

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on
THURSDAY 13 JULY 2023, 7.00pm at OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

100/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Rachel Perrett (Vice Chair) 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 all is quiet at the moment apart from issues on the A39 which he is trying to sort out.
- Cllr M Caswell attended a meeting in London about nuclear energy. There is a new energy programme coming out. There have been several incidents on the A39 between the Apple Tree Cottage and the Cottage Inn at Keenthorne. There has been an increase in traffic on the C182 especially during the early morning as well as more motorbikes. The A39 is being resurfaced from the west of Cannington/Brymore roundabout to Ashford Lane.

2. General

- A question to the ward councillors was for the roundabout at Brymore to be resurfaced because of the potholes.
- Regarding the new development on Church Hill, it was asked if it can be named Chapel Close as there was previously a chapel on the site. Clerk to check with planning officer.
- It was noted that the new red 'no unauthorised vehicles' sign had been removed at the entrance to Wharf Road. The sign has been returned to EDF to reinstall.
- It was mentioned that signs displayed at the play area have a spelling mistake. Clerk to check.

PRESENT:

Lindsey Parsons (Chair), Gina Mear (Clerk), Mike Haycraft, Tina Gardener, Cllr B Bolt, Cllr M Caswell and three members of public.

101/23 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 08.06.23

The minutes of the meeting held on 08.06.23 were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.

102/23 PLANNING MATTERS:

- a. 39/23/00003/CM. Erection of detached garage. 6 Church Hill, Comwich. All councillors agreed to support this application.

103/23 FINANCE:

1. **Budget Statement for June.** All agreed the budget.
2. **The following payments were AGREED:**
 - a) G Mear - £559.67 (Clerk Salary)
 - b) CPRE - £36.00 (Annual Membership)
 - c) H Brooks - £180.00 (Removal of Trees on Wharf Road)
 - d) L Parsons - £503.94 (New laptop)
 - e) K Preston - £120.00 (Play Area Weekly Inspections)
 - f) T Gardener - £145.00 (Part for Strimmer)
 - g) G Mear - £8.80 (Stamps)

104/23 AUDIT

1. All the required paperwork has been sent to the external auditor and the notification of public rights has been published on the website and displayed on the noticeboard.

105/23 UNITARY COUNCIL/LCN

The first LCN meeting was held on 14th June. It was felt that the hybrid meeting didn't work and the structure of the meeting needs some work. There are six county councillors on the committee. It was felt that there should be priorities to work towards and there is a need for everyone to work together.

106/23 ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

It was reported that someone had been in the church and items had been disturbed on the altar. Eggs were thrown at a house wall on Riverside. PCSO J Wyatt has access to an electric bicycle which he used to cycle out to Cannington. It was felt that he was more approachable being seen around the village on a bike. It was asked if he could cycle out to Combwich but only having access to one electric bike at the police station may hinder this so it was suggested that Wembdon, Cannington and Otterhampton parish councils may be able to club together to purchase another bike.

107/23 STEART WARD

Another quiet month in Steart. There have been a few caravans parked in laybys but they haven't caused any issues. The refreshment van is still visiting the Steart Marshes car park.

108/23 HIGHWAYS

There has been no response from K Tyson regarding signage/road markings near the play area.

109/23 ENHANCEMENTS:

1. Wharf Road – The next date to do some more work on Wharf Road is Saturday 29th July at 10am. T Gardener is going to get some advice regarding shrubs to plant. The Combwich Gardening Club is not interested in helping with Wharf Road.
2. Village Maintenance – T Gardener is going to check with Community Payback regarding regular maintenance in the village.
3. Grass Cutting – Clean Surroundings was contacted with regards to picking up the cuttings on the common. The cost to do this has not been received yet.
4. Village Speed Limit/Road Safety – There is currently a green paper going through parliament to install 20mph limits in built up areas. An email was received from Somerset Council regarding the process of applying to install a 20mph limit. A £500 non-refundable payment for an initial assessment would need to be paid then implementation would cost £15,000. Two week-long speed data readings would be required. Expressions of interest should be submitted by the end of August. It was felt that the village is limited for recording speed and enforcement. With regards to road safety signage it was felt that it wouldn't work as some drivers would take no notice of it.

