

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on
THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER 2023, 7.00pm at OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

143/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Connie Sanders, Andy Darch, 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

- Signage was raised. Signs at the entrance to Combwich and Otterhampton need repainting. It was asked if we could move the 'Combwich' sign towards the junction of the C182. Clerk to check with K Tyson of Highways.
- B Birkenhead thanked the parish council for nominating him for the Chairman's Award (Somerset Council), it was a nice evening.

PRESENT:

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

144/23 PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES/CO-OPTION

Two applications were received for the current vacancy and a secret ballot was held. C Bradbury was co-opted on to the parish council. Following the resignations of R Perrett and A Darch following this meeting, the official notice of vacancy posters will be displayed for 14 working days before recruitment can begin.

145/23 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 14.09.23

The minutes of the meeting held on 14.09.23 were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.

146/23 PLANNING MATTERS:

- a. 39/23/00001 (Erection of side (North) extension to detached garage) to install an alternative roof finish. 4 Kiln Close, Combwich, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 2RG. This application was received after the agenda had been set. All agreed to support this application.

147/23 FINANCE:

1. **Budget Statement for September.** All agreed the budget.
2. **The following payments were AGREED:**
 - a) G Mear - £587.96 (Clerk Salary & Expenses)
 - b) SALC - £222.72 (Affiliation Fee)
 - c) K Preston - £120.00 (Play Area Inspections – Jul to Sep)
 - d) Somerset Council - £800.40 (Grass Cutting)
 - e) M Haycraft - £41.92 (Weed Killer and Mileage)
3. **Income Received.** None.

148/23 COMBWICH POST OFFICE & STORE

The shop is staying open for the time being, the post office closed today (12th Oct). It is thought that the shop will close before a new shop can be set up. The Wrights are happy for a questionnaire to be sent out to all parishioners. It was discussed about having drop-off points for the questionnaires with the clerk's address being one and Mr and Mrs Birkenhead offered to receive questionnaires. Another meeting is needed to finalise the questionnaire. Clerk to arrange a date.

149/23 ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

It has been reported that there has been an issue with dog fouling inside the play area. Suspicious activities have been reported at the bus shelter including a strong smell of cannabis. Fly parking is still an issue.

150/23 STEART WARD

The final report from A Darch was circulated prior to the meeting.

151/23 HIGHWAYS

Cllrs Bolt and Caswell have been persistent on the highways issues.

152/23 SCHOOL STREETS PILOT

The school is looking to implement a no traffic zone on School Lane during school drop off and pick up times. R Perrett has spoken with Stuart Kennard of SASP. There has been a two-week consultation with residents of School Lane and parents and then there will be a six-month trial period. There will be two twenty-minute periods at either end of the school day when the road will be closed to traffic. A temporary barrier will be marshalled at the junction to School Lane. There will be exemptions for parents with a disability etc and School Lane residents. If the six-month trial goes well then it will be trialled for a further 12 months and if that goes well, it will become permanent. It was asked that feedback be sent to Stuart regarding bikes and scooters, mainly on Church Hill and the situation regarding after-school clubs.

153/23 WHARF ROAD

We need to mark out a map with the trees/shrubs so that maintenance of Wharf Road can be put out to tender. A meeting is needed to discuss what will go on the tender. M Haycraft and T Gardener to trim the edges on Saturday 28th October.

154/23 LOAN OF STRIMMER

Cannington Parish Council would like to share our strimmer and would purchase attachments for it. All agreed to a six-month trial period.

155/23 FIREWORKS

A letter was received from OPRA asking for a member of the parish council to be present at the firework display on 5th November for insurance purposes. It was agreed that T Gardener will be in attendance.

156/23 ENHANCEMENTS:

1. Village Maintenance – It was agreed to advertise in Otter Tales for a maintenance person requesting the hourly rate and insurance information. The Community Payback team and M Haycraft dealt with the weeds in the play area but weeds still remain and some are coming up through the matting. Clerk to contact the supplier of the matting. It was agreed to put thanks to people who have cleared gutters around the village, in Otter Tales.
2. New Trees – The Gardening Club enquired about planting new trees and that they may be able to help. Besides Wharf Road, the parish council is looking at areas where trees could be planted.
3. Bottom of Nursery Close – Shrubs – The Community Payback team will be asked to clear back the foliage.
4. New Village Sign – We are looking to replace the existing Combwich sign with a new one. Clerk to contact K Tyson at Highways.
5. Brownie Copse – Volunteers spent time clearing the brownie copse and it can now be used. The ground is still very wet but an excellent job has been done. It will now need to be maintained and it was suggested that this be done once/twice a year.

157/23 ACTION LIST

1. Emergency Plan – We are waiting on input from the village hall. A Darch is waiting for the electrician to come back with a price for the electrics to be put in the village hall to support a generator. Clerk to get more garage keys cut.

158/23 MEETING REPORTS:

1. **10.09.23 – Village Hall (L Parsons)** – The meeting was postponed to the following week due to illness.
2. **21.09.23 – Community Forum** – M Haycraft – There was a talk about trying to reduce waste. The dome will hopefully be put on the turbine before Christmas. They talked about educating young people.

159/23 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

1. **Public Rights of Way (B Birkenhead)** Nothing to report.
2. **OPRA (T Gardener)** The OPRA AGM took place last week. There is no change to the committee and no new volunteers. The next events are the fireworks display then the Christmas meal.

160/23 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

1. 14.11.23 – Village Hall

161/23 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION

- a. **Brook Bank Maintenance** – A resident mentioned that they had shored up the bank at the bottom of their garden which backs on to the brook but weeds are now growing on the other side of the barrier and asked whose responsibility it is. It is the responsibility of the landowner to the middle of the brook.
- b. **Slow Ways National Walking Network** – An email was received inviting the parish council to contribute to the creation of the Slow Ways network. Email to be circulated to all councillors for feedback.
- c. **Community Resilience Survey** – It was agreed to wait for the emergency plan from T Gardener before completing the survey.
- d. **Road Closures** – Stockland Bristol Road in Otterhampton will be closed for two days from 8th November to replace a BT pole.
- e. **School Liaison** – L Parsons will take on this role following R Perrett's resignation.
- f. **SSG** – R Perrett will continue to attend SSG meetings on behalf of the parish council.

162/23 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9th November 2023, 7.00pm at Otterhampton Village Hall.

The meeting finished at 8.45pm

Signed:

(Chair)

Date 9 NOVEMBER 2023