

Otterford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 11 September 2018 at 19.30 hrs.

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

Item	Detail	Action
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Community Time

None

Reports from other organisations

SCC Cllr John Thorne reported on the following:

- Budget – verbal update on scrutiny committee meeting of 11 Sept which discussed additional savings measures for this and the next financial years. Cabinet were meeting on 12 Sept to take the necessary decisions. One of the proposed cuts will stop road salting through Bishopswood and on all roads to Churchinford, and to stop the supply of road salt for bins (Cllr Canham has written to the Leader of SCC to urge that these proposals be rejected on safety grounds). Hedge cutting will in future only take place on request and even then only if it is dangerous.
- Park and Ride – TDBC has agreed to fund the Park and Ride service until September 2019. There is no guarantee what will happen after that date. The average number of passenger journeys per month is nearly 28,500.
- Live road improvement information can now be found on a new webpage www.travelsomerset.co.uk/structural-maintenance. Precise dates and timings of work are added to the live map as they are finalised. Surface dressing and grass cutting programmes were added the site recently. It also features live travel information 24/7 and details of all planned roadworks.
- Dragon Patcher – This was trialled successfully in Somerset last autumn. It is due to arrive back in Somerset this month. It is a machine which does road repairs and fills potholes up to five times faster than a traditional carriageway patching gang and can be controlled by one operator. It can also be used to treat sections of road with cracks or minor deterioration to prevent pothole formation. The machine will operate until early November, leave during the colder months, and return again at the end of February/beginning of March.
- Plastic roads – Cumbria has experimented with repairing roads using recycled plastics and while the technology is still very much in its early stages, the trial looks encouraging. Somerset started looking at this option for road maintenance in January and currently we are developing the option in more detail with Skanska and their supply chain and hope to start our own trial shortly.
- Flu jabs – Details of vaccination centres will soon be available.
- Dementia care – day care provision will change from February next year when the county will stop funding block-booking of day centre places and instead will fund personalised community-based services, as requested via a survey this summer. Fewer people wish to attend day centres, and therefore SCC will instead help to develop the community provider market. More information will be available at drop-in sessions: Taunton Library on 21 September, 11-4 pm and in Wellington Library, 17 September, 9-1 pm.

TDBC Cllr Ross Henley - had conducted his own survey of Park and Ride use. He thought that the two car parks hold about 1000 cars on weekdays and these cars will in future be displaced into the town centre car parks with associated traffic congestion. He was concerned about the economic impact on Taunton and on people who work in Taunton if the service was withdrawn. He also reported that TDBC appeared to be in limbo pending amalgamation with West Somerset Council; the full Council had not met for some months and the next meeting was not until October.

Avon & Somerset Constabulary – not present.

1. Apologies

Cllrs Campbell and Field (both on holiday).

2. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Cllrs Canham and Viant 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 14 August

3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed.

3.2 Matters Arising:

3.2.1 Otterford Playing Field – Clerk to check progress on remaining work (which needed to be done before winter set in) with the Parish Handyman (SS). The Council reviewed its decision from August to move the picnic tables to the top field as these would be a hazard to children playing. Also parents prefer to be close to small children on the play equipment and it was better to place the benches there. Separately, it was agreed to purchase a more robust litter bin. Clerk to ask the Parish Handymen to cost setting the legs of the benches, and the waste bin, in concrete, so that they could not be moved.

Clerk

The Clerk had not had a reply to her request to Alvian to carry out the necessary work to the castle play equipment; she would check he had received it.

Clerk

Clerk

3.2.2 Bridleway — Peter Hobley (SCC) had sent details of the design work but this did not have costings. Clerk to ask him for a ball park figure so the Council could discuss in detail at the next meeting.

Clerk

4. Planning

4.1 New applications -
29/18/0017, Conversion of loft and erection of gable chimney at 1 Woodcroft Meadows, Bishopswood. The Council wished to be assured that the same stone would be used on the gable chimney and the design would comply with the AONB house design guide.
29/18/0011, Installation of underground Calor Gas tanks to serve housing development at Church Barton, Otterford Road, Culmhead. The Council had no comment on this application.

4.2 Applications granted - none

4.3 Applications refused – none

4.4 Applications withdrawn: 29/18/0015 Erection of single storey extension to the front and detached double garage at Woodend Farm, Whatley Rd, Bishopswood.

5. Other Matters –

5.1 World War 1 Centenary – Commemoration Weekend & Booklet.
Cllr Canham summarised how plans stood for the Commemoration Weekend – the Barn Dance fully organised, Commemorative Mugs and poppy seeds had arrived, planning for the concert is well advanced, raffle being finalised (please buy tickets from mid-October), and players still needed for the walking football match. The 'Otterford Remembered' Booklet would be going to the designer within the next week.

MC

5.2 Otterford 'Summer Fete'
Cllr Canham presented the Duck Fayre & Races 2018 out-turn report, including finances. The meeting there should be a break from the Duck Fayre in 2019, but consideration of an alternative was deferred until more Councillors were present.

5.3 Whatley Road. The work (being done by SCC) should be going ahead during the following week. Hopefully this would not be affected by the SCC cuts.

5.4 Holman Clavel – Tree(s) in Paddock. The Council considered a note from Cllr Viant's son (a tree surgeon) on the trees. Generally it is not considered that the big tree needed attention, but thought wise to get this and the other trees in the row looked at by an arborealist so that there was a written report confirming the Council had checked them for safety purposes. It was agreed to get all four trees inspected. Cllr Viant would obtain a list of local arborealists from her son, who was formally thanked for his help. Clerk to check the Holman Clavel Insurance to ensure current cover wording is correct.

RV

Clerk

- 5.5 Fingerpost project – Cllr Canham circulated an update report. Twelve of the fifteen fingerposts in the parish are now fully restored: weather permitting another two will be completed by volunteers by the end of September. Two replacement arms (purchase agreed last month) are about to be ordered. Cllr Wright had spoken to his contact about the Corfe Hill fingerpost and would arrange for him to see it. If repair is possible this will save a considerable sum.
Cllr Viant was keen that the fingerpost team received some recognition for their work; ideas were discussed and this would be finalised at the next meeting.
- PW**
B/F to
October
- 6. Correspondence**
None.
- 7. Financial matters**
- 7.1 Deposit accounts – the Clerk had not yet had time to set up the second account but would do so at the first opportunity.
- Clerk**
- 7.2 Monthly financial summary – noted.
- 7.3 Payment of invoices – agreed.
- 8. AOB**
Cllr Canham advised that the Council now had its own logo for use on letterheads etc (agreed several months ago, purchased for £14.50 in half price promotion).
Cllr Canham advised that pressure of other matters – principally planning and preparation for the World War 1 Commemoration – meant the half-term review of the Parish Plan would slip into early 2019.
- 9. Date of next meeting:** 7.30pm, Tuesday 9 October 2018 in the Wright Room, Otterford Parish Hall.