Cllr M Caswell left at 8.05pm.

110/23 ACTION LIST

1. Emergency Plan – T Gardener advised that she has changed it but hasn't typed it up.

111/23 VILLAGE GENERATOR

An email was received requesting that the purchase of a generator to use at the village hall in the event of long power cuts be discussed. If a generator was purchased it would need to be stored somewhere. There was an offer to store it in Steart but this may not be workable. It was agreed that we need to speak to an electrical engineer to see how a generator could be fixed up to the village hall or if a mobile generator/solar powered generator would be sufficient. People would have to be trained in how to use it. Another thought was to identify residents who may have a generator that they would be willing to loan. This needs to be included in the emergency plan. A Darch to speak to a contact to get a cost for a suitable generator.

112/23 VILLAGE WALK – SET A DATE

6pm on Thursday 10th August, meeting at the bus shelter.

113/23 MEETING REPORTS:

- 1. 13.06.23 – Village Hall (L Parsons)** – The purchase of a generator was discussed. The AGM is taking place on Thursday 27th July. Upcoming events include paella on the bank holiday weekend. Blitz Time Sally afternoon tea on Saturday 16th September. One off events can go on the website diary, the clerk can collate and input these.
- 2. 12.06.23 – School (R Perrett)** – The report was circulated to all councillors.
- 3. 30.06.23 – SSG (R Perrett)** – There were no major items to report. Magnox is being rebranded. The report will be circulated when received.

114/23 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

- 1. Public Rights of Way (B Birkenhead)** Due to a notification from the clerk that the school children will be using the footpath to walk to Hill House, the clearing of paths and around the kissing gates has been done.
- 2. OPRA (T Gardener)** The Murray Lister Memorial Cricket Match is taking place on Saturday 5th August, if the weather is bad, it will take place the following week. The Steart walk and cream tea is taking place on Sunday 13th August.

B. Bolt left at 8.30pm

115/23 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

- 1. 13.07.23 – Transport Forum.** No one was able to attend due to a clash of dates with this meeting.
- 2. 18.07.23 – Village Hall**
- 3. 27.07.23 – Village Hall AGM**
- 4. Steart Forum – A Darch** advised that he is happy to continue attending.

116/23 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION

- a. Obstructions on Church Hill** – An email was received from a resident noting a lot of obstructions on Church Hill for the new development. Often lorries are blocking the road and a rude response is often received on questioning the obstruction. Somerset Highways are not interested and advised to call the police. It was felt that the planning application should be checked regarding conditions set for deliveries etc.
- b. Volunteer thanks** – Thanks were given to B Forgan, P Vaiders, B & C Birkenhead and all volunteers for their help with various projects around Comwich.
- c. Play area roadside railings** – A Comwich resident asked about placing roadside barriers alongside the play area to direct children into one entrance as children were often seen running across the road from the Anchor Inn car park. It was felt that this is parental responsibility.
- d. Facebook posts** – Following a series of Facebook posts on the All Things Comwich page regarding the trimming of hedges around the village sign it was agreed that only messages received to the parish council's Facebook page would be replied to. Dangerous hedges can be cut back with care. Rather than raising issues on Facebook, it is more productive for residents to attend a meeting or email the clerk. A Darch is going to check with someone regarding hedge cutting.
- e. Wharf Road/Estuary Park wall** – The issue with the broken wall backing on to Wharf Road has now been resolved.
- f. Somerset Wildlife Trust – Climate Adaption Toolkit** – This was received and was made available to all councillors.
- g. Road Closure – Stockland Bristol Road** – The Stockland Bristol road in Otterhampton will be closed for six hours on 27th July to enable Openreach to carry out pole replacement work.
- h. Fives Wall – Anchor Inn car park** – A resident has mentioned that some of the bricks at the top of the wall look unsafe. It is not known who owns the Grade 2 listed wall, it is not on the Anchor Inn's deeds. Some investigation needs to be done.

117/23 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 14th September 2023, 7.00pm at Otterhampton Village Hall.

The meeting finished at 8.50pm

Signed:

(Chair)

Date 14 SEPTEMBER 2023