

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on

THURSDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2023, 7.00pm at OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

122/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Connie Sanders, Cllr Mike Caswell, Cllr 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

- The ward councillors were not in attendance.

2. General

- Issues were raised about the closure of Combwich Shop. Concerns raised included:
 - No public transport to other shops
 - If the village had a community shop this would require a lot of work and money
 - If there isn't a shop, could a community bus be provided?
 - The shop has been a lifeline for people to get their prescriptions
 - Why can't the no. 14 bus service the village.

PRESENT:

Lindsey Parsons (Chair), Gina Mear (Clerk), Rachel Perrett (Vice Chair), Mike Haycraft, Tina Gardener, Andy Darch and 18 members of public.

123/23 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 13.07.23 and 10.08.23

The minutes of the meeting held on 13.07.23 and 10.08.23 were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.

124/23 PLANNING MATTERS:

- a. 39/23/00005 Householder Prior Approval, 30 Brookside Road, Combwich. Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed erection of a single storey extension. The prior approval was approved. FOR INFORMATION.

125/23 FINANCE:

1. **Budget Statement for July and August.** All agreed the budgets.
2. **The following payments were AGREED:**
 - a) G Mear - £587.96 (Clerk Salary – July & Expenses)
 - b) G Mear - £559.67 (Clerk Salary – August)
 - c) B Leathwood - £277.46 (Otter Tales Printing - August)
 - d) Somerset Council - £405.60 (Grass Cutting – June)
 - e) Somerset Council - £848.40 (Dog Bins – Apr-Sept)
 - f) Open Spaces Society - £45.00 (Annual Membership)
 - g) PKF Littlejohn - £252.00 (Annual Audit)

126/23 AUDIT

The audit has been completed with the auditor noting that Section 2, Box 4 incorrectly includes items which are not staff costs and that the figures have been adjusted. The conclusion of audit notice has been displayed on the website.

127/23 PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

The statutory notice has been completed and we are now able to co-opt. Resignations from R Perrett and A Darch were accepted with effect from 12th October following the meeting on that day.

128/23 UNITARY COUNCIL/LCN

The second meeting of the Dowsborough area took place on 13th September. Feedback received following the meeting included unsurety about how successful the LCNs will be, will there be funding for projects and should there just be ad-hoc meetings.

129/23 COMBWICH POST OFFICE & STORE

Following the discussions with the members of public in attendance, the following was agreed:

- To speak to Peter and Jane at the shop to gather more information
- Set up a village working group with one or two councillors and members of the community
- Look at joining the Plunkett Foundation for information and guidance
- Speak to other community shops
- Hold a public meeting once various information has been gathered.

130/23 ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

There has been an increase in fly parking by EDF workers and more complaints regarding children on their scooters when leaving school.

131/23 STEART WARD

All quiet again. There have been high tides, dredging has been done and the bees are busy.

132/23 HIGHWAYS

B Bolt to chase K Tyson on outstanding issues.

133/23 WHARF ROAD

It was agreed that it has become a struggle to maintain Wharf Road by the councillors and volunteers. It was hoped that the gardening club would be able to help but there is no interest. Money needs to be spent to get it up together and then ongoing maintenance, this would be put out to tender. T Gardener has been given some ideas of shrubs to plant. In future could it be added to the grass cutting contract? There will be a site meeting to agree the way forward at 2.30pm on Saturday 23rd September. It was mentioned that cars often block the public right of way from Wharf Road to Brookside Road by the railings. It was agreed that a notice will be left for the driver if this occurs.

134/23 BUS SHELTER

We have the licence required to rebuild the bus shelter but it may be worth getting a structural engineer out to have a look at it.

135/23 STEART DEFIBRILLATOR

The battery pack is packing up and it hasn't been possible to purchase another one. It was agreed to lease a new defibrillator through our contract for the Combwich units at a cost of £2160.00 (inc. VAT) and to ask for an extension in the contract to five years (currently four).

136/23 ENHANCEMENTS:

1. Village Maintenance – Community Payback/Handyman – It was agreed to hire a handyman to take on various jobs including the ongoing maintenance of Wharf Road. This will be advertised and insurance and training to work on a highway need to be considered.
2. Grass Cutting – Clean Surroundings have still not replied with a cost to pick up cuttings on the common. It was suggested that collecting the cuttings after the first cut of the year is added to the grass cutting contract. Clerk to ask when the weeds in gutters will be sprayed.

137/23 ACTION LIST

1. Emergency Plan – T Gardener is currently working on this. P Vaiders has completed the risk assessments section. A Darch will meet with an electrical engineer to discuss connecting a generator to the village hall.

138/23 MEETING REPORTS:

1. **13.07.23 – Transport Forum (A Darch)** – The minutes were circulated to all councillors.
2. **18.07.23 – Village Hall (L Parsons)** – L Parsons was unable to attend.

3. **27.07.23 – Village Hall AGM (L Parsons)** – L Parsons was unable to attend. Three new trustees joined. P Cashin has stood down but is still doing the finances.
4. **07.09.23 EDF Dutch Visit Community Event (C Sanders)** – The report was circulated to all councillors.

139/23 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

1. **Public Rights of Way (B Birkenhead)** Maintenance is ongoing for gates and stiles. If anything needs doing, email B Birkenhead.
2. **OPRA (T Gardener)** The A-frame that is used on the corner of Estuary Park was thrown in the brook but retrieved. The pavilion on the common was either an attempted break in or vandalised. The cricket match couldn't take place due to the weather but a fun event was held inside the Anchor to raise funds. The fireworks will take place on 5th Nov, the Christmas dinner will be on 2nd Dec. The OPRA AGM will take place on 2nd Oct.

140/23 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

1. 10.10.23 – Village Hall
2. 21.09.23 – Community Forum

141/23 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION

- a. **Obstructions on Church Hill** – An email was received regarding parked cars at the bottom of Church Hill meaning drivers coming down the hill are forced to face oncoming traffic coming around the corner. This will be reported on the Avon & Somerset Police website along with cars parking on the junction of School Lane.
- b. **Response to gates on PRow near Haul Road** – An email was received regarding the type of gates to be used on the footpath between the river and Haul Road and that they were not the right type of gates. Somerset Council also questioned the type of gates.

142/23 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 12th October 2023, 7.00pm at Otterhampton Village Hall.

The meeting finished at 8.35pm

Signed:

(Chair)

Date 12 OCTOBER 2023