

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Otterhampton Village Hall on Thursday
15th December 2011

PRESENT: Mr. B Leathwood (Chairman) Mr. J. Marriott Mr Mat Nicklin
Mrs E. Sidebotham Mr. P. Gripton
Mr. J. Best Mr. M. Brown

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors Ms Julie Pay, Mr Mike Caswell, One Parishioner.
Mr P. M. Shaw (Clerk)

75/11 APOLOGIES

Councillor Mr John Edney

76/11 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 3rd November were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman.

77/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All members declared personal interests in Agenda Item 4(i)
Dick Best declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 4(ii)

78/11 MATTERS ARISING

(i) Hinkley Point C Development

Paul Gripton gave a resumé of recent events including the Parish Open Meeting. He said that an information leaflet is to be circulated to all Parishioners as tabled. He emphasised the need to register with the IPC and get as many as possible to do so. Much work will continue after Christmas, prior to the 23rd January (cut-off date for registering). The Chairman will undertake to register the Parish Council.

The Parish Cluster Group is registering and making a submission and has asked Otterhampton Parish Council for the “Bullet Points” of our case which Paul has passed to their secretary. Paul then highlighted the key issues affecting Comwich, in particular the proposals for the lay-down site. He has had meetings with EDF, Mervyn Brown asked why speak to EDF as the application is now with the IPC. Paul said that the need is to talk to as many involved parties as possible to get the best information. He has spoken at length to Somerset County Council on road transport issues to help them help us, also with the Environment Agency on flood risk issues and the confusion over the Sequential Test.

Members thanked Paul for all his efforts and re-confirmed that he is acting with regard to the meetings, discussions etc. for the purpose of reporting to the Council with the full knowledge and formal approval of the Council. The Clerk asked for copies of the notes of informal meetings for inclusion with our formal minutes.

The Chairman considered that a formal special meeting of the Parish Council should be held early in the New Year to discuss our submission to the IPC.

Paul asked that the Working Party look at some of the specific areas of the EDF application, i.e. noise and light pollution from the Wharf works. He suggested that we seek information on the working methods of other, hopefully, similar ports.

Mervyn Brown suggested that we advise people registering to say “yes” to all methods of making representations.

(ii) Stear Peninsular Project

Councillor Caswell referred to the meeting at Stockland Bristol last night which was attended by the Environment Agency and Bristol Port Company when it was discovered that their applications are going separately to both West Somerset District Council and

Sedgemoor District Council. It was also apparent that the EA have changed some key issues which caused some concern at the meeting. It had also been stated that the Bristol Port Company scheme could be delayed to 2013 or beyond. It was expected that the planning applications will be forwarded to us for comment.

Dick Best had no items to raise.

(iii) Road Safety/Traffic Issues

The meeting was informed that a School Sub-Committee is looking into this issue. Parents had been notified by letter of the problems of speeding.

(iv) Parish Plan

There will be an item in the forthcoming Newsletter.

Sedgemoor District Council had requested clarification on some matters.

The Clerk reported that SALC is to arrange an event to discuss planning matters in Parish Plans, which our plan includes.

79/11 FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Current Balances.	Current Account £ 190.86	Business Call £2235.23
	Pension Fund £1101.36	
(b) Accounts for Payment	Keith Preston £200.24	Gardening Sept – Nov
	Greenslades £273.33	Grass cutting – October

The above accounts were APPROVED for payment

- (c) Annual Accounts
- Second instalment of Precept £4000.00 received, less £836.16 for dog bins.
The account books made available for inspection
VAT reclaim submitted. £1231.19
A draft budget was presented to the meeting to assist in setting the precept in January. Members considered the figures, looking for a reduction of £1000 including the sum of £500 for the Clerk's Gratuity Fund. The Clerk reported that Gratuities may be banned under Government Legislation in 2012, but he would enquire with SALC and report to the January meeting.
No new cost items were introduced.

80/11 WARD MEMBERS REPORTS

Councillor Caswell and Julie Pay said that it was a very busy time but that they are always available.

