

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on

THURSDAY 14 MARCH 2024, 7.00pm at OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT:

Lindsey Parsons (Chair), Gina Mear (Clerk), Mike Haycraft, Connie Sanders (Vice Chair), Tina Gardener, Carol Bradbury, Dave Dodge, Cllr Mike Caswell and eight members of the public.

39/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

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 reported that Somerset Council is very busy trying to sort out the finances. The LCN's transport meeting was good with positive results. The next LCN meeting is taking place on Monday 18th March. Each LCN was due to be given £1.5m but the money is not there. The parish councils will end up paying twice for some services. An email was sent out to parish councils advising that there would no longer be free sandbags available.

2. General

- B Birkenhead has sent the clerk pictures of all the fingerposts in the parish along with an application form to apply for a grant to EDF (HPB) to refurbish them. Cllr Caswell advised that Spaxton PC had a scheme for painting their fingerposts. Somerset Forge was also suggested for replacing the posts.
- A number of members from the gardening club discussed the front of the village and would like to make it more welcoming/attractive. Ideas suggested included a rockery, garden, planters. They advised that the gardening club would take on responsibility for looking after planters etc. It was also suggested that the Combwich sign be replaced and moved to the edge of the village. The parish council advised that this was already in hand and are waiting to hear back from Highways.

40/24 PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES/CO-OPTION

There has been no interest in the vacancy.

41/24 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 08.02.24

The minutes of the meeting held on 08.02.24 were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.

42/24 MATTERS ARISING – UPDATES FROM THE CLERK

- a. **Removal of foliage on Brookside Road** – The foliage was cut back and subsequently removed from the site.

43/24 MAY MEETING DATES

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and monthly parish council meeting will take place as planned on 9th May and the Annual Parish Assembly will take place Thursday 23rd May.

44/24 PLANNING MATTERS:

- a. None.

45/24 FINANCE:

1. **Bank Reconciliation and Budget Statement for February.** The statement and bank reconciliation were circulated prior to the precept meeting and were agreed.
2. **The following payments were AGREED:**
 - a) G Mear - £620.75 (Clerk Salary, Pension & Expenses – revised figure to include pension)
 - b) M Pittey Electrical - £760.64 (Electrics for relocation of defibrillator to Steart)
 - c) G Mear - £20.47 (Stationery)

- d) M Haycraft - £435.00 (2 x trees & delivery)
- e) P Sanders - £154.95 (Hose, oil & fuel for pump – revised figure)
- f) Somerset Council - £167.23 (Play Area bins)
- g) Somerset Council - £32.40 (Grass cutting) Clerk to check if this was done
- h) T Gardener - £309.99 (Water Pump)

3. Income Received:

- a) HMRC - £2,610.68 (VAT Reclaims)

46/24 COMMUNITY SHOP

There was a good response to the questionnaire with an article going in the next Otter Tales. A meeting to discuss the next steps will follow this meeting.

47/24 DEFIBRILLATOR

The clerk was advised by the South Western Ambulance Service that they will no longer provide new defibrillators. Clerk to investigate other suppliers bearing in mind the contract for the existing two defibrillators is due for renewal in August.

48/24 ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- a) Fly Parking – This is a continuing issue on Brookside Road and at Crossways. It is being raised at tonight's Transport Forum. If the issue is not resolved the parish council will write to Mr Cockcroft at EDF.

49/24 STEART WARD

D Dodge circulated a report prior to the meeting. There are still issues regarding dog fouling.

50/24 HIGHWAYS (CLLR B BOLT)

Cllr Bolt was not in attendance.

51/24 FLOODING – BROOKSIDE ROAD

The new pump has been used to control water levels. The culvert has been cleared and the end property has put in a ditch. This work has been done by the residents and farmer. There is a fund available from Somerset Council for equipment. Clerk to investigate.

52/24 WHARF ROAD

The Community Payback team has been working on Wharf Road, clerk to check if foliage needs to be removed.

53/24 ENHANCEMENTS:

1. Village Gardener – M Narraway is to become the village gardener and would like guidance on the areas to be tended. The clerk is waiting to hear from Clean Surrounds as to how much of their contract can be fulfilled.
2. Brownie Copse – See item 3 below.
3. Trees – Two trees have been purchased and will be planted when the ground is drier, one for the brownie copse and the second tree will be planted at Crossways. A third will be purchased to go near the adult exercise equipment on the common.
4. Common Track – Two quotes were received and all agreed to accept the higher quote as this included the surface work that it was thought would last the longest. Clerk to write to nearby residents and organisations which use the track to advise of when the works will commence.
5. Combwich Buoy - The buoy needs some repairs and a paint job, this will be done when the weather improves.

54/24 ACTION LIST

1. Emergency Plan – Clerk to pass on details of village agent to T Gardener and note the new water pump.

55/24 MEETING REPORTS:

1. 21.02.24 & 13.03.24 – Village Hall (L Parsons) – The report was circulated before the meeting.
2. 26.02.24 – School (L Parsons) – The report was circulated before the meeting.

56/24 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

1. **Public Rights of Way (B Birkenhead)** B Birkenhead advised he has been checking stiles.
2. **OPRA (T Gardener)** The Easter egg hunt is taking place on Good Friday, 29th March at 11am and the Easter quiz will take place on Saturday 30th March.

57/24 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

1. 14.03.24 – Transport Forum
2. 18.03.24 - LCN
3. 10.04.24 – Village Hall

M Caswell left at 7.52pm

58/24 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION

- a. **Combwich Pill Dredging** – The dredger came in last week and left this evening as advised by EDF.
- b. **Abandoned boats in the pill** – EDF made contact regarding abandoned boats on the grass on the EDF side of the wharf. It was also noted that the slipway sign is broken. Clerk to contact Combwich Boat Club about both issues.
- c. **Seed of Hope – Gardening Services** – A letter was received offering gardening services but this service is no longer required. They also offer private client gardening work.
- d. **St. Margaret's Hospice** – An email was received asking for a letter of support from the parish council in their application for an EDF grant to fund a community nurse. Due to the time restriction the clerk sent a letter of support.
- e. **Victim Support** – An email was received asking for a donation. Everyone agreed to a donation of £100.
- f. **Sandbags** – This was covered by Cllr Caswell above.

59/24 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 11th April 2024, 6.30pm at Otterhampton Village Hall.

The meeting finished at 8.07pm

Signed:

(Chair)

Date 11 APRIL 2024