

Otterford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 8 August 2017 at 19.30 hrs.

Present: OPC Councillors Mike Canham(Chairman), Rosie Viant (Vice Chairman), Steve Campbell, and Phil Wright, Cllrs John Thorne (SCC) and Ross Henley (TDBC) and the Clerk.

Item	Detail	Action
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Community Time

None

Reports from other organisations

SCC John Thorne reported:

- had received a copy of the RAC research about speeding and speed limits and would share a summary of its findings when he had read it
- attended the Fingerposts course as an observer
- recently visited the Hinckley C site – a huge project benefitting the local economy
- Gigaclear had not confirmed the rollout plan in July as promised
- Was now a member of the Audit Committee
- new consultation about public libraries online
- SCC were offering a free NHS healthcheck service to people between 40 and 74 on an outreach basis. He would send the Clerk details
- a proposal to close the Park and Ride services in Taunton on Saturdays(except around Christmas or big events)
- he would be attending the small scheme improvement training for councillors in September
- SCC had set up a database centrally of suppliers and costs for defibrillators

TDBC Councillor Henley reported:

- Had had a meeting with Blackdown Practice Manager about proposed reduction in opening hours on Friday pms at Churchinford; there were no future plans for cuts as long as the pharmacy was retained. She would be attending Churchstanton's PC meeting this week.
- TDBC still awaiting news of merger with West Somerset. Very few meetings and limited agendas at present
- Supported OPC's views on speeding and fingerposts although these were no longer part of his remit

Avon & Somerset Constabulary – not present

1. Apologies

Cllr Field

2. Declarations of Interest

1. Cllr MC is a member of the Otterford Parish Hall Committee

2. Cllrs MC and RV are Trustees of the Otterford Charity

There were no further Declarations of Interest in agenda items that accord with any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (s31 & 33 of the Localism Act 2011).

3. Meeting of 11 July

- 3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed.
- 3.2 Matters Arising:
- 3.2.1 Parish Hall - MC had been in contact with adjacent landowners.
- 3.2.2 Fingerposts – SCC's Fingerposts Workshop had focused almost exclusively on health and safety, and not on fingerposts. It had also become clear that restrictions on volunteers working in situ to repair fingerposts – ie this could only take place outside settlements if the post was more than 1.2m from the roadside – would prevent volunteers working on any of Otterford's fingerposts. Thus only 2 parishioners had attended; the other two cancelled. . Skanska (SCC's contractors) had provided quotes for restoration of all fingerposts (excluding any removal and rebuilding). Two other quotes were being sought. **MC**
- 3.2.3 Parish Website – Cllr Campbell reported that he had tried to contact the hosts of the old website by various means but so far without success. According to the terms and conditions, the Council should write to them to remove the website. MC agreed to do this and would send by recorded delivery. If this did not work, SC would contact Nominet to remove the site. SC and the Clerk to agree a mutually convenient time to be trained to manage the new site. **MC, SC, Clerk**
- 3.2.4 First Aid refresher courses – the Clerk was still trying to find an acceptable date for Mrs Scott to be re-trained. Clerk to recover 1st Aid box from Mr Cottrell, who was no longer certificated. **Clerk**
- 3.2.5 Bridleway – MC had not heard from Peter Hoblely at SCC about the meeting but would chase him. **MC/CF / PW**
- 3.2.6 BHPN – the Clerk had invited Dr Bass (BHPN Co-Ordinator) to the September meeting but had not had a reply. **Clerk**
- 4. Planning**
- 4.1 New applications - 29/17/0019, Erection of two storey extension to front and internal alterations to Royston Cottage, Churchinford – no comment. **Clerk**
 29/17/0018, Conversion of outbuilding to annex at Royston Cottage, Churchinford. Ask that there be a restriction placed on this to prevent it becoming a permanent dwelling. **Clerk**
 29/17/0016, Erection of an agricultural livestock building at Feltham Park Farm, Corfe. Object and restate concerns at planning creep on this site. **Clerk**
- 4.2 Applications granted – none
- 4.3 Applications withdrawn/refused – none
- 5. Other Matters -**
- 5.1 Review of Parish Council Policies and Documents – these were reviewed and updated and would be put on the new website as soon as possible. **Clerk**
- 5.2 Closure of BOI deposit accounts – The Clerk advised that the BOI was closing all its GB business accounts in September. The BOI accounts (a deposit a/c and a rent deposit a/c) only earned about £3 per month and, at least in the

- short term, the money could be transferred into the Santander Business account. This was agreed. The Clerk would look into other banking possibilities and report back in September. **Clerk**
- 5.3 Clerk – workplace pension. The Council were now required by law to offer all its employees a workplace pension, unless the employee earned less than a specified amount and did not want to enrol in a pension scheme. The Clerk's salary met the criteria for exclusion from the scheme and she did not want a pension scheme. No further action required.
- 5.4 Re-instatement of TDBC Play Area Scheme – TDBC were offering grants of up to £1000 for capital spends. The deadline for applications was December 31. All to consider if the play area needed anything new or replaced and also ask Linda Smith, as OPF Warden, for her views. **All**
 A complaint had been received about the strong spring of the lower gate to the fields. This to be checked during the half-yearly inspection (RV and MC) which will be carried out in August. **MC/RV**
 The Clerk advised that the annual play area safety inspection was being carried out this week – report is awaited. **Clerk**
- 5.6 Changes to surgery hours at Churchinford – this had been discussed by email and it was felt that it was not a problem for the majority of parishioners.
- 5.7 Request from Hall Committee – the Clerk advised on this, and it was agreed to offer a £25 contribution to hall funds, with the Horse Race evening 'supported by the Parish Council'. **Clerk**
- 6. Correspondence** – correspondence was noted.
- 7. Financial matters**
- 7.1 Monthly financial summary – noted.
- 7.2 Payment of invoices – agreed.
- 8. AOB**
- 8.1 Land Sales in Bishopswood – noted that both plots were presently outside the village curtilage.
- 8.2 It was noted that Gigaclear were believed to be about to survey Bishopswood to scope interest in faster Broadband.
- 8.3 Parish Handyman to be asked to tidy up vegetation around road signs and salt bins and trim the triangle of grass near the playing field regularly. **Clerk**
- 8.4 Road Salt - Cllr Wright advised he had plenty of stocks of salt for the winter. MC had bought some scoops for the salt bins – Parish Handyman will be asked to place in each bin. **Clerk**
- 9. Date of next meeting:** 7.30pm, Tuesday 12 September 2017