

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on

THURSDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2023, 7.00pm at OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

17/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Rachel Perrett, Brian Bolt, Julie Pay.

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

- No ward councillors were present.

2. General

- Some of the highways' issues have been outstanding for a number of years. B Bolt and K Tyson will be doing a site visit to area at Dame Withycombe Cottages.
- There was an offer of volunteering for the Wharf Road project.
- Combwich Ponds – there has been no further update. A Freedom of Information request has been made.
- Concerns were raised regarding traffic on all roads during the school runs as it has been quite dangerous at times. The flashing amber sign is due to be placed at the bottom of School Lane this year but it was asked if it can be sited at the bottom of Church Hill or on Brookside Road. It was also proposed to talk to headteacher, C Luce, to see if cars can be held at school for 10 minutes after school finishing as well as road safety and a walking bus. Clerk to email Highways regarding the siting of the flashing amber sign.
- Stacy Walker is the new stakeholder relations manager for EDF.

PRESENT:

Lindsey Parsons (Chair), Gina Mear (Clerk), Mike Haycraft, Tina Gardener, Connie Sanders, Amanda Gibbons, S Walker (EDF) and three members of the public.

18/23 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 12.01.23

The minutes of the meeting held on 12.01.23 were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.

19/23 PLANNING MATTERS:

None

20/23 FINANCE:

1. **Bank Balances** - Current A/C £8,235.88; Deposit A/C £28,348.91; Reserve A/C £20,111.30.
2. **To agree the budget statement for January 2023.** All councillors agreed the budget which was circulated prior to the meeting.
3. **The following payments were AGREED:**
 - a) G Mear - £554.60 (Clerk Salary)
 - b) L Parsons - £8.03 (Refreshments)
 - c) G Mear - £70.74 (Defibrillator Pads)
 - d) L Parsons - £405.60 (Filing Cabinets)
4. **Income Received**
 - a) OPRA - £359.60 (Jubilee Coins)
 - b) National Grid - £3.90 (Wayleave)

21/23 UNITARY COUNCIL

The Local Community Networks (LCNs) have been agreed.

22/23 STEART WARD

Villagers are waiting to hear about the next stage of the cycle path plans. Refreshments are being served in the Steart Marshes carpark. There has not been any more extreme parking.

23/23 HIGHWAYS

B Bolt was not present to give an update.

24/23 ENHANCEMENTS:

1. Wharf Road Action Plan/GQLDF Application – The application to the Greater Quantock Landscape Development Fund (GQLDF) is being worked on. Letters will be sent to residents in the area of Wharf Road to advise them of tree works taking place from 28th Feb – 2nd Mar. Woodchip will be kept to use where needed. The King's Coronation in May encompasses a volunteer day on Monday 8th, this could be used to work on Wharf Road.
2. Village Maintenance – councillors helped to tidy up vegetation and verges at the entrance to Combwich. Just over an hour was spent and lots was done. The kerb by the houses on Brookside Road is yet to be done. The next maintenance day is Saturday 18th February, meet at the barn at 10am.
3. Volunteer Projects – Tidying of the Brownie copse, A Gibbons to co-ordinate with volunteers. A member of the public in attendance volunteered to help with the emergency plan.
4. New Grounds Maintenance Contract – Councillors and clerk to collate information from a village walk on Tuesday 21st February so this can be put out to tender.

25/23 KING'S CORONATION

King's Coronation, the hall has a booking on the Sunday so ideas were to have an event on Saturday 6th May and show the coronation on big screens. Volunteer day is on Monday 8th May, there was a suggestion to liaise with the school to see if parents would like to volunteer to help tidy up Combwich. A Darch to check if there will be any events in Steart.

26/23 MEETING REPORTS:

1. **11.01.23 & 08.02.23 – Village Hall (L Parsons)** The January report was circulated prior to the meeting. In the February meeting it was reported that people are enjoying the social side of the warm hub held every Wednesday between 2 – 5pm with numbers attending ranging between five to eight.
2. **19.01.23 Community Forum** – The report was circulated prior to the meeting. S Walker to follow up on the planning application for the bypass at the wharf. Funding was given to help with the building of carnival carts.
3. **24.01.23 Somerset Bus Partnership** – This meeting was irrelevant to us and talked about people using buses to catch the train.
4. **30.01.23 School** – The report was circulated prior to the meeting.
5. **01.02.23 Tidal Barrier Downstream Defence Improvements** – There won't be any improvements to the bank for 3-4 years. The bank on the common will be levelled off and levels will be looked at in 2055.

27/23 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

1. **Public Rights of Way (B Birkenhead)** Footpaths to the south of the C182 between Dame Withycombe Villas and Moxhill Farm are being checked. There are four bridges across the rhynes in this area, one of which was reported as being unsafe. Other reports were written for missing signposts. Footpaths to the north of the C182 will be checked in the near future.
2. **OPRA (T Gardener)** There hasn't been a recent meeting but there may be a funding request from the new gardening club.

28/23 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

1. 08.03.23 – Village Hall
2. 20.03.23 – School

29/23 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION

- a. Volunteer for Brownie Copse & Memorial Bench – An email was received asking for volunteer opportunities in the village. It was suggested that this offer could be used to help with the brownie copse. Councillors agreed, in principle, to having a memorial bench in the Brownie copse.
- b. S Walker, EDF – S Walker introduced herself as the new Stakeholder Relations Manager for EDF.
- c. Dog Warden – The dog warden has visited Comwich to put up dog fouling signs where possible. Unfortunately she covers a large area but hopes to visit the village when she can regarding ongoing dog fouling.
- d. CPR Training – An email was received offering CPR training and asking for the parish council to contribute to the cost of the hall hire. No further news has been received about taking this forward.
- e. Freddy – Unfortunately, Police reported that a body had been found in the search for missing Freddy.
- f. Parking for Anglers at the bottom of Estuary Park – An email was received advising of antisocial noise arising from anglers visiting the ponds at the bottom of Estuary Park. Clerk to contact Bridgwater Angling Association.
- g. Consultation Notification – Somerset Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) – An email was received from Sedgemoor District Council notifying of a consultation process regarding a new SCI. Email to be circulated to all councillors for feedback.
- h. Parking at the bottom of Ship Lane – It has been noted that there have been cars blocking the Ship Lane access to the Anchor as well as parking on the blind corner. Clerk to contact Crimson Hill, owners of the house in question.
- i. Antisocial Behaviour – There has been reports of broken glass left in and around the play area, graffiti in the bus shelter and play area shelter, electric scooters ridden at night-time with riders often wearing dark clothing and not visible to drivers. Clerk to contact the PCSO regarding a police presence in the village. S Walker will also speak to the Hinkley Point Community Police.
- j. Church Hill Building Plots – Emails were received regarding the height of the buildings. Clerk to contact the Planning Enforcement Officer to check.

30/23 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:

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

The meeting finished at 8.20pm

Signed:

(Chair)

Date 9 MARCH 2023