

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on

THURSDAY 13th JUNE 2024 at 7.00pm at OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT:

Lindsey Parsons (Chair), Connie Sanders (Vice Chair), Gina Mear (Clerk), Tina Gardener, Mike Haycraft, Steve Parker, Carol Bradbury(late), Dave Dodge (late), Cllr Brian Bolt and three members of the public.

95/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

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 SOMERSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

1. Somerset Council members report

- Financial woes at Somerset Council are ongoing.
- The Fix My Street website is working well with contractor, Kier and they are receptive of new projects.
- Unsure about whether the issue with the jetting the drains contract has been resolved.
- It was suggested that we obtain quotes for jetting and go back to Somerset Council.

General

- It has been found that when using Fix My Street to report issues that work has been completed within three days.
- It was queried if the drains on Church Hill are adequate to cope with the new builds. This would have been considered during the planning stages.
- Pedestrians crossing the C182 from the Dame Withycombe houses is still dangerous especially for those who have issues with walking. What can be done to make this stretch of road safer?
- Some fingerposts need refurbishment. Clerk to investigate grants available from Hinkley B.

96/24 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 09.05.24

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 09.05.24 were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.

97/24 MATTERS ARISING – NOT COVERED BY A SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM

- a. The clerk advised that the potholes on the common track are due to be fixed next Wednesday and Thursday (19th and 20th June).

98/24 PLANNING MATTERS:

- a. 39/24/00007/FHY Erection of double garage. 6 Church Hill, Combwich. The previous application was supported by the parish council and it was agreed to support this application.
- b. 39/24/00005//STP The construction of an earth bank slurry store (100m x 45m) and associated landscaping. Manor Farm, Church Lane, Otterhampton. It was agreed to arrange a site visit and ask for the deadline to be extended to 12th July.

99/24 FINANCE:

1. Bank Reconciliation and Budget Statement for May.

The statement and bank reconciliation were circulated prior to the precept meeting and were agreed. The balance at the end of May was £81,241.15.

2. The following payments were AGREED:

- a) G Mear - £579.60 (Clerk Salary)
- b) G Mear - £12.57 (Stationery)
- c) T Gardener - £55.00 (Expenses)
- d) NEST - £40.95 (Pension contribution)

3. Income Received:

- a) None

4. 2024/25 Budget

The new budget was circulated prior to the meeting and it was agreed by all. The clerk will look at the grass cutting contract in case expenditure needs to be adjusted.

5. 2023/2024 Audit

The notice of public rights was posted on the website and noticeboard on 1st June.

100/24 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS – FOR APPROVAL

1. To be moved to the next agenda.

101/24 ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- a) Fly Parking – The clerk was pleased to report a marked improvement with no cars reported on some days and one or two on others. S Walker of EDF will be attending the next meeting to talk about how this was achieved.
- b) Attempted Break-in – There was an attempted break-in to a van on Brookside Road one night but the perpetrators were disturbed so nothing was taken. Clerk to ask if the Hinkley Point police can patrol at night time.

102/24 HIGHWAYS (B Bolt)

- a. School Lane – Traffic Regulation Order – this is now in place with traffic restricted between 8.25-8.55am and 2.55-3.25pm during school term time only. This has meant that there have been a lot of cars parked on Brookside Road.
- b. Following the discussion in the public session about pedestrians crossing at Dame Withycombe Cottages, Cllr Bolt will investigate if a speed reduction can be put in. It may also be worth putting in speed sensors for this area. Clerk to ask the village gardener to keep foliage down in this area to help with visibility.

103/24 WHARF ROAD

Turf has been laid on a section of Wharf Road on the northern side and some plants have been planted. It was agreed that prior approval from the parish council should have been obtained and to write to the person involved.

B Bolt left at 7.45pm.

104/24 LOGO – SCHOOL COMPETITION

The clerk suggested opening a competition for children at Otterhampton Primary School to design a logo for the parish council. It was agreed to purchase a £20 book token for a prize.

105/24 BOATS IN THE PILL

Due to the risk of pollution from abandoned boats it was agreed to contact the Harbour Master for advice. It was mentioned that a new landing stage has been built near to the boat club and it was asked if permission was given for this.

