

Otterford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 12 March 2019 at 19.30 hrs.

Present: OPC Councillors Mike Canham(Chairman), Steve Campbell, Charlie Field, and Phil Wright; SCC Councillor John Thorne, the Clerk and two parishioners.

Item	Detail	Action
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Community Time

Reports from other organisations:

Report from Cllr John Thorne:

- SCC Budget 2019-20 – it has been calculated that there will be roughly £3.75m more available than originally thought. Many of the proposed £2m frontline services cuts will be able to be reversed, including cuts to gully clearing and jetting, verge cutting, flood water management, dementia support in care homes, and support to help vulnerable people into work. Also, £200,000 is being used to fund the outcomes of a full review of winter gritting in readiness for next winter - potentially reversing the £120,000 saving approved last September.
- Climate change emergency – SCC has agreed to declare a climate change emergency in Somerset and has allocated £25,000 towards the cost of looking at what it can do to reduce its carbon footprint and reduce its impact on climate change. It was a cross-party initiative driven by an activist group calling itself Extinction Rebellion and which is trying to push this through every council in the land.
- M5 Junction 25 – Cllr Thorne attended the official launch of the development by contractors Alun Griffiths (Contractors) Ltd. There is a drop-in session for anybody interested in Ruishton Village Hall next Thursday 14th March from 3 pm to 8 pm.
- Broadband – The promised update on CDS/Gigaclear did not appear on the scrutiny committee agenda.
- Adults with learning difficulties – A monthly peer support group, run by People First Dorset who run similar sessions in Yeovil, is being started this month in Taunton Library. The first meeting is on 15th March. The group offers an opportunity to make new friends, access support and information, gain new skills and confidence, and practice independent living skills. More info is available from People First Dorset by emailing office@peoplefirstdorset.org.uk.
- Children's services – A snap inspection by Ofsted has found an improving service with confident staff making good decisions. Previously, it had been a failing service and county has put millions of £s into it to attract new staff and improve it.
- A358 Community liaison forum – The first session was held last week. Cllr Thorne had been unable to attend but had been sent a note of the meeting.

- Stay strong stay steady– SCC is working with Age UK Somerset to support important research on how to provide services to reduce risk of falls and to run *Stay Strong Stay Steady* classes which help to build and maintain physical strength, balance, and confidence in movement, invaluable in helping people live independently as they age. More information is at <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/somerset/our-services/ageing-well-exercise-sessions/stay-strong-stay-steady>.

- **Home first** – This is successfully reducing delayed transfers of care, as they are known - patients going home from hospital – and in December achieved the best results of any West Country local authority.

- **Chairman’s award** – Nominations are now open for the annual Chairman’s Awards for Service to the Community. Deadline is Tuesday 7th May, and the awards ceremony is Thursday 4th July. See: www.somerset.gov.uk/chairawards and more info is available from Carol James by emailing CDJames@somerset.gov.uk.

Cllr Ross Henley was not present.

Avon & Somerset Constabulary – not present.

1. Apologies

Cllr Viant (away from home)

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 12 February

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

3.2 Matters Arising:

3.2.1 Bridleway – the drawings and documents the PC need were received from SCC on the day of the meeting. The Council could now go ahead to issue an ITT, and agreed three quotes would be sought. It was confirmed that Cllrs Field and Canham would lead this project. Returned tenders would be considered after the May elections.

MC/CF

3.2.2 Salting and gritting roads – the Council was still waiting to hear back from SCC on filling salt bins (promised after another change of policy in early December), why Cllr Wright (now on the approved SCC/Skanska list) was not asked to clear the roads after heavy snowfall in early February, and why the road through Bishopswood cannot be added back in to the gritting run now. The Parish Council statement agreed last month was published in CBO News, but not used by either the Somerset County Gazette or the Chard 7 Ilminster News. The copy sent to Rebecca Pow MP remains unanswered (and unacknowledged).

