**OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Otterhampton Village Hall on Thursday

5th December 2013 at 7.30pm

**PRESENT:** Mr P. Gripton (Chairman) Mr. M. Brown

Mr B. Leathwood Mrs E. Sidebotham

Mr R. Best Mr T. Jones

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor Ms J. Pay, Mr M. Caswell

Mr Peter M. Shaw (Clerk) 4 Parishioners

79/13 APOLOGIES

Mr. J. Marriott

80/13 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th November 2013 were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman.

81/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All members declared personal interests in Agenda Item 6 (i).

Dick Best declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 6 (ii).

82/13 HOUSING SURVEY

Barry Leathwood reported on the further meeting with Elaine Oliver and that a leaflet will be issued regarding potentially available land. It is hoped that by March 2014 suitable land will be identified. The next stage will be a “sequential test”. The Chairman invited Councillor Caswell to comment, he said that Sedgemoor District Council is supportive.

83/13 PLANNING MATTERS

No new applications.

84/13 MATTERS ARISING

1. Hinkley Point C Development

The Chairman referred to comments made on the EU enquiry into “Subsidy Issues”, also that there had been a request for a judicial review.

The Clerk read out the reply from the Nuclear Decommissioning Agency (NDA) to Stogursey PC – to be copied to members. A question was asked if we are represented on the Hinkley C Forum – answered “yes” concern was expressed as to its powers and democracy.

1. Steart Peninsular Project

Dick Best reported that a date has been set for hand over from the contractors to WWP – Friday 13th December. Further work may be necessary in the Spring. The new footpath and bridleway route should be open as a circular route just before Christmas. New signs are being erected, some repair work at South Clyce, new fencing being installed. Signage problems are likely and conflict between users.

A question was asked about signs to the project “Steart Marsh” to deter traffic through Combwich, it was stated that “Brown Signs” will be erected at both the Combwich and Steart junctions on C182. It is hoped that cattle proof fencing will be in place.

1. Bus Shelter

Repairs to make safe have been completed and a monitoring scheme by the Chairman and Clerk.

A permanent replacement to be looked at when funds available.

85/13 FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Current Balances Current Account £189.55 Business Call £9993.20

Pension Fund £1852.84

1. Accounts for

Payment Otterhampton Village Hall £9.00 Hall rent.

Painsfireworks £698.40 Fireworks

P.M Shaw, Clerk £400.00 Salary Oct/Nov

Purnells £122.28 Typing July/Nov

1. Annual Accounts The Account Books are to be tabled. – *approved by Internal Auditor.*

Draft budget and precept, to be set at January meeting

86/13 WARD MEMBERS REPORTS

Councillor Creswell reported on the Sedgemoor District Council Financial Review, which showed a funding gap, but not insurmountable. Voluntary redundancies will be made over the next two years. Building control is likely to be merged with other District Councils in Somerset. The “Marriage” between West Somerset and Taunton Deane will go ahead, Sedgemoor District Council has offered help. The Eastover and Cattle Market Scheme planning is under way. Sedgemoor District Accounts have been “Signed Off “with compliments by the Auditor. Councillor Caswell thanked the Parish Council and the Chairman thanked both Ward Councillors.

*Councillors Pay and Caswell left the meeting.*

87/13 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS/ITEMS FROM LAST MEETING

1. Children’s Playground Repairs

Repairs RLT3 – John Marriott reported on information available making it clear that it is mainly for purchase and development not repairs or improvements.

1. Cycle Route

Following the presentation at the open session by Gerry Perrett (copy on file). The Chairman said that Parishioners are not aware of what is happening and we need to explain that no decisions have been made. We still await maps from Sedgemoor District Council. The design of the routes was questioned.

It was commented that current commuter cyclists are road users and the proposed “Cross Country” routes will require a change of style and approach. The Chairman said that there are still many issues and we hope to work with the Cycle Group and Sedgemoor District Council.

The Chairman read out a letter from a group of Parishioners requesting a “Strategy” on cycling and road/path using and asking for a car park at the track. The Chairman had replied.

1. Defibrillator Location

Dick Best is constructing a protective cabinet, consultation with Cannington Parish Council has been helpful.

1. Signs

The Chairman and Clerk had met Dave Stokes of EDF to examine the problems, he agreed to get the rocks removed and the Haul Road made accessible. With regards to the Wharf Road he asked for a copy of the original agreement; Clerk to action.

Misuse of the track has reduced, the Clerk is monitoring and “posting” offending vehicles.

1. Combwich Common Issues

Following the letter from the Internal Drainage Board – 27th September – it was agreed to meet and discuss.

1. Internet Usage

It is hoped to install in Village Hall for Parishioners use.

1. Tidal Lagoon – Estuary

The Chairman had received an e-mail from Eva Bishop, Director of Tidal Lagoon Power, to which he had replied (on file) and stated that it was very early days and suggested inviting a representative to a future meeting.

1. Nuclear Waste

Mervyn Brown reported on response to the consultation form the Site Stakeholder Group and referred to the letter from NDA to Stogursey Parish Council. Following our response that we object to any importation of waste to Hinkley; he now considers, following more details such as numbers of lorry loads that a compromise to accept only Oldbury FED would be reasonable. Members debated the issues and agreed some questions remain unanswered by the NDA.

As a response is required by 29th January the Chairman asked for members decision. It was agreed that we should respond that we would accept only Oldbury FED on a vote of 4 to 2.

Mervyn then commented on the National Repository situation/ consultation, where a decision has been deferred as “Volunteer” authorities are being re-considered. Otterhampton Parish Council is unable to respond as we have not been consulted.

88/13 CORRESPONDENCE

1. **Requiring Council Decision**
   1. 16th Oct – Sedgemoor DC – Dog bins – *Further clarification needed*
   2. 13th Nov – Stogursey P.C – Chairman’s letter to Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, and reply.
2. **To be Noted :** All other correspondence considered by the Chairman and Clerk.
3. **Received after Preparation of Agenda.** None
4. **Outgoing List – Available**

89/13 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

1. Hinkley Liaison

Mervyn Brown spoke to his report – *on file.*

1. Village Hall

Liz Sidebotham spoke to her written report – *on file.*

1. Steart Ward

The only item was the theft of security lights at a property, to be reported to the PCSO.

1. OPRA

The fireworks were excellent! OPRA and Barry Leathwood thanked. The Pensioners party is all arranged and oversubscribed.

90/13 MATTERS OF REPORT

(i), (ii), (iii) As last meeting – Minute 77/13

It was agreed to send forms/information to interested persons and copies to members. It was agreed that interviews by all members be held in January 2014.

91/13 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Budget/ Precept
2. Grants
3. “Chair” Group report.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday 2nd January 2014 at 7.30pm

Signed………………………….. Chairman Date…………………………….