

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on

THURSDAY 13 APRIL 2023, 7.00pm at OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

50/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Amanda Gibbons, Brian Bolt and 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

- No ward councillors were present.

2. General

- No members of public were present.

PRESENT:

Lindsey Parsons (Chair), Rachel Perrett (Vice Chair), Gina Mear (Clerk), Mike Haycraft, Tina Gardener, Connie Sanders, Andy Darch and Rev. Alison Waters.

51/23 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 23.03.23

The minutes of the meeting held on 23.03.23 were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.

52/23 PLANNING MATTERS:

1. None

53/23 FINANCE:

1. **Bank Balances** - Current A/C £4,336.97; Deposit A/C £28,376.73; Reserve A/C £20,131.03.
2. **To agree the budget statement for March 2023.** All councillors agreed the budget which was circulated prior to the meeting.
3. **The following payments were AGREED:**
 - a) G Mear - £547.80 (Clerk Salary)
 - b) K Preston - £216.00 (Village Gardener)
 - c) SALC - £40.00 (Councillor Training)
4. **Income Received**
 - a) SDC - £1,586.00 (RLT2 Grant)
5. **Village Hall Annual Hall Hire Fee** – The annual charge for hire has increased from £250 to £270. All agreed with this. L Parsons to check with P Cashin regarding the hourly charge for the hire of the meeting room and to ask for it to be billed quarterly.

54/23 UNITARY COUNCIL

No update.

55/23 REV. ALISON WATERS

1. Ecclesiastical Parish Boundaries

Rev. Waters advised of the changes to the make up of the benefice which currently consists of Cannington, Stockland Bristol and Otterhampton (Combwich, Otterhampton and Steart). The suggestion is to split the Quantock Coast benefice and Stogursey and Fiddington will join ours. There will no longer be a resident priest in Stogursey.

56/23 ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

There has been no antisocial behaviour reported since the last meeting.

57/23 REMOVAL OF FOOTPATH GATES (NEAR EDF COMPOUND)

The gates on the footpath between Haul Road and the river have been removed. Prior to the meeting, S Walker of EDF advised that following a request from the County Council Right of Way Team, the gates have been removed. Within the next 6-8 weeks, EDF intends to submit a planning application to the Council covering the bypass track within the Wessex Compound, amendments to boundary treatment and reinstating the gates.

58/23 STEAR T WARD

There was an accident on Biffens Corner which was moved quite quickly. The Live Free Kitchen van at Steart Marshes is going well and there is no evidence it is bringing in more visitors. Cows are returning to Steart.

59/23 HIGHWAYS

L Parsons, M Haycraft and C Sanders met with G Warren from Highways regarding the site of the new school sign. It was agreed that a better place for it would be at the bottom of Church Hill and this will be moved in the next couple of weeks. The playground sign on Riverside near the common was discussed and it was agreed that it will stay in place until 'SLOW' markings are put on the road near the play area as originally discussed in March 2019. B Bolt to follow up on this.

60/23 ENHANCEMENTS:

1. Wharf Road – The next village maintenance day is taking place this Saturday, 15th April at 10am and we will be working on Wharf Road. The application for grant funding from the Greater Quantock Landscape Development Fund has been returned asking for more detailed information. It was felt that as the project is evolving that we would not be able to meet their requirements and funding could be obtained from elsewhere. Everyone was in agreement to withdraw the application.
2. Village Maintenance – A new date is to be arranged to finish clearing the barn.

61/23 ACTION LIST

1. Tree Survey Action Plan – Clerk to look at the tree survey to see what needs actioning. Some of the trees require mulch. Clerk to put together a list of actions required.
2. OPRA Barn – M Ingram to be chased regarding repointing the barn.
3. New Item – Garage Roof – The garage on Brookside Road has a leak in the roof. Clerk to contact Homes in Sedgemoor with regards to fixing it or look at fixing it ourselves.

62/23 MEETING REPORTS:

1. **12.04.23 – Village Hall (L Parsons)** - No meeting was held as the meeting was not quorate.
2. **16.03.23 – Transport Forum** – The report was circulated to all councillors.

63/23 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

1. **Public Rights of Way (B Birkenhead)** Regarding the missing gates as mentioned in 57/23, it was felt that in the interests of safety that the gates should be returned.
2. **OPRA (T Gardener)** Over 50 people attended the Easter Egg hunt and there were 11 teams in the quiz, a good weekend all in all! The walks will be starting again with the next one taking place at Pawlett Hams on Sunday 23rd April.

64/23 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

1. 24.04.23 – School
2. 10.05.23 – Village Hall

65/23 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION

- a. **Estuary Park Parking Issues** – A complaint was received regarding a car being parked outside of a house where the homeowner can only access transport that is parked right in front of their house. For a disabled bay to be marked on the road, the homeowner will need to hold a blue badge and contact Somerset Council's Highways department.
- b. **Somerset Day 12th May** – An email was received about Somerset Day and to celebrate this year, Somerset's biggest ever quiz will be taking place. In conjunction with BBC Radio Somerset,

organisers want to encourage community venues such as village halls and pubs to take part by hosting a quiz on the same night.

- c. **Play Area Inspection** – An email has been received from RoSPA advising that the play area inspection will take place in June. Clerk to check if action points from the last inspection have been completed.
- d. **Church Hill New Builds** – An email was received asking the parish council to go back to the planning enforcement officer to ask that he witness measurements being taken or to take them himself. It was suggested that the sender of the email contact the planning enforcement officer directly. **AFTERNOTE** Since the meeting, a Nursery close resident has been in touch with their concerns as well, so the Chair and Vice Chair have requested the Clerk contact The Planning Enforcement Officer, on behalf of the Parish Council, to revisit the site and to check the heights themselves.
- e. **King's Coronation** – T Gardener to purchase a coronation flag.

48/23 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 4th May 2023, 7.00pm at Otterhampton Village Hall.

The meeting finished at 9.00pm

Signed:

(Chair)

Date 4 MAY 2023