

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on

THURSDAY 8 JUNE 2023, 7.00pm at OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

82/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Andy Darch, Connie Sanders and Amanda Gibbons.

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

- Cllr B Bolt advised that K Tyson of Somerset Highways is hoping to do a site visit regarding the road markings near the play area. The LCN meetings are now starting and it would be good for parishes to work together. Work on the River Parrett barrage is starting soon.

2. General

- B Leathwood advised that there will be a special edition of Otter Tales for the coronation. OPRA will be covering the cost of the additional newsletter.
- The issue regarding the opening of access to the ponds should be referred to the planning inspectorate, Somerset Council is not going to submit information for another 18 months. An appeal could be made, two Freedom of Information requests have been made. All information on this issue has been emailed to Cllr Bolt at his request.

PRESENT:

Lindsey Parsons (Chair), Gina Mear (Clerk), Mike Haycraft, Tina Gardener, Rachel Perrett (Vice Chair), Cllr B Bolt and one member of public.

83/23 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 04.05.23

The minutes of the meeting held on 04.05.23 were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.

84/23 PLANNING MATTERS:

- a. 39/22/00003 Brookside Road development. Notification was received from Somerset Council that this planning application has been refused.

85/23 FINANCE:

1. **Budget Statement for May.** All agreed the budget with a note for the clerk to transfer money to the reserves account.
2. **The following payments were AGREED:**
 - a) G Mear - £540.60 (Clerk Salary)
 - b) G Mear - £30.23 (Hard drive, stationery, postage)
 - c) T Gardener - £92.99 (Travel, retirement gift, flag)
 - d) Otterhampton Village Hall - £12.00 (Stear Forum)
 - e) BHIB - £1,012.46 (Annual Insurance)
3. **Income Received**
 - a) None
4. **2023-24 Budget** – The new budget was circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting, all were in agreement.
5. **Clerk's Salary** – All councillors present agreed to a two-increment increase with effect from June.

86/23 AUDIT

1. Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 was completed and signed by L Parsons.
2. Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2022/23 was agreed and signed by L Parsons.
3. The public rights notice will be published and displayed on the noticeboard opposite the shop and the website.

87/23 UNITARY COUNCIL

The first LCN meeting for the Dowsborough area is on Weds 14th June. T Gardener will represent OPC with C Sanders attending as well. There will be 18 LCN meetings taking place across Somerset this summer.

88/23 FORTHCOMING COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

Two councillors intend to resign later in the year, the vacancies cannot be advertised until their resignations have been accepted.

89/23 ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Incidents reported since the last meeting include the phone box, which houses the defibrillator, being covered in eggs. An email from S Walker of EDF advised that she will be letting us know about EDF's community policing when she has more information.

A note is to be included in the next edition of Otter Tales asking for vigilance.

90/23 STEART WARD

A Darch advised by email that it was all quiet in Steart.

91/23 HIGHWAYS

The 20mph school slow sign is now up and running at the bottom of Church Hill.

B Bolt advised that the government has given Somerset Council a large pot of money for dealing with potholes.

92/23 ENHANCEMENTS:

1. Wharf Road – Trees need to be ordered. Trees will be planted on the north side and that side will be mostly kept clear; it was suggested that raised beds could be added to the south side but this requires further investigation. It was asked if Community Payback would be able to do ongoing maintenance. There are some dead branches that will need to be removed. The gardening club is to be asked if they would like to have a raised bed. There will be a site visit at 7pm on Friday 9th June.
2. Village Maintenance – The barn has mostly been cleared; the remainder of ivy needs to be removed. New date to be arranged.
3. Play Area – Wicksteed will be repairing the hedgehog rocker. Volunteers are needed to do the other minor repairs. Clerk to ask P Vaiders if he can help.
4. Grass Cutting – Clerk to add the area around the bollards on Riverside near the Anchor, bottom of Ship Lane to the contract.

93/23 ACTION LIST

1. Harbour Noticeboard – Clerk to ask M Ingram to go ahead and replace post.
2. Emergency Plan – No update.

94/23 DEFIBRILLATOR

Clerk to put a request in Otter Tales for more volunteers. The Steart defibrillator is owned by us while the two Combwich ones are leased for four years with the lease being due next year. It was asked if the Steart defibrillator can be linked to the Combwich ones. CPR training will be organised to take place in the next few months.

95/23 MEMBERSHIP OF THE SSG (SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP)

It was agreed that R Perrett will continue to represent the parish council.

95/23 MEETING REPORTS:

1. **10.05.23 – Village Hall (L Parsons)** – The coronation day went well. The village hall committee are looking for new trustees. The Stoggymen are booked for next March. There is a monthly quiz night in Harbour View bar. The committee are trying to get more bookings in the hall.
2. **10.05.23 – Steart Forum (R Perrett)** – There was discussion about military planes doing exercises in the area especially during nesting season. The water levels at the far end of Steart

are draining too quickly so this is being looked at. There is no update on the cyclepath. Bristol Port is still committed to developing land on the other side of Steart Drove to the marshes. There was a lot of discussion about the Steart road and encouraging drivers to park sensibly and installing official passing points.

3. **18.05.23 – Community Forum (M Haycraft)** – Items covered were health and safety, mental health, there are currently 9000 staff on site, 900 will be employed when it is finished. The minutes will be circulated when received.

96/23 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

1. **Public Rights of Way (B Birkenhead)** No update.
2. **OPRA (T Gardener)** Currently there are no activities planned but events to be organised include the charity cricket match and the cream tea walk. The barn had a good clear out with a view to possibly moving items from the pavilion to the barn.

B. Bolt left at 8.30pm

97/23 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

1. 13.06.23 – Village Hall
2. TBC – School – children on scooters is still an issue with regularly reported near misses.
3. 30.06.23 – SSG

98/23 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION

- a. **Church Hill New Builds** – The enforcement officer had visited the site and confirmed that the floor levels are in line with the consent. A 6ft fence will be erected around the perimeter to ensure neighbours retain privacy. There is no evidence of a breach of planning control and the development is currently being built in accordance with the approved plans.
- b. **Grants Email** – An email was received from SALC (Somerset Association of Local Councils) advising of grants available for Community Ownership, Wessex Water Environment Fund, The Somerset Fund, Growing and Cooking Grants.
- c. **Citizens Advice Bureau** – Citizens Advice Mendip, Taunton, Sedgemoor and South Somerset have merged to become Citizens Advice Somerset.
- d. **Signage Fixed** – Notification was received that the sign at the entrance to Wharf Road would be straightened up.
- e. **AIL Movement and Signage Removal** – Notifications were received to advise that the large sign on the approach to Combwich will be removed temporarily for the movement of HPC's large equipment transportation. The movement is taking place on the 11th and 18th June.
- f. **Street Naming & Numbering Pilot** – An email was received asking for parish councils to take part in a pilot, it was agreed that we will not be taking part.
- g. **Tree next to 61 Estuary Park** – A phone call was received asking to remove branches of a tree that are touching a house. As the tree belongs to Somerset Council, advice/permission is to be sought from them. Clerk to make enquiries.
- h. **Memorial Bench** – An email was received on how to have a bench installed in the brownie copse. Clerk to pass on details.

99/23 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 13th July 2023, 7.00pm at Otterhampton Village Hall.

The meeting finished at 8.55pm

Signed:

(Chair)

Date 13 JULY 2023