They were thanked for their attendance and help.

Councillor Caswell left the meeting.

81/11 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS/ITEMS FROM LAST MEETING

(i) Children's Playground - Repairs

It was agreed to conduct a survey of condition in the New Year.

(ii) Village Gardening/Tree Work

Damage to the copse was reported. Paul Cobbledick, our tree contractor, will inspect and report also on the date for other work.

- (iii) Newsletter
John Marriott presented his draft with further items to be included, once prepared, the final draft is to be e-mailed to Members.
- (iv) Angling Club Toilets – Problems
The papers to be passed to Mervyn Brown for action with the anticipated Planning Application.
- (v) Housing Needs Survey
An interim response received, only 6 requests.
- (vi) Gardening Volunteers
Back “on course”, with offers of help with repair to Children’s Playground

82/11 CORRESPONDENCE

A. Requiring Council Decision.

- (i) 15 Nov - Sedgemoor District Council - Application for RLT3 monies by Over Stowey Parish Council – No Objection
- (ii) 21 Nov - Somerset County Council - Electoral Review. Phase 2 – No action
- (iii) 28 Nov - Ian Liddell-Granger - Meeting Re Hinkley C - Noted

B. To be Noted: All other correspondence considered by the Chairman and Clerk.

C. Received after Preparation of Agenda.

- (i) 11 Nov - Sedgemoor District Council - Electronic consultation on Planning
- (ii) 11 Nov - Sedgemoor District Council - Delegation on Planning Applications
- (iii) Nov - SALC - *Both of the above to be considered by the Planning Group.* Clerks Training Events – February (new clerks)
- (iv) 28 Nov - Somerset County Council - Electoral Review – final proposals
- (v) 28 Nov - Open Spaces Society - Threat to Green Spaces
- (vi) 30 Nov - Nether Stowey Parish Council - New Roads – Government funding
- (vii) 5 Dec - Somerset Waste Partnership - Severe weather
- (viii) 12 Dec - Somerset County Council - Reduction in subsidies to local bus services.
- (ix) 13 Dec - Somerset County Council - Minerals and Waste Policy Plan
- (x) 13 Dec - Quantock Cluster - Community Infrastructure Levy – SALC Proposals – Agreed

Items (iii) to (ix) were noted

D. Outgoing. List – Available.

83/11 PLANNING MATTERS

Application No

PC/3/32/11/038	Variation of time limit. – Granted
39/11/00002	Infilling 7 ponds, creation of 2 new ponds. Land at Steart. – Comments made
39/11/00003	Closure of 13.4km of ditches. Land at Steart – No comments
39/11/00004	Certificate of lawfulness – use of cottage as separate dwelling. - Cox’s Cottage, Steart
39/11/00005	Enclosure of porch to form living accommodation and formation of canopy to front entrance. 60 Estuary Park.

84/11 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

- (a) Hinkley Liaison – Mervyn Brown had attended a pre-meeting for the next stakeholder meeting, hoping to reduce numbers on the group. Questions had been raised over the use of Hinkley A Turbine Hall.
- (b) Village Hall – Liz Sidebotham reported on current plans. £470 raised, looking at possibly double glazing as mitigation by EDF
- (c) Steart Ward – Nothing to report.
- (d) OPRA – The fireworks and Pensioners Dinner were great successes. Next talk, 19th January – County Museum Officer
- (e) School – It was reported that Bob Birkenhead is no longer a Governor. Minutes of Governors meetings available on written request

85/11 MATTERS OF REPORT

- (i) Parish Cluster Group – The Clerk reported on the meeting on 13th Dec, where the main issues were still Hinkley C, Steart and the A39
- (ii) SALC – The Clerk reported on the meeting on 1st Dec where the County Secretary reported on the Localism Bill and its implications for Parish Councils, particularly on Planning, Finance and Pension/Employment issues.

86/11 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- (i) Budget/Precept
- (ii) Changes to planning arrangements

NEXT MEETING

Thursday 12th January 2012 at 7.30pm

Signed..... Chairman

Date.....