

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

held on

**THURSDAY 4 MAY 2023, 7.55pm at OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL**

**67/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies were received from Rachel Perrett, Amanda Gibbons and 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 Somerset Council 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), Gina Mear (Clerk), Mike Haycraft, Tina Gardener, Connie Sanders, Andy Darch.

**68/23 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 13.04.23**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13.04.23 were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.

**69/23 PLANNING MATTERS:**

- a. 39/23/00002/LE Moxhill Farm, Combwich Road. Erection of single storey extension to the East elevation with formation of new driveway. It was agreed that there will be no neighbour impact, all councillors present agreed to support this application.

**70/23 FINANCE:**

1. **Bank Balances** - Current A/C £29,436.97; Deposit A/C £28,394.69; Reserve A/C £20,143.77.
2. **Set a date for agreeing the new budget for 2023-2024.** A meeting to set the budget will be on 23<sup>rd</sup> May and will then be discussed at the next meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> June.
3. **The following payments were AGREED:**
  - a) G Mear - £552.45 (Clerk Salary)
  - b) SALC - £35.00 (Councillor Training)
  - c) OVH - £1570.00 (Annual Grant & Hire)
  - d) OVH – 267.00 (Rapid Shot Hire – King's Coronation)
  - e) B Leathwood - £277.46 (Otter Tales)
  - f) R Young - £30.00 (Internal Audit)
4. **Income Received**
  - a) Somerset Council - £26,000 (Precept)
5. **Insurance Renewal** – The renewal price is £1012.46, an increase of £10 from last year. All were in agreement for this to be paid.
6. **New Laptop** – It was agreed to purchase a new laptop as well as an external hard-drive to back-up data. A Darch to make enquiries for someone to purchase and set up a new laptop.
7. **Audit** – The internal auditor has made his checks and there are no issues. All paperwork to be brought to the next meeting before being sent to the external auditor.

**71/23 UNITARY COUNCIL**

Each LCN (Local Community Network) needs to have a representative from each council, preferably the same person each time, to attend the meetings. The location of the meeting will be appropriate to the cluster. T Gardener/C Sanders to attend, A Darch if needed.

## **72/23 ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

Incidents reported since the last meeting include egg money being taken from a house on Brookside Road, litter left on the common, cars racing through Steart.

## **73/23 STEART WARD**

The road into Steart is becoming a mess, it was asked if it can be a designated single track. A suggestion was to get permission to cut the hedges and make passing areas more obvious and for the parish council to possibly pay for a second cut of the hedges. Filming took place on the farm for the new Marks & Spencer advert.

## **74/23 HIGHWAYS**

In his absence, B Bolt sent an email advising that he has spoken with K Tyson and as far as she was aware the works were completed, this includes installation of a school slow sign. **AFTERNOTE** The sign has been moved from School Lane to the bottom of Church Hill and is currently waiting for the contractor to set it up. She was going to confirm about the SLOW markings on the road near the play area..

## **75/23 ENHANCEMENTS:**

1. Wharf Road – The Greater Quantock Landscape Development Fund application was withdrawn. Most volunteers are unable to make the date of 13<sup>th</sup> May so a new date will need to be arranged. Clerk to check if there is anything that the Community Payback team can do.
2. Village Maintenance – As above, a new date is needed. **AFTERNOTE** Sat 27<sup>th</sup> May was suggested.
3. Dog Bins – The clerk requested that Clean Surroundings move the dog bin on the common near the pavilion to make it more accessible and place the second bin further down the track.

## **76/23 ACTION LIST**

1. Harbour Noticeboard – M Ingram advised that a plastic post should be used to replace the existing wooden noticeboard.
2. Emergency Plan – The existing plan is currently being updated and a meeting will be held to go through it.
3. OPRA Barn – A quote for £675 was received from M Ingram to repoint the wall and give a cement wash or stabilizer solution. It was agreed to go ahead with this and ask M Ingram to fill in cement on the west wall that has become loose.

## **77/23 MEETING REPORTS:**

1. **24.04.23 – School (R Perrett)** – The meeting report was circulated to all councillors. An issue regarding children leaving school on their scooters racing down the hills is to be raised with the head. The school parking sign next to the spaces in the turning circle is to be removed as the spaces belong to the houses, this was confirmed by email from Homes in Sedgemoor.

## **78/23 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES**

1. **Public Rights of Way (B Birkenhead)** Nothing to report.
2. **OPRA (T Gardener)** Nothing to report.

## **79/23 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:**

1. 09.05.23 – Village Hall
2. 10.05.23 – Steart Forum
3. 18.05.23 – Community Forum

## **80/23 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION**

- a. **Church Hill New Builds** – A member of public approached the councillors prior to the meeting starting to advise she was very unhappy with the height of the new houses. She was advised that the clerk has requested that the planning enforcement officer visit the site to take their own measurements. Clerk to follow this up. **AFTERNOTE** An email was received advising there is currently a delay due to reduced staffing.

- b. Chair's Award for service to the community** – An email was received from the chair of Somerset Council asking for nominations. The deadline is 30<sup>th</sup> June with the award ceremony being held on 6<sup>th</sup> October.
- c. Mobile Coverage** – An email has been received from Atlas Tower Group who have identified Combwich as having poor mobile signal coverage. It was decided that more information is needed before pursuing this.

**48/23 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023, 7.00pm at Otterhampton Village Hall.

The meeting finished at 9.20pm

Signed:

(Chair)

Date 8 JUNE 2023