

**OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

held on

**THURSDAY 9 JANUARY 2024, 7.00pm at OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT:**

Lindsey Parsons (Chair), Gina Mear (Clerk), Mike Haycraft, Connie Sanders (Vice Chair), Tina Gardener, Carol Bradbury, Cllr Brian Bolt and one member of public.

**1/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Dave Dodge, Cllr Mike Caswell.

**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 WARD COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**1. Ward Councillors Reports**

- Cllr Bolt said that Somerset Council is working out what cuts can and can't be made but nothing has been decided yet. The Government has funds for social care as that is the service using most of the budget. Due to the Christmas break there is nothing else to report.

**2. General**

- Cllr Bolt was asked about the mobile library service. This service is currently on hold.

**2/24 PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES/CO-OPTION**

There have been no applications for the remaining vacancy. T Gardener to try and recruit.

**3/24 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 14.12.23**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14.12.23 were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.

**4/24 MATTERS ARISING – UPDATES FROM THE CLERK**

- a. **Combwich Post Box** – The post box is going to be moved to the corner of Nursery Close and Brookside Road, there is no timeframe for this.
- b. **Play Area Damage** – The hedgehog rocker has been fixed. The cost for two cradle swing seats is £298.38. It was agreed to purchase these.

**5/24 PLANNING MATTERS:**

- a. None.

**6/24 FINANCE:**

1. **Budget Statement for December.** The statement and bank reconciliation were circulated prior to the precept meeting and were agreed.
2. **The following payments were AGREED:**
  - a) G Mear - £591.29 (Clerk Salary, Pension & Expenses)
  - b) Wicksteed - £305.06 (Hedgehog Rocker Spring)
  - c) Purnells - £102.60 (Shop Questionnaire Printing)
  - d) K Preston - £120.00 (Play Area Inspections)
3. **Income Received.** None.
4. **Precept** – A meeting was held on 04/01/24 to discuss the precept and we considered the forecast for 2023/24, the projected revenue reserve and budget requirements for 2024/25. We determined we had sufficient funds to not have to raise the precept. T Gardener proposed to keep the precept at £26,000, M Haycraft seconded. All agreed.

**7/24 COMBWICH POST OFFICE & STORE**

The questionnaires are ready to go out with the next edition of Otter Tales at the end of next week. C Bradbury is putting together a spreadsheet to collate the answers. Following analysis of the results a public meeting will be called.

**8/24 ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

There have been no reported incidents.

**9/24 STEART WARD**

D Dodge circulated a report prior to the meeting.

**10/24 HIGHWAYS (CLLR B BOLT)**

Highways have a list of jobs which will be dealt with is the response from Somerset Council. There is conflicting information about obtaining sandbags from Clean Surrounds which Cllr Caswell is looking into.

**11/24 FLOODING – BROOKSIDE ROAD**

There hasn't been anymore major flooding since the last meeting. All agreed to purchase a petrol pump. Clerk to source details for T Gardener. Clerk to contact L Hackling regarding drains on Brookside Road.

**12/24 WHARF ROAD**

M Haycraft and the clerk met with D Mosedale and it was agreed to clear some of the areas on the north side of the road. Await details on when this will be done from D Mosedale.

**13/24 ENHANCEMENTS:**

1. Brownie Copse – There is still brash that needs to be cleared.
2. Trees – M Haycraft is going to research trees for planting at Crossways and on the common, between the play area and track.
3. Common Track – There are two sections of the track where the potholes need repairing; from the road to the farmhouse and at the far end of the common. This will be put out to tender.

**14/24 ACTION LIST**

1. Emergency Plan – A copy of the emergency plan was handed out to all councillors. When it is finalised, it was suggested that a booklet format be delivered to all parishioners. Clerk to check with S Walker at EDF regarding an up-to-date H.A.R.O.L.D. booklet.

Cllr Bolt left at 7.50pm

**15/24 MEETING REPORTS:**

1. **08.01.24 – Somerset Rivers Authority – Strategy & Flood Action plan (C Sanders)** – Slides from the meeting were circulated to all prior to the meeting.
2. **10.01.24 – Village Hall (L Parsons)** – Someone is coming to do the snagging and the cladding on the ramp has been fixed. The leak in the bowls room/skittle alley is going to be worked on in February. The manufacturers are going to be contacted regarding the faulty switch for the door.

**16/24 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES**

1. **Public Rights of Way (B Birkenhead)** B Birkenhead advised that there was nothing to report.
2. **OPRA (T Gardener)** The Easter events are next on the calendar. The walks will be starting again soon.

**17/24 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:**

1. 14.02.24 – Village Hall
2. 18.01.24 – Community Forum
3. 26.01.24 – SSG
4. 31.01.24 – LCN (Dowsborough)

**18/24 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION**

- a. **Road Closure – Church Hill** – The road will be closed for one day on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January to enable Open Reach to carry out works.

**19/24 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 7.00pm at Otterhampton Village Hall.

The meeting finished at 8.20pm

Signed:

(Chair)

Date 8 FEBRUARY 2024