

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Otterhampton Village Hall on Thursday 1st April 2010.

PRESENT: Mr. B. Leathwood (Chairman) Mr. M. Brown
 Mrs E. Sidebotham Mr. R. Birkenhead*
 Mr. J. Best Mr. J. Marriott

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllrs. Mr. D. Joslin, Mr. K. Dyer, Mr. P. M. Shaw (Clerk)

113/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr. Mr. J. Edney

114/09 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 4th March were Approved and signed by the Chairman.

115/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Mr.J (Dick) Best and Cllr. Dyer declared a personal interest in Agenda item 4 (b).

116/09 MATTERS ARISING:

- (i) Co-option of Member for Steart Ward.
The Co-option of Mr J (Dick) Best was Proposed by John Marriott, seconded by Liz Sidebotham and AGREED by the Meeting.
- (ii) Steart Peninsular Project.
Paul Gripton opened the discussion by referring to the EDF “Scoping” Documents 4 options. The consultation is on-going with a meeting in Comwich, on 20th April. Paul considered that the Environment Agency should be invited to a future meeting, he was concerned at the pressure for increased Tourism and Development bearing in mind the difficult road access. The Scoping document is being circulated for Members comments.
Dick Best spoke on the feelings of Steart residents who mostly feel that although the proposed works are not welcome they realise that with rising sea levels something has to be done, again a major concern is that of road access, as some of the Options exclude protection to the road.
*7.45pm Bob Birkenhead joined the meeting with Apologies.
The Chairman referred to the recent announcement of Government approval to the Port of Bristol project, what is not known is the timing of their works.
Cllr. Dyer reported that, in his opinion, things are already moving at quite a pace with Land Purchase Options being taken up, initially with a 3 year period followed by a further 2 years. Dick Best was concerned at the timing of events and the worry that serious flooding could occur before the scheme gets under way physically. It is hoped that the existing defences will be maintained and adequate for 5 years.
The liability on the Highway Authority to maintain the road was questioned, at the moment they appear to support continued access.
Dick Best will be preparing the Steart Residents response and will pass it to the Parish Council for observations prior to our response.
Cllr. Dyer suggested that we also consult with Stockland Bristol.

(iii) EDF Hinkley C Development.

The letter from the Infrastructure Planning Commission – IPC was passed to Mervyn Brown, the Clerk is hoping to get a copy of Sedgemoor’s response via Doug Bamsey. It was agreed to send a copy of our response to the Community Council. The Clerk has written to EDF with our comments on the “Save Cannington” proposal.

117/09 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

- (a) Current Balances: Current a/c £1456.70
 Business a/c £5839.60
 Pension Fund £ 800.00
- (b) Accounts for Payment:
- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Purnells | £ 97.87 | Type/Print. Jan/Feb |
| Otterhampton Village Hall | £ 54.00 | Rent – Chat & Chill - Feb |
| Community Council | £ 30.00 | Annual Subscription |
| Peter Shaw | £1756.66 | Clerks Salary/Expenses. Members Agreed to increase Expenses by £10 per half year. £1766.66 now due. |

These accounts were APPROVED for payment.

- (c) Annual Accounts and Audit The Account books closed as at 31st March were tabled and taken for inspection by the Chairman.

118/09 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS/ITEMS FROM LAST MEETING

(a) Highways – Parking at Church Hill

As last meeting.

(b) Tree Works

Mervyn Brown reported that the College intend to remove the Leylandii’s in October. He will ask for advice on replacements.

Cllr. Joslin left the meeting.

(c) Childrens Playground:

Greenslades quotation of £730.00 was considered expensive but it was agreed to Accept the quote of £207.20 for wet pour repair but other works to be done by working party.

Bob Birkenhead had inspected the chains and will action.

The old waste bin enclosure to be removed.

(d) Village Gardening:

Keith Preston now has the “litter picker”. The removal of the brambles in the Copse to be actioned.

(e) Bus Shelter Light:

Paul Gripton will action as soon as he can.

(f) River-side Track:

The Clerk will action in May.

(g) Benches – repair/replacement:

Prices to be confirmed for the purchase of two. Mrs. Ingram to be informed.

(h) Welcome Feature -Approvals:

Approvals still awaited from Sedgemoor DC and Somerset CC.

