

Otterford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 9 July 2019 at 19.30 hrs.

Present: OPC Councillors Mike Canham (Chairman), Charlie Field, Lucy Montgomery and Phil Wright, SCC Councillor John Thorne, one parishioner and the Clerk.

Item	Detail	Action
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Community Time

Mr Godsmark reported on the conservation area in the playing field: he had updated the information on the noticeboard. He asked that the summer cut in the upper field should not take place before the end of July.

Reports from other organisations:

SCC Cllr Thorne reported the following:

- Finances – £4.2m of the £6m underspend from last year has been used to increase general reserves to just over £1.6m. There remains a 'significant level of uncertainty' about this year's budget due to a reliance on one-off grants, increasing demand, and the unknown outcomes from the ongoing Government reviews of local government funding.
- Members Improving Lives Grant Scheme' – Councillors can submit bids between September 1 and November 30. A maximum of four bids can be submitted by each councillor. Cllr Thorne would shortly issue a briefing paper with more details.
- Improving Lives to Prevent Demand Fund – This fund is £850,000, and SCC officers will bid for the grants. Bids that are accepted will then have to be worked up into a full business case. Bids have to specifically show how the project will help to reduce future demand on council services. Again, he will circulate a briefing paper on this.
- Broadband –CDS has given Gigaclear to end of July to produce plans which are acceptable to it and to the Government, but it's probable that CDS won't be able to approve any plans until the outcome of the Government's funding review in the autumn, when they will find out if the public subsidy will be extended until the end of the period Gigaclear is asking for, which is 2023.
- A358 – The preferred route has been announced. In summary this will connect to the M5 via J25 (recent work there will accommodate this), there will be a by-pass for Henlade, a junction to connect the A378, and it should stick as close as possible to the existing carriageway. There will be a statutory consultation later in the process of approving the route and the community forums will continue to operate with the next meeting in two or three weeks' time. Work will start in the second Road Investment Strategy period of 2020-25.
- Mental Health Training – Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is a two-day introductory course, aimed at people who want to feel more confident, competent, and comfortable in dealing with mental health problems. The next course is running on Fridays August 9 and 16. To apply, email PublicHealthTraining@somerset.gov.uk by July 15.

- Foster Carers – SCC has recently launched a new scheme to encourage people to consider fostering. Anyone submitting a recommendation that leads to approval of new foster parents will receive a £150 'thank you' payment. SCC will also put £100 into a fund that can pay for or subsidise activities for children. To find out more, call our fostering team on 0800 587 9900.
- Surface dressing programme – This year's programme has started, covering 140 miles of road at 138 different locations. The work is weather dependent. People can check which roads are included, provisional dates and find out more about surface dressing at www.travelsomerset.co.uk/surface-dressing

SWATDC Cllr Henley – not present

1. Apologies

Cllr Campbell (away)

2. Declarations of Interest

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

2. *Cllr Canham is a 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 11 June

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

3.2 Matters Arising:

3.2.1 Salt bins – Clerk to arrange a date and time with Cllr Field for the broken bin by the hall to be emptied and the salt transferred to the new bin. Other Cllrs to be advised. **Clerk/CF**

3.2.2 Corfe Hill crossroads fingerpost - still awaiting repair by Cllr Wright's contact. **PW**

3.2.3 Playing fields – the Clerk had placed a work order with the Parish Handyman (SS) for the work identified at the inspection.

[post meeting note: this work had now been completed and invoice received and paid]

Parish Handyman (PH) had treated and re-painted the goalposts.

3.2.4 First Aid training – this course was oversubscribed. It would take place on 31 October. **Clerk**

3.2.5 Waterhayes Lane – Cllr Wright still to dig out gullies and speak to the landowners about ditches. **PW**

3.2.6 Printed planning applications – Clerk to discuss with Cllr Henley. **Clerk**

- 3.2.7 ACVs – Cllrs Canham and Campbell still to meet with Candlelight owners. **Clerk
MC/SC**
- 4. Planning**
- 4.1 New application: 20/19/0007, Construction of first floor over garage to be used as ancillary accommodation at Westfield, Royston Road, Bishopswood. The Council had no comment on this application.
- 4.2 Refused, withdrawn or granted applications: none
- 5. Other Matters –**
- 5.1 999 Phone. Mr Strickland, Treasurer of the Parish Hall Committee, attended for this item. He had submitted a written report prior to the meeting. The Council agreed to purchase and install an emergency phone outside the hall for public use. (The Hall Committee will pay the cost of the ongoing line rental). **Clerk**
- 5.2 Improving road safety in Otterford – in the light of several accidents recently at the Culmhead and Corfe Hill crossroads, it was agreed to collect fuller details of incidents prior to lobbying SCC again. (The Council is requesting SCC to replace Give Way signs with Stop signs at the crossroads, and reduce speed limits there and along the Holman Clavel Road). **Clerk/
MC**
- 5.3 Re-Tender Works to Re-Instate the Bishopswood Bridleway – the Council agreed to re-tender the works; the deadline of 29 July for tenders. **Clerk/
MC/CF**
- 5.4 Relocation of dog waste bin at Bishopswood Meadows - it was agreed to move the dog bin to a separate post as it was damaging the footpath post. Parish Handyman to action. **Clerk**
- 5.5 Fingerposts & Footpath Posts Project – The Council considered and noted an updated report on progress with the posts: to date 6 of the 30 posts had been restored or replaced. SCC had provided ten new posts for those which needed replacing, and were also going to provide some new circular waymark signs for gates, posts etc.
- 5.6 V E Day 2020 – Following a number of requests, initial consideration was given as to whether it would be appropriate to hold a commemorative event for this anniversary in May 2020. Agreed to consider and discuss in more detail in August. **All
B/F to
August**

6. Correspondence

Letters of thanks from the three 2019/20 grant recipients, including an offer from the BSG to attend an OPC meeting to talk about their work and an offer to Councillors to visit the Hospice – no action.

Consultation from Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service about closure of some fire stations (not listed) – no action.

Request from BHPN for a representative to join the Blackdown AONB Management Group – Cllr Canham nominated. **Clerk**

Highways England's A358 route decision was noted. This decision removes the Council's concern about additional traffic using the B3170, and additional heavy vehicles flouting the weight restrictions on Corfe Hill, so no further action is necessary.

7. Financial matters

7.1 Monthly financial summary – noted.

7.2 The 1st Quarter financial review was also noted.

7.3 Payment of invoices – agreed.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 There was no other business.

9. Date & Time of next meeting:

Tuesday 13 August at 7.30pm, in the Wright Room, Otterford Parish Hall.