

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on

THURSDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2024, 7.00pm at OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT:

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

20/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr Mike Caswell, Mr B Leathwood.

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 advised of the possible cuts to services that would be made by Somerset Council, there are still redundancies to be made. Positive news in that the park and rides in Taunton are re-opening with a new contractor. Improvements at the Cross Rifles roundabout in Bridgwater will be having less spent on them. Work on the Dunball roundabout is still going ahead.

2. General

- None.

21/24 PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES/CO-OPTION

There has been no interest in the vacancy.

22/24 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 11.01.24

The minutes of the meeting held on 11.01.24 were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.

23/24 MATTERS ARISING – UPDATES FROM THE CLERK

- a. **Stear Defibrillator** – The defibrillator from the Anchor is now in place at Ferrices Farm with thanks to S Darch and D Dodge for assisting with this.
- b. **Play Area Repairs** – The two damaged cradle seats have been replaced with new ones. Many thanks to M Haycraft for doing this.

24/24 PLANNING MATTERS:

- a. None.

25/24 FINANCE:

1. **Bank Reconciliation and Budget Statement for January.** The statement and bank reconciliation were circulated prior to the precept meeting and were agreed.
2. **The following payments were AGREED:**
 - a) G Mear - £582.75 (Clerk Salary, Pension & Expenses)
 - b) B Leathwood - £232.53 (Otter Tales Printing)
 - c) Wicksteed Ltd - £358.06 (Swing Cradle Seats)
 - d) Cockwood Fabrications Ltd - £58.75 (Metal Plate for Steart Defibrillator)
3. **Income Received:**
 - a) National Grid - £3.90 (Wayleave)
 - b) OPRA - £100.00 (Barn Rent)

26/24 COMBWICH POST OFFICE & STORE

88 questionnaires have been entered on the spreadsheet so far with approximately a quarter of surveys returned. There is a lot of interest for Postal Services. When all of the questionnaires have been entered on to the spreadsheet, a meeting will need to be held to discuss the way forward.

27/24 ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Fly parking is becoming an issue again on Brookside Road. It was agreed to email S Walker and N Hale about the issue especially regarding cars from within the village that are parking at the entrance to Combwich.

28/24 STEART WARD

D Dodge circulated a report prior to the meeting.

29/24 HIGHWAYS (CLLR B BOLT)

There is little going on the A39 at the moment but Cllrs Bolt and Caswell are fighting to get the potholes filled on the Brymore roundabout.

30/24 FLOODING – BROOKSIDE ROAD

The pump has been ordered but the hose is out of stock. A flood grant is available to help households recover from Storm Henk (2 – 12th January).

31/24 WHARF ROAD

D Mosedale is currently unable to access the machine required for clearing areas of Wharf Road so is unable to help with this project at the moment. The Community Payback team will be asked to help with Wharf Road though they don't have access to a shredder. We could possibly hire a shredder or see if someone can be contracted to remove the brash left behind.

Cllr Bolt left at 8.15pm

32/24 ENHANCEMENTS:

1. Brownie Copse – There is still brash that needs to be cleared as well as a broken tree.
2. Trees – Suggestions for new trees include a medlar for the common near the adult exercise equipment, approximate cost is £65. A copper beech for near the bus shelter, £200. A sweet chestnut for next to the Brownie copse, £200. There was a unanimous vote to purchase all three.
3. Common Track – The clerk and Cllr Haycraft met with two contractors to discuss repairing the potholes from Ship Lane to just past the farmhouse. At the time of the meeting, we were still waiting for the second quote. D Dodge proposed accepting the quote that fulfils our requirements and comes within the budget amount. C Sanders seconded. There was a unanimous vote for the proposal.

33/24 ACTION LIST

1. Emergency Plan – Clerk to find out the name of the village agent. The plan will be published on the Combwich website.

34/24 MEETING REPORTS:

1. **18.01.24 – Community Forum** – The report is yet to be released regarding the serious accident involving the bus last year. There is a video of the dome lift. There will be an increase of staff to over 10,000. Nuclear waste will be held on site in dry storage. There have been problems with the acoustic fish deterrent and HPC is proposing to turn Pawlett Hams into wetlands/salt marsh.
2. **26.01.24 – SSG (R Perrett)** – A station has changed its name from Magnox to Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS). In 2026 B station will go over to NRS. The defueling of B station will conclude next year.
3. **31.01.24 – LCN (T Gardener & C Sanders)** – There was a recap of the financial situation with a full meeting of the council taking place on 20th February. A Highways Steward will be employed by Kier at a cost of £50,000 p.a. The AGM is taking place in May with Cllr Caswell standing down as chair.

35/24 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

1. **Public Rights of Way (B Birkenhead)** None.
2. **OPRA (T Gardener)** Nothing new to report.

36/24 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

1. 14.02.24 – Village Hall
2. 14.03.24 – Transport Forum

37/24 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION

- a. Bin Services** – An email was received advising that there would be an increase in the cost of bin services from Somerset Council. All agreed to the increase.
- b. Data Sharing** – An email was received from Nether Stowey Parish Council proposing to send a letter to Somerset Council regarding the need for data to be shared in order that parishes can make informed decisions with regards to the adoption of services and asking if we will be a co-signatory. It was decided at this time that we wouldn't be a co-signatory.
- c. Training** – M Haycraft will be doing the SALC training on trees and planning.

38/24 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:

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

The meeting finished at 9.03pm

Signed:

(Chair)

Date 14 MARCH 2024