

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on

THURSDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2023, 7.00pm at OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

163/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Carol Bradbury, 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

- Cllr Caswell spoke about the issues at Somerset Council with the predicted deficit, parish councils are expected to take on more services.

2. General

- Church Hill Development – the development has been named Cornish Close which is disappointing as the clerk wrote to planning to ask for it to be called Chapel Close as it is the former site of the Chapel of St Leonard. Clerk to contact the developer asking for the name to be changed.
- Regarding the minutes of the last meeting, it was stated that the gardening club did not say they were not interested in helping with Wharf Road and that the request for fruit trees did not come from the committee. In future correspondence needs to go to/come from the gardening club committee.

PRESENT:

Lindsey Parsons (Chair), Gina Mear (Clerk), Mike Haycraft, Connie Sanders, Tina Gardener, Cllr Mike Caswell and four members of public.

164/23 RESIGNATIONS OF COUNCILLORS

Resignations were received from A Darch and R Perrett following the last meeting. Somerset Council was informed and the statutory notice was displayed.

165/23 PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES/CO-OPTION

There was a unanimous vote to co-opt David Dodge as a councillor for the Steart ward.

166/23 ELECT VICE-CHAIR

With the role of vice-chair now vacant, C Sanders volunteered to take on the position. T Gardener proposed and M Haycraft seconded.

167/23 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 12.10.23

The minutes of the meeting held on 12.10.23 were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.

168/23 MATTERS ARISING

- a. **School Streets** – The questions raised at the last meeting were sent to S Kennard at SASP. His response was circulated to all councillors. It was asked if a traffic order should be obtained. It was also noted that the parish council should have been consulted in the early stages.
- b. **Slow Ways National Walking Network** – The email was sent to B Birkenhead (PRoW) for his thoughts.
- c. **Stearr Defibrillator** – It has been agreed by the Ambulance Service that we can move the defibrillator at the Anchor to Stearr as this defibrillator has not been deployed. There is currently a shortage of defibrillators so at a later date the one at the Anchor can be replaced.
- d. **Willow Tree Next to the Brook** – The Environment Agency have been in touch to say they will visit next week to look at the tree and make contact with the owner if required.
- e. **New Trees** – The clerk will write to the residents who live on the track to advise that the grass verge near their property has been earmarked for the planting of trees.

169/23 PLANNING MATTERS:

- a. 39/23/00007 Notice of Intent to Remove Post Box at the Post Office, Brookside Road. Permitted Development. Mr Wright has asked Royal Mail to remove the post box from his land which means the parish council needs to find a new site for it. It was suggested that the grass verge opposite would be the best place. Clerk to contact Highways to ask for permission if this land belongs to them.

170/23 FINANCE:

1. **Budget Statement for October.** All agreed the budget.
2. **Six Monthly Accounts.** These were circulated to all councillors.
3. **The following payments were AGREED:**
 - a) G Mear - £538.00 (Clerk Salary & Expenses)
 - b) Parish Online - £45.00 (Annual Membership)
 - c) SALC - £12.50 (Recruiting & Retaining Councillors Workshop)
 - d) SALC - £50.00 (Playground Inspection Seminar)
 - e) Pains Fireworks - £1128.00 (Fireworks)
 - f) Somerset Council - £261.00 (Grass Cutting – Sept)
 - g) Somerset Council - £167.23 (Play Area Bin)
4. **Income Received.** None.

171/23 COMBWICH POST OFFICE & STORE

The questionnaire will be looked at following this meeting and a timeline for distribution discussed.

172/23 ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

There has been damage to the play area, the grass has been ruined with bike tracks, the hedgehog rocker's spring has snapped and the toddler swing seats are both damaged. Fly parking has been bad in October.

173/23 STEART WARD

D Dodge will send reports in future.

174/23 HIGHWAYS

Cllr Bolt reported via email that he is struggling to get any commitment regarding any outstanding works especially now with the predicted deficit at Somerset County.

175/23 FLOODING – BROOKSIDE ROAD

Several houses on the northside of Brookside Road, as you come into Combwich, had their back gardens flooded with the possibility of their properties flooding as well. The fire service was unable to assist unless life was in danger. It was asked if a pump can be purchased and kept in the garage to which it was suggested that we look to Bridgwater Mowers. Clerk to look at prices. Hessian sand bags have been purchased as the ones in the garage had rotted. The Flood and Water Management Team at Somerset Council emailed to say they are aware of flooding issues in that area and that they can provide details of the drainage system underneath the properties.

M Caswell left at 8.00pm

176/23 BUS SHELTER

Due to the ongoing antisocial behaviour taking place and the need to replace the bus shelter in the future, it was asked if the current structure should be replaced with a clear plastic structure. A 'Mosquito' unit was suggested, this is a unit which emits a high-pitched noise that only teenagers can hear. Clerk to investigate this.

177/23 WHARF ROAD

A date to identify trees/shrubs is still required. Clerk to organise.

178/23 ENHANCEMENTS:

1. Village Maintenance – Community Payback, Handyman, Damaged Tree – T Gardener will ask Community Payback to trim back the foliage around the crash barrier on Brookside Road/bottom

of Nursery Close. We will advertise for a handyman in Otter Tales. One of the trees at Crossways has had a branch break off, M Haycraft to have a look and remove if able to.

2. New Village Sign/Fingerpost – No update. Clerk to contact K Tyson of Highways.
3. Brownie Copse – A lot of rubbish (brambles, branches etc) was left after the day spent clearing it and needs to be removed. It is mainly hard wood and big branches. D Dodge to have a look. Review at next meeting if it has not been removed.

179/23 ACTION LIST

1. Emergency Plan – T Gardener to finalise plan and circulate it in the next few days.

180/23 MEETING REPORTS:

1. 11.10.23 – Village Hall (L Parsons) – Nothing to discuss.

181/23 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

1. **Public Rights of Way (B Birkenhead)** Nothing to report apart from a lot of trimming has been done.
2. **OPRA (T Gardener)** The fireworks display was very successful with the biggest turnout ever. The barbecue sold out and £440 was taken in donations. The next events are the Christmas meal on 2nd December and the Christmas tree switch-on on 3rd December.

182/23 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

1. 15.11.23 – Village Hall
2. 16.11.23 – Transport Forum
3. 22.11.23 - LCN

183/23 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION

- a. **Road Closure, Church Hill** – Church Hill will be closed for one day to carry out works to transfer plant underground.
- b. **Community Review Project** – An email was received launching the second phase of the Community Review project. It was felt that as a review had been done for Otterhampton within the last few years that we would not be taking part.

184/23 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:

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

The meeting finished at 8.32pm

Signed:

(Chair)

Date 14 DECEMBER 2023