106/24 ENHANCEMENTS

- a. Trees at Crossways, School Lane and opposite the shop – Four to five cherry trees at Crossways are not looking healthy so it was agreed to ask H Brooks to have a look with a view to removing them and then replanting. Trees around the turning circle at the top of School Lane are requiring some attention but it is not clear whose responsibility they are. L Parsons to ask the headteacher at the school. Opposite the shop there appears to be a fallen branch and the trees need pruning but again it is unclear as to whose responsibility they are as they are on Highway's land.
- b. Village Gardener – Due to the nature of jobs on the list for the gardener, the clerk will need to check if he holds the appropriate certificates. The railings on the wall by the harbour are the responsibility of the Environment Agency so the clerk will need to check if we have permission paint them. Clerk to organise the replacement of the post in the harbour carpark to hold a life ring.
- c. Steart Noticeboard – needs to be replaced. Clerk to organise.

107/24 MEETING REPORTS as applicable

- a) **07.05.24 – HPA & HPB Sites Visit** – M Gardener attended on behalf of the parish council. T Gardener to circulate the report.

- b) **09.05.24 – Archaeological Discoveries at Hinkley Point C** – No-one attended.
- c) **Flooding & Community Emergency Planning Meeting** – T Gardener attended and found it very useful. We were advised to have two emergency plans in place. Our current plan as it is and a second plan that details what to do in certain situations. T Gardener to send information from the meeting to S Juniper who had expressed an interest in helping with our emergency plans. T Gardener will also circulate the information to councillors.
- d) **05.06.24 – Community Shop** – C Bradbury reported that the steering group had met with organisers from another area who had set up a community shop. A plan needs to be put in place, this will be circulated to councillors.
- e) **12.06.24 – Village Hall** – S Lang is staying on as chair for another month. The basic first aid course arranged for 1st June was cancelled but has been rescheduled for 22nd June. The outside light is being replaced with a solar light. The wall at the end of the skittle alley is becoming damaged so the trustees are looking at putting in some coconut matting. They will be purchasing a trophy for the flower show. There will be a Somerset Decarbonisation presentation as Otterhampton was the first village hall to be renovated under this new scheme.
- f) **12.06.24 – LCN AGM** - C Sanders reported on the first AGM for the LCN. The purpose of which is to be the focus for community development, engagement and partnership working at a local level, improving the outcomes for residents through establishing strong connections between Somerset Council, our communities, and partners. The chair reported that Somerset Council's financial emergency has dominated discussions at several early meetings. In February 2024 a Highways Working Group was formed. Some parish councils have chosen not to embrace this which includes ourselves. At the inaugural meeting it was decided to focus on specific issues for the next 12 months. The new chair is Simon Stretton of Spaxton PC. There were no nominees for vice-chair which will hopefully be decided at the next meeting.

108/24 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

- a. Public Rights of Way (PRoW) (B Birkenhead) – Currently doing maintenance. There is a kissing gate with a loose post. B Birkenhead to clarify where this is.
- b. OPRA (T Gardener) – The annual cricket match took place on 1st June and due to the weather, it was touch and go as to whether the pitch would be fit for purpose. £645.15 was raised for the Brain Tumour Charity.
- c. Steart Ward (D Dodge) – A Darch has received threats from an activist group threatening to release his chickens. Police to be called if there is any suspicious activity.

109/24 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

1. 10.07.24 – Village Hall
2. 28.06.24 – SSG – Postponed
3. 11.07.24 – Transport Forum

110/24 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

- a) Play Area Inspection – Taking place in June.
- b) On Your Bike – Community Cycling Project – It was decided to see if there is any interest for a workshop in Combwich by putting information in Otter Tales, on Facebook and on the website. L Parsons is going to mention it the school at their next meeting.
- c) Chair's Award – Somerset Council – All agreed on a nominee.
- d) Hinkley Point – Meet the Regulators – decide on questions – All councillors to have a think of questions that be put forward for this meeting.
- e) Lloyds Bank - FSCS Cover – A letter was received from Lloyds stating that the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) won't protect the money in the business accounts should Lloyds ever go out of business. Enquiries made by other clerks around the country (Community Clerks Network on Facebook) found that parish councils are covered and to ignore the letter.
- f) Prescription Collections/Deliveries – A letter was received asking if collections and deliveries could be reinstated as there are residents in Combwich who are unable to collect their prescriptions from Cannington Health Centre. Clerk to speak to the surgery about putting in an official process and to check with Combwich shop about how this was done beforehand.

111/24 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 12th September 2024, 7.00pm at Otterhampton Village Hall. There will be no meeting in August.

The meeting finished at 8.53pm.

Signed:

(Chair)

Date 11 July 2024