119/09 CORRESPONDANCE

(A) Requiring Council Decision:

- | | | | | |
|-------|------------------------|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (i) | March | Community Council/SDC | - | Meeting re Hinkley Point. Wed 24 th March – The Clerk attended, concerned about another “body” getting involved with uncertain benefit. |
| (ii) | 9 th March | Sedgemoor DC | - | Approval to Co-opt – see 116/09 (a) |
| (iii) | 10 th March | Sedgemoor DC | - | Joint Funding with Parish Councils – This controversial idea to be closely monitored, response by Clerk to add “not deemed appropriate to small Councils”. |
| (iv) | 15 th March | Sedgemoor DC | - | Forum, Community Groups Meeting - passed to Chairman |
| (v) | 17 th March | Infrastructure Planning Commission | - | Hinkley Point – see 116/09 (c) |
| (vi) | 15/22 March | Greenslades | - | Work at Childrens Playground – Quotation – see 118/09 (c) |

(B) To be Noted

All other correspondence considered by the Chairman and Clerk and is circulating.

(C) Received after Preparation of Agenda

- | | | |
|-------|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (i) | 22 nd March | Mr. J. Napthine accepting as Internal Auditor |
| (ii) | 29 th March | Community Council – Parish Plans |
| (iii) | 29 th March | West Somerset DC – Core Strategy Consultation – passed to Paul Gripton |
| (iv) | 30 th March | Bridgwater Town Council – SLCC Contact changes |
| (v) | 30 th March | Community Council – Hinkley Point Workshop – passed to Mervyn Brown |
| (vi) | 31 st March | Sedgemoor DC – Local Development Framework - passed to Barry Leathwood |

(D) Outgoing

List available at meeting.

120/09 PLANNING MATTERS

The Chairman Declared a Personal Interest in Application No. 39/10/00003.

Application No.

- | | | |
|-------------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 39/10/00001 | - | Advertisement Consent (Welcome Feature) |
| 39/10/00002 | - | Change of use, field to boat parking, Combnich Wharf |
| 39/10/00003 | - | 3 Dwellings, garages and access, 9 Church Hill, Combnich. |
- Mervyn Brown reported on the site visit by the planning group and on the details of the application. They had considered all aspects and in particular the building level implications for neighbours. The group recommended – no objection – This was Accepted, however the use of an out-of-date plan at 21203/3 should be reported to the Planning Officer.

The Report on the Delegation Scheme is awaited.

121/09 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

- (a) Hinkley Liaison: Mervyn Brown reported on the site visit by the Committee on Waste Management joined by Stakeholders but was poorly attended by the public but Mervyn was happy with the meeting.
- (b) Village Hall: The next Meeting is next week. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council can borrow to make a Grant, not a loan. A formal application would be needed.
- (c) Stearr Ward: Dick Best referred to the cost of using Greenslades – Min 118/09 (c) – saying that he was aware of a very competent alternative – he would pass details to the Clerk.
The Clerk reported that the problems of deep puddles at the “unofficial” car park off the road to Stearr had been reported to Stogursey P.C as being in their Parish.
- (d) OPRA: A written report was tabled listing major forthcoming events.
- (e) School: Bob Birkenhead reported that he is getting more involved in School matters. The new classroom is very successful providing a “wrap around” project to support children and parents. A holiday club idea is being looked at. A male teacher has been appointed on a temporary basis to cover maternity leave.

122/09 MATTERS OF REPORT

- (i) Litter Problems/Dog Fouling
No new issues.
- (ii) Parish Cluster Meeting.
Meeting 16th March in Village Hall was poorly attended with, again, some confusion over start time. Thanks passed to Liz Sidebotham for help with tea and biscuits.
- (iii) SALC.
The Chairman and Clerk had attended the meeting on 11th March at Burnham-on-Sea where the main issue was the new Draft Standing Orders which Peter Lacey commented and advised on.
- (iv) Risk Assessment and Audit Matters.
To be reported on with the Annual Audit Return at the Annual Meeting.
- (v) Clerks Contract of Employment.
Signed and filed.
- (vi) Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.
Refer to (iii) above.
- (vii) Freedom of Information Act.
The Clerk reported on contact with other Parishes following the need for a dedicated scheme and hopes to present a draft to the Annual Meeting.

(viii) Newsletter.
Copy to John Marriott.

(ix) Combwich Buoy.
The Clerk reported that he had visited Burnham Marine and saw some clear progress but was given no date for completion.

123/09 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

(i) Parish Emergency Plan.

NEXT MEETING

Annual Assembly – Thursday 13th May at 7.00pm
Annual Parish Meeting – Thursday 13th May at 7.30pm

Signed (Chairman) Date