey extension to the North elevation – all councillors were in agreement to support this application as there is no neighbour impact and there will be visual improvement to the property.
- b. **39/22/00012** Land At, Steart Drove, Steart, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5. Erection of round house welfare building – all councillors were in agreement to support this application as it will be an improvement to the facilities and education offering.

4/23 FINANCE:

1. **Bank Balances** - Current A/C £9,641.36; Deposit A/C £28,336.80; Reserve A/C £20,102.71.
2. **To agree the budget statement for December 2022.** All councillors agreed the budget which was circulated prior to the meeting.
3. **The following payments were AGREED:**
 - a) M A Haggett - £80.00 (Removal of Post)
 - b) SDC - £280.00 (Grass Cutting)
 - c) K Preston - £228.00 (Village Gardener)
 - d) G Mear - £652.72 (Clerk's Salary)
 - e) B Leathwood - £277.46 (Otter Tales Printing)
 - f) M Ingram - £250.00 (Bus Shelter Repairs)
4. **Income Received**

None but cheques to follow from OPRA for the fireworks and jubilee coins.
5. **Precept**

All councillors agreed to keep the precept for 2023/24 at £26,000.

5/23 UNITARY COUNCIL

B Bolt reported that there is currently a delay in putting people into posts though tier 1 posts are filled. Nothing will change on 1st April but there will be a lot of changes over the next two years. Local plans for Sedgemoor, Mendip, South Somerset and Somerset West and Taunton will next be looked at in 2025. The planning process involving the parish councils may be subject to change under the new Unitary council.

Next week the proposed LCNs will be going for discussion. At present we will be in area 14.

6/23 STEART WARD

The report was circulated prior to the meeting.

7/23 HIGHWAYS

B Bolt is trying to arrange a meeting with Highways to look at improving the safety for pedestrians crossing the road from the Dame Withycombe cottages.

8/23 ENHANCEMENTS:

1. Wharf Road Action Plan – A meeting was held on Thursday 5th January where the tenders for the tree removal were looked at. T Gardener proposed, R Perrett seconded, to go with the quote from H Brooks subject to further information being received. The parish council will notify nearby residents, HPB (laboratories), HPC, Angling Association and the Boat Club when the work is taking place. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 25th January in the meeting room at the village hall.
2. Village Maintenance, arrange a date – Saturday 28th January, meet at the bus shelter at 10am.
3. Volunteer Projects – T Gardener will coordinate the Emergency Plan group. A Gibbons will coordinate the Brownie copse group. Volunteers for these groups and the tree strategy group, Wharf Road maintenance and gritting were requested in Otter Tales again.
4. New Grounds Maintenance Contract – this needs to be put out to tender for someone to start on 1st April.

9/23 MEETING REPORTS:

1. **14.12.22 – Village Hall (L Parsons)** The meeting was not quorate so only one item was discussed. The outside ramp was inspected and found to be not up to standard. The builder will look at it.
2. **16.12.22 – School (G Mear)** A community coffee morning was well attended at the school. The children put on their nativity play which was enjoyed by around 40 people. The report for the recent Ofsted visit was received and the school is rated 'Good'.

10/23 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

1. **Public Rights of Way (B Birkenhead)** No report received.
2. **OPRA (T Gardener)** The possible leak in the barn roof is still to be checked.

11/23 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

1. 11.01.23 & 08.02.23 – Village Hall
2. 17.01.23 – Councillor Forum with the A&SP Crime Commissioner – no one to attend
3. 19.01.23 – Community Forum
4. 23.01.23 – Bridgwater Somerset Connect – no one to attend

12/23 REVIEW OF ACTION LIST (For items not on the agenda)

2. School safety signage – a new solar powered warning (20 when lights show) sign will be installed at the bottom of School Lane.
6. Water Safety Equipment for the pill. This item is due to be discussed at the next Boat Club meeting.
11. The residents in the cottages have no concerns about a new tree being planted on the green near the village hall. All councillors were in agreement to purchase the wedding cake tree at a cost of £570 + VAT.
13. Clerk to research if the existing bus shelter has a licence to be placed as an obstruction on a highway. If not, then a licence would need to be sought if it was decided to replace the bus shelter in the future.
15. Put a request in to replace the road signs on Fix My Street.
18. Overgrown foliage over the barrier at the bottom of Nursery Close to be dealt with on the village maintenance day.
20. Hedgehog rocker repair, a photo has been emailed to Wicksteed.
21. Victorian Postbox in Steart to be added to the Heritage list – check with A Darch if this has been done.

15/23 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION

- a. Catering Trials at Steart Marshes – the catering van received a positive response and from February there will be a catering van regularly on site. This will be monitored on a regular basis.
- b. Gritting – a request for volunteers to help grit will go in the next Otter Tales.
- c. Overgrown trees by residents/ponds – a resident in Estuary Park has been having issues with leaves blocking her drains. The tree in question is on the bank of the ponds. This is an issue that needs to be addressed with the Angling Association. Overhanging limbs can be cut off and thrown back over the fence.
- d. Road Closures – the road to Otterhampton will be closed from 16th Jan for five days and Church Hill will be closed from 24th Jan for three days. Both closures are for Wessex Water.
- e. EDF Visit – there is an opportunity for members of the parish council to take a tour of Hinkley C.
- f. Dog Bins – the dog bin on the track needs to be moved and made more accessible and a larger bin is needed. Clerk to contact Clean Surroundings regarding the repositioning of the bin and possibility of a second bin further down the track.
- g. RLT2 Grant Application – the application for a new bench and picnic table was successful.
- h. OPPT School Application – Otterhampton Primary School has applied for funding for a new track to go around the edge of the playing field so that it can be used in all weathers. All councillors agreed to support the application.

16/23 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9th February 2023, 7.00pm at Otterhampton Village Hall.

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

The meeting finished at 9.00pm

Signed:

(Chair)

Date 9 FEBRUARY 2023