

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on

THURSDAY 12th September 2024 at 7.00pm at OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT:

Lindsey Parsons (Chair), Connie Sanders (Vice Chair), Tina Gardener (In the absence of the Clerk T Gardener took the minutes), Steve Parker, Dave Dodge, Mike Haycraft, Cllr Brian Bolt and three members of the public.

112/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Carol Bradbury, Gina Mear and Barry Leathwood.

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 Brian Bolt enquired how the school closed road scheme was working. L Parsons stated that it was working well although the school is short of volunteers to man the scheme. There was also an issue with after-school clubs and whether the scheme should be extended to cover this.
- Highways will not reduce the speed limit by Dame Withycombe Villas, he has requested that road markings be put in place to reduce speed.
- The resurfacing of the A38 between Cannington and Bridgwater is on-going.

2. Public

- A member of the shop committee asked about financing for their expenditure. As they were unable to set up a bank account at present all expenditure would have to go through the parish council. Payments can be made directly by the Parish Council.
- Bob Birkenhead said he would arrange for the finger post at the entrance of the village to be welded back on.

131/24 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 11.07.24

The minutes of the Meeting held on 11.07.24 had the incorrect date for the next meeting and were manually amended. They were then APPROVED and signed by the Chair.

132/24 MATTERS ARISING – NOT COVERED BY A SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM

- a. Estuary Park pavements – Highways have said they are unable to resolve the issues of weeds as the contractor they employed is no longer working for Somerset Council. Cllr Brian Bolt will take this up with Highways.
- b. Defibrillators – The 2 leases for the defibrillators in the phone box in Combwich and Ferrices Farm in Steart have been renewed with South West Ambulance Trust. A replacement defibrillator for the Anchor Inn is still being sourced.

133/24 PLANNING MATTERS:

There were no planning matters to bring to the Council's attention.

134/24 FINANCE:

1. Bank Reconciliation and Budget Statement for June.

The budget statements and bank reconciliations for July and August 2024 were circulated prior to the precept meeting and were agreed. The balance at the end of August was £67,420.75.

2. The following payments were AGREED:

- a) G Mear - £579.60 (Clerk salary July)
- b) Nest - £40.95 (Pension contribution July)
- c) Playsafe Ltd - £132.00 (Annual Play Area Inspection)
- d) G Mear - £56.08 (stationery, travel and sign for the Pill)
- e) Somerset County Council £422.40 (Grass cutting)

- f) SALC £236.21 (Annual Affiliation Fee)
- g) South Western Ambulance Service - £4,560.00 (Defibrillator renewal contract)
- h) H Brooks - £70.00 (Removal of cherry tree)
- i) SALC - £25.00 (Training – responding to planning applications)
- j) SALC - £30.00 (Training – Essential Clerk pt1)
- k) SALC - £40.00 (Training – Cllr Audit training)
- l) COS Garden Club - £50.00 (Flower Club trophy)
- m) R Birkenhead - £109.06 (Expenses for buoy maintenance)
- n) Open Spaces Society - £45.00 (Annual membership)
- o) G Mear - £579.00 (Clerk salary August)
- p) Nest - £40.95 (Pension contribution August)

3. Income Received:

- a) Cannington Parish Council - £1,267.00 (one third of defibrillator renewal contract, excluding VAT)

4. 2023/2024 Audit

The external auditor has completed the audit and there wasn't anything to bring to the Council's attention. The notice of conclusion of audit has been displayed on the notice boards and will put on the website shortly.

135/24 ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- Jeremy Pidgeon, PCSO, will patrol the village when he is on night duty.
- There have been two incidents when the cows have been let out of the field behind Brookside.
- A dog has been observed off its lead in a field full of cows.

136/24 HIGHWAYS (B Bolt)

This was discussed in the public session

137/24 ENHANCED HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE SCHEME and VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Kier, the new contractor for Somerset Council has issued day rates for enhanced routine maintenance services if the Parish/Town Councils wish to have additional maintenance which is not provided by Somerset Council. There are specialist services which may be purchased including gully emptying and surface water drainage jetting.

There is also a training scheme for volunteers if required.

138/24 Wharf Road

The Community Payback team will be available to clear the brambles again this year if required.

139/24 ENHANCEMENTS

Brook Clearance – The Environment Agent is hoping to clear the brook this autumn.

Slipway sign – A new sign has been installed

140/24 SOCIAL MEDIA

D Dodge is keen for the Parish Council to have a bigger presence on social media, to better engage with residents. All councillors supported this initiative.

141/24 MEETING REPORTS

- a) **14.08.24 & 11.09.24 Village Hall** – The meetings have not been well attended and therefore no decisions have been able to be made. The next meeting will be held on 25.09.24.
- b) **11.09.24 – Dowsborough LCN** – T Gardener attended this meeting. SC Cllr M Caswell was elected Vice-chairman. Discussions took place on the lack of progress with the Connecting Devon and Somerset project. M Caswell is setting up a group of interested councils. A presentation was made about the grants available for Health and Well-being projects.
- c) **Stuart** – D Dodge is very keen for the Parish Council to be chemical free and has been researching alternatives to pesticides. Glastonbury have been successfully using hot foam spray. Further research will be carried out. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

142/24 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

- a. Public Rights of Way (PRoW) (B Birkenhead) – Nothing to report.
- b. OPRA (T Gardener) – The AGM will be held on Monday 21.10.24. Future events include the village firework display on Sunday 03.11.24 and the Seniors Christmas dinner on Saturday 07.12.24
- c. Steart – D Dodge is very keen for the Parish Council to be chemical free and has been researching alternatives to pesticides. Glastonbury have been successfully using hot foam spray. Further research will be carried out. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

143/24 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

- 1. 19.09.24 – Community Forum
- 2. 25.09.24 & 14.10.24 – Village Hall
- 3. 28.10.24 Hinkley Point SSG
- 4. 14.11.24 – Transport Forum

144/24 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

- a) Sir Ashley Fox – MP for Bridgwater and Burnham would like to visit all Parish Councils
- b) Ann Shilton, Dowsborough LCN Link Officer would like to visit all Parish Councils.
- c) Jenny Arend – is ready to purchase the memorial bench for the Brownie Copse. Councillors agreed that it would need to be mounted on a concrete base and the bench would need to be made from a composite material. Mike Ingram would be asked to clear the brambles.
- d) Combwich Flower Show - this was a roaring success with 401 entries from 80 people.

130/24 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 10th October 2024, 7.00pm at Otterhampton Village Hall.

The meeting finished at 8.25pm.

Signed:

(Chair)

Date 10th October 2024