

Otterford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 11 April 2017 at 19.30 hrs.

Present: OPC Councillors Mike Canham(Chairman), Charlie Field, Steve Campbell, Phil Wright, the Clerk and one parishioner.

Item	Detail	Action
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Community Time

A parishioner expressed a preference for an 'approaching 30mph' sign rather than a 40mph buffer zone in Bishopswood. On the A358 improvements, he suggested the Council state that it does not wish to see a link road at Taunton to the B3170 (see below).

Reports from other organisations

SCC/TDBC Councillor Henley – not present

Avon & Somerset Constabulary – not present

1. Apologies

None

2. Declarations of Interest

1. Cllr CF, MC members of the Otterford Parish Hall Committee

2. Cllr MC Trustee 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 March

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

3.2 Matters Arising:

3.2.1 Speeding Traffic in Bishopswood – awaiting feedback from Jo Sharp (SCC Highways) following SID tests for the proposed buffer zones. The SID machine at the pub had been faulty and the tests would be re-scheduled.

3.2.2 Flooding prevention - Whatley Lane – work now to start in June. Order to be placed for Parish Handyman to rod two pipe lengths in Bishopswood. **Clerk**

3.2.3 Otterford Playing Fields –
Removal of brash – Cllrs Canham and Wright had moved the brash.
[post meeting note: Cllr Wright has also rolled the fields.]

- 3.2.4 Parish Hall – update on communication with adjacent landowner. No further news. **MC**
- 3.2.5 Fingerposts – Cllr Canham had met Dave Grabham (SCC Highways) to discuss. The next step was to complete a survey questionnaire about the state of each fingerpost and send them to SCC. Several parishioners had offered to help with this. DG had said that Skanska could quote for any work required; this would be useful as a cost baseline. MC would keep Linda Bennett of the AONB informed. **MC**
- 3.2.6 Duck Fayre – Race tickets were issued to Councillors. Hatch Green Coaches had kindly offered a minibus to run a shuttle from the village to the Mill; Tony Beaumont had kindly offered to drive it. Still looking for sponsors for two races; one or two suggestions for this and for donation of raffle prizes were made. It was agreed to give a donation from any proceeds to St Margaret's Hospice. More volunteers were needed on the day. Further update next month. **MC**
- 3.2.7 Parish website – Cllr Campbell had met with the provider of Churchstanton's website. It could cost around £200 to obtain the Council's previous domain name and would take time. In the meantime the new site could be up and running in 3 weeks. Some new photos of parish landmarks and events were needed. There were a couple of young, enthusiastic photographers in the parish and they would be asked to contribute. It was agreed to go ahead. The price was £500 to set up, then a £60 pa management fee. Two people would need to be trained to do the day-to-day site management once the site was up and running. The Council could later consider featuring adverts on the site. **SC**
- 3.2.8 Culmhead crossroads – Clerk had protested about the refusal to install a 'Stop' sign on the grounds discussed at the last meeting but had not had a reply. **B/F to June**
- 3.2.9 Bridleway – update on plans for restoration. Rob Coate had replied to Cllr Henley's email and it was agreed to consider further action at the June meeting after the local elections. **B/F to June**
- 3.2.10 First Aid refresher courses – the Clerk had not had any responses to the offer of refresher course apart from the 3 certificated first aiders in the village. She would go ahead and book the course. **Clerk**
- 3.2.11 Village Green Lease – the Lease had been let to the previous tenant. **Clerk**
- 3.2.12 Piper alarm – Funding of this had now ended.

4. Planning

- 4.1 New applications - none

4.2 Applications granted – Feltham Park Farm 29/16/0023.

4.3 Applications withdrawn/refused – none

5. Other Matters

5.1 Capital and Revenue works programme/Parish Action Plan – six monthly review. Progress was noted.

5.2 A 358 upgrade – Highways England consultation. Cllr Canham reported on the consultation held at Taunton Racecourse and circulated some leaflets. The Council agreed to support the proposal (in line with existing Council policy to object to dualling the A303 across the Blackdown Hills), but with the proviso that the junction joining the new road to the M5 should never have a link road to the B3170 (not proposed at present). A big map showing the proposed route would be displayed at the Annual Parish Meeting next month.

Clerk

6. Correspondence – correspondence was noted.

Clerk

7. Financial matters

7.1 Monthly financial summary – the March/April financial outturn was discussed and payments agreed. The accounts were nearly ready for sending to the internal auditor. A VAT reclaim for the last two years would be submitted shortly.

Clerk

7.2 Payment of invoices – agreed.

8. AOB

- Gigaclear had been in Churchstanton measuring up. They were tentatively planning to install in (most of) Otterford by 2019. This remains subject to final confirmation. **MC**
- Agreed to purchase two more leaflet holders for the hall entrance lobby at c£17 each. This was agreed. **Clerk**
- Priorities for 2017/18 for inclusion in the Annual Report were approved.
- Cllr Viant (Chairman of the Personnel Sub-Committee) advised on the Sub-Committee's completion of the Clerk's annual assessment, and recommendation of payment of a salary increment. This was agreed (Cllr Canham & Clerk absent for this discussion and decision). **Clerk**

9. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 9 May 2017 following the APM and Annual Parish Council meetings.