

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on

THURSDAY 10th OCTOBER 2024 at 7.00pm at OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT:

Lindsey Parsons (Chair), Connie Sanders (Vice Chair), Gina Mear (Clerk), Tina Gardener, Steve Parker, Mike Haycraft, Dave Dodge, Cllr Brian Bolt and four members of the public.

146/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Carol Bradbury (received after the meeting).

DECLARATION(S) OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS:

C Sanders declared an interest in item 14 in advance of the Garden Club being discussed.

PUBLIC SESSION (INCLUDING SOMERSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

1. Somerset Council members report

- Cllr Brian Bolt advised that within Somerset Council divisions are being changed back to wards. The number of ward councillors will be reduced.
- Roads are being looked after with potholes being fixed quickly.

2. Public

- An issue about the public rights of way leading from Brookside Garages towards the school was raised. The field has been ploughed right up to the hedge and the hedges have been flailed leaving debris over the right of way. Clerk to ask our PRoW representative (B Birkenhead) to have a look.
- It was mentioned that some of the pavements around the village are not accessible for people using a wheelchair/mobility scooter. Cllr Bolt will speak to Highways for advice.
- Speeding traffic, especially along Brookside Road where the pavements are poor, was raised. Clerk to make enquiries about changing the speed limit to 20mph. It was asked if humps could be installed.

147/24 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12.09.24

The minutes of the Meeting held on 12.09.24 were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.

148/24 MATTERS ARISING – NOT COVERED BY A SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM

- a. Community Shop Expenditure – This has now been sorted by the clerk and payments made.

149/24 PLANNING MATTERS:

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

150/24 FINANCE:

1. Bank Reconciliation and Budget Statement for September.

The budget statement and bank reconciliation for September 2024 was circulated prior to the meeting and was agreed. The balance at the end of August was £67,032.33.

2. The following payments were AGREED:

- a) G Mear - £579.60 (Clerk salary - September)
- b) Nest - £40.95 (Pension contribution - September)
- c) Somerset Council - £400.20 (Grass Cutting)
- d) B Leathwood - £244.77 (Otter Tales)
- e) Somerset Council - £324.60 (Grass Cutting)
- f) SALC - £70.00 (Training)
- g) G Perrett - £300.00 (Plunkett Foundation Membership & Conference)

3. Income Received:

- a) None

151/24 ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- a. Fly Parking – there has been an increase in fly parking especially in the layby opposite the shop by the same workers. This has been reported to EDF/SPS on numerous times. There

has also been fly parking during the evenings and weekends. SPS will be asked to step up their patrols.

- b. Brookside Road Traffic – as mentioned in the public session there tends to be quite a lot of cars coming through the village at high speed.

152/24 HIGHWAYS (B Bolt)

This was discussed in the public session.

153/24 BROOKSIDE ROAD FLOODING

The flooding has been minimal. Work has been done by residents to improve the drainage. The Parish Online website shows that the gullies were last cleared three years ago. It is possible that there is a collapsed drain underneath the road between the houses and the junction. Cllr Bolt mentioned that Over Stowey Parish Council had recently contracted a drainage company to put cameras down their drains. Clerk to contact Over Stowey PC for more information. All councillors were in agreement to pursue this and have the drains mapped in Brookside Road.

154/24 WHARF ROAD

It was agreed to ask M Ingram to clear the brambles and foliage along with the brownie copse.

155/24 VEGETATION BORDERING PONDS & ESTUARY PARK

There is still an issue with vegetation/trees overhanging in residents' gardens on Estuary Park. S Parker to confirm which gardens are affected and the clerk to contact Bridgwater Angling Association.

156/24 ENHANCEMENTS

- a. Village Gardener – the clerk went through the list of jobs collated on the village walk with some to go to the Community Payback Team. Clerk to give a list to M Narraway.
- b. Use of Pesticides – D Dodge gave an overview of a heated foam system that can be used on weeds without the need for pesticides. It is safe for both people and animals and is being used by Glastonbury Council. It is a large unit which will need to go on the back of a trailer/flatbed and will need to be stored. D Dodge to research further and obtain costs. A grant could be applied for to purchase the unit with the possibility of hiring it out to other parish councils and schools.

Cllr Bolt left at 8.03pm

157/24 SALC – COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLBEING PROGRAMME

It was suggested to ask village groups if they would like a project supported by the SALC Community Health & Wellbeing Programme. It was suggested that a project to combat antisocial behaviour by youths might be an idea. S Parker to get more information.

158/24 MEETING REPORTS

- a) **25.09.24 & 11.10.24 Village Hall** – N Rowland is the chair for October then she will be stepping down as a trustee. S Barton and P Cashin have also stepped down. L Parsons has been sending out invoices for bookings in May to August. Bookings can now be made online. A list of bookings for the external noticeboard was requested. L Parsons to look into this.
- b) **19.09.24 – Community Forum** – M Haycraft attended. The Pawlett Hams/HPC project is no longer going ahead. There was nothing else of note to report.

159/24 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

- a. Public Rights of Way (PRoW) (B Birkenhead) – No report.
- b. OPRA (T Gardener) – The annual fireworks display will take place on Sunday 3rd November. All councillors agreed for the parish council and OPRA to have a joint display and that T Gardener and C Sanders will represent the parish council. The OPRA AGM is taking place at 7pm on Monday 21st October. The OPRA committee needs to discuss replacing the pavilion on the common.
- c. Steart Ward (D Dodge) – The tower hide has had a revamp and has re-opened to the public.

- d. Social Media (D Dodge) – In order to give a positive social media presence, D Dodge suggested some ideas for the Facebook page as well as setting up a parish council Facebook group as well as the need for a logo.
- e. Community Shop (G Perrett) – Following the initial questionnaire that was sent out by the parish council earlier in the year which gave lots of good information and feedback, another questionnaire was sent out which had a good response and 75 volunteers offering to help with the running of the shop. The steering group has visited five community shops but our situation is more aligned with the shop in Spaxton. The next step is to look at locations. Further down the line a management committee will need to be put in place. Thanks went to the parish council for their support.

160/24 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

- 1. 14.10.24 – Village Hall
- 2. 28.10.24 - Hinkley Point SSG
- 3. 14.11.24 – Transport Forum
- 4. 11.12.24 - LCN

161/24 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

- a) Wharf Road – A couple of emails were received regarding the increase in traffic using Wharf Road due to AILs blocking Haul Road. Both emails had been sent to HPC.
- b) Road Closure – School Lane will be closed on 30th and 31st October to enable National Grid to replace a pole.

162/24 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 14th November 2024, 7.00pm at Otterhampton Village Hall.

The meeting finished at 8.54pm.

Signed:

(Chair)

Date 14th November 2024