

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on

THURSDAY 11th JULY 2024 at 7.00pm at OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT:

Lindsey Parsons (Chair), Connie Sanders (Vice Chair), Gina Mear (Clerk), Tina Gardener, Steve Parker, Carol Bradbury, Dave Dodge (7.32pm), Cllr Mike Caswell and one member of the public.

112/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr Brian Bolt. Mike Haycraft, Barry Leathwood, Bob & Carol Birkenhead.

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 SOMERSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

1. Somerset Council members report

- Cllr Caswell reported that bus services were looked at but nothing has materialised. A new Slinky bus service is to be announced. The new government has made an announcement on a change to planning making it easier for companies to build. Strategic planning has changed, it has gone back to quarrying from phosphates on the levels.
- Cllr Bolt advised by email that the voluntary redundancies are starting to take effect at Somerset Council and this has unfortunately resulted in losing good officers and the council is trying to identify their replacements.

113/24 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 13.06.24

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 13.06.24 had the incorrect date for the next meeting and were manually amended. They were then APPROVED and signed by the Chair.

114/24 MATTERS ARISING – NOT COVERED BY A SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM

- a. Brook Vegetation Clearance – an email was received from the Environment Agency stating that due to flooding in other areas, they were not able to cut back the vegetation last year and hope to do it in the autumn.
- b. Abandoned Boats – The Harbour Master is fully aware of the situation and will be dealing with it.
- c. Trees – Highways have been contacted though the trees at the top of School Lane are the responsibility of the school.
- d. Steart Noticeboard – has been ordered and should be delivered soon.

115/24 PLANNING MATTERS:

- a. 39/24/00005//STP The construction of an earth bank slurry store (100m x 45m) and associated landscaping. Manor Farm, Church Lane, Otterhampton. A site visit was made and all councillors agreed to support the application.

116/24 FINANCE:

1. Bank Reconciliation and Budget Statement for June.

The statement and bank reconciliation were circulated prior to the precept meeting and were agreed. The balance at the end of June was £80,820.75.

2. The following payments were AGREED:

- a) G Mear - £579.60 (Clerk Salary)
- b) Nest - £40.95 (Pension Contribution)
- c) Somerset Council - £892.32 (Dog Bins)
- d) Somerset Council - £643.80 (Grass Cutting)
- e) M Narraway - £81.00 (Village Gardener)
- f) Signscape & Signconex - £268.63 (Steart Noticeboard)
- g) Bell UK Ltd - £5863.20 (Common track pothole work)

3. Income Received:

- a) None
4. **2023/2024 Audit**

All paperwork has been received by the external auditor and the notice of public rights was displayed.

117/24 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS – FOR APPROVAL

1. To be moved to the next agenda.

118/24 UPDATE FROM EDF – S WALKER

S Walker did not attend due to the Transport Forum being held at the same time. S Walker to be contacted regarding the road signs on the approach to Combwich which are hidden by the long grass. Cllr Caswell will contact Highways regarding this.

119/24 ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

It was reported that one resident had teenagers knocking on their front door at 10pm asking for a ball in their back garden. Children have been seen throwing stones at ducklings in a garden on Brookside Road. Teenagers have also been seen walking on Brookside Road at midnight. Jam jars that are being sold in an honesty box on Riverside have been taken and smashed. Clerk to ask if EDF's police can patrol at night time. Cllr Caswell will ask Cllr Bolt to raise the issue at the next Police & Crime Commissioner meeting.

120/24 HIGHWAYS (B Bolt)

Regarding crossing the C182 to and from the Dame Withycombe Cottages, Cllr Bolt advised by email that he is trying to get additional road markings for the pedal crossing sign posts but has not yet heard from K Tyson at Highways. Other suggestions regarding the C182 around the Combwich junction to Dame Withycombe Hill were to borrow a speed gun from the police, a stop sign at the entrance to the village and widening of the road.

121/24 WHARF ROAD

Requires work but later in the year. Clerk to write letter regarding the laying of turf.

122/24 DEFIBRILLATOR CONTRACT

The contract for the existing defibrillators (Phone box and Steart) is due for renewal in August. The renewal will cost £3360, including VAT. All agreed to renew the contract. Regarding the replacement of the Anchor defibrillator, it was agreed that the clerk and R Perrett will look at the available options.

123/24 FLOWER SHOW TROPHY

It was agreed to sponsor Best in Show. T Gardener will have a look at Premier Trophies. S Parker will speak to Bridgwater Flower Show about purchasing some of their unwanted trophies.

124/24 VILLAGE WALK – ARRANGE A DATE

Tuesday 6th August, 6pm at the bus shelter.

125/24 ENHANCEMENTS

- a. Village Gardener – The clerk noted that the village gardener doesn't hold public liability insurance. Without insurance, he will not be able to do any work for us. Clerk to contact M Narraway noting the same. **AFTERNOTE** The clerk has now seen sight of insurance for Mr Narraway.

126/24 MEETING REPORTS as applicable

- a) **17.06.24 - School** – The report was circulated prior to the meeting. The School Streets initiative was discussed and the fact it doesn't apply to after school clubs and can the closure be changed to longer in the afternoon. On the school's website there is a link to give feedback on the scheme.
- b) **10.07.24 – Village Hall** – The meeting was cancelled due to the football.
- c) **11.07.24 – Transport Forum** – There has been a video playing on a flatbed at the entrance to the Hinkley Point C site about fly parking. The video has subtitles for workers to read as they are going in.

127/24 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

- a. Public Rights of Way (PRoW) (B Birkenhead) – Nothing to report.
- b. OPRA (T Gardener) – Nothing to report.
- c. Steart Ward (D Dodge) – The report was circulated prior to the meeting.

128/24 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

- 1. 16.07.24 – Meet the Regulator – Environment Agency
- 2. 14.08.24 – Village Hall
- 3. 11.09.24 – LCN (C sanders to attend)
- 4. 19.09.24 – Community Forum
- 5. 14.11.24 – Transport Forum

129/24 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

- a) Steart Marshes 10 Year Anniversary Celebration – 12th Sept 12 – 4pm. Formal invitation to follow.
- b) Cyber Insurance – An email was received offering Cyber Insurance. We shall not proceed with this.
- c) Chapel Notice at Cornish Close – Two residents asked if a permanent sign noting the history of the former chapel at Cornish Close could be installed. It was agreed that the clerk will write to the developer.
- d) St Margaret's Hospice – Grant Application – An email and letter was received from the Hospice advising that they had been successful in their bid to the Hinkley Point Community Fund for a grant to fund a community nurse and thanked us for our support.

130/24 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 12th September 2024, 7.00pm at Otterhampton Village Hall. There will be no meeting in August.

The meeting finished at 7.57pm.

Signed:

(Chair)

Date 12 September 2024