Clerk

- 3.2.4 Fly tipping in the Goyle – the Clerk had not heard back from TDBC about enforcement action against the company for fly tipping; to be chased. **Clerk**
- 3.2.5 Corfe Hill fingerpost – Cllr Wright had arranged, during the next week, to take the post to his contact who might be able to repair it. He would get a price for the work. **PW**
- 4. Planning**
- 4.1 New Applications: 29/19/0004, Erection of a single storey extension to the rear of Neates House, Bishopswood. The Council had no comment on this application.
- 4.2 Applications granted/refused/withdrawn - none
- 5. Other Matters –**
- 5.1 Risk Assessments – the (annual) assessment of risks faced by the Council was reviewed and agreed. The Council also reviewed and agreed all necessary Risk Assessments for events and activities organised.
- 5.2 Parish Plan – Mid Term Review. Cllr Canham circulated a report summarising responses received, and recommendations on how these should be dealt with. These were discussed and his recommendations agreed. It was also agreed that the Parish Plan Action Plan will be discontinued. Rather, reflecting the Council's ability only to request and influence other statutory authorities for remaining actions, a position statement will be produced. **MC**
- 5.3 Trees at Holman Clavel – two of the three companies invited to tender had done so. It was agreed to offer the work to Silva Tree Surgeons (subject to checking their insurance cover). **Clerk**
- 5.4 Local elections 2019 - the Clerk circulated nomination papers to councillors. Completed forms had to be submitted by 3 April. **All**
- 5.5 Otterford Playing Fields – Cllrs Campbell and Viant will carry out the next six-monthly inspection, reporting back to the April Council meeting. **RV/SC**
- 5.6 Dogs – there had been an increase in fouling in the village. A reminder to dog owners to clear up after their dogs had been sent to all households. It was agreed to purchase some biodegradable paint spray to highlight discovered dog waste; and to check Dog Fouling notices to ensure they were still in place. **Clerk
MC**

- 5.7 Footpaths – it was agreed that footpath signs and stiles around the parish will be surveyed (probably by the fingerposting team). After that the Parish Council will consider whether it can afford to fund any repairs/replacements. It was also agreed that, in the continuing absence of any volunteers, the Parish Handyman Service will be asked to check the paths and clear vegetation.
The Milepost (restoration/renewal) Project would probably have to wait until 2020 because of a change to Lottery Funding rules. No grant application can be sent until late May, and might take 10-12 weeks to be decided. Thus it was likely that work could not be started before late August. **Clerk**
- 5.8 Assets of Community Value – letters had been sent to Trustees of the Otterford Charity and Bishopswood Chapel. A meeting between councillors and the owners of the Candlelight Inn had yet to be arranged. **All**
- 6. Correspondence**
Noted. No action required.
- 7. Financial matters**
- 7.1 Monthly financial summary – noted. The Clerk circulated an outline projected income/ expenditure paper for 2019-2020.
- 7.2 Payment of invoices – agreed.
- 8. Any Other Business**
- 8.1 The Council noted with sadness the death of former Parish Councillor, and in 2018 a very active member of the fingerposting team, Mike Haydon. A condolences card had been sent to Mrs Haydon.
- The Council agreed to send its best wishes for a speedy recovery to Mrs Tucker, who was in hospital. **Clerk**
- St Leonard's Church Grass Cutting / Grant 2018/19
A paper summarising the calculation for the Grant to the Church was circulated and payment agreed. **Clerk**
- Fingerpost at the top of Blagdon Hill
SCC had advised they would not right this. It had been previously agreed that, if this was the decision, Councillors would do the work. The Clerk would co-ordinate to find a suitable date.
It was agreed to purchase bags of Postcrete for the work. **Clerk
SC/MC/
CF/PW
MC**
- The next Litter Pick would be on Saturday 16 March, meeting at the hall at 9.30.
The 2019 Big Breakfast is on 23 March.
- 9. Date & Time of next meeting:**
7.30pm, Tuesday 9 April 2019 in the Wright Room, Otterford Parish Hall. **All**