

Otterford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 10 January 2023 at 1930 hrs in the Wright Room, Otterford Parish Hall

Present: OPC Councillors Mike Canham (Chairman), Charlie Field (Vice Chairman), John Marsden, SWATDC Cllr Ross Henley, 2 parishioners, 1 visitor and the Clerk.

Item	Detail	Action
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Community Time

Mr Godsmark attended in his role as a Director of the Otterhead Estate Trust. He reported that they had acquired some grant funding (£46k) to repair the lower footpath which runs from the upper to the lower lake and replace the wooden bridges. The work would start in February and the paths would be closed for 2 months. The Trust is looking for some more Directors.

Cllr Wakefield had submitted a written report, circulated before the meeting. Cllr Henley (attending) further reported that the proposed geographical split of the LCNs had now been published and Otterford would be in an LCN area to known as Chard and the Blackdowns. It would comprise all the Somerset Blackdowns villages, including Corfe and Pitminster. Each Parish/Town Council would be given 1 place and would have a vote. Other members of the LCN would include the relevant Somerset Councillors, and representatives of health care, fire and rescue, police and education services. The first meeting would take place in June.

Reports from other organisations

None.

1. Apologies

Councillors MacLeod and Montgomery (indisposed).

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Canham is a member of the Otterford Parish Hall Committee and an OPC-nominated(nominative)Trustee of the Otterford Charity.

Cllr Canham represents OPC at the BHPN and is a member of the Steering Group and a representative on the Blackdown Hills AONB Management Group.

3. Meeting of 13 December

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

3.2 Matters arising

None not already on the agenda.

4. **Planning**

4.1 Planning Matters

4.2 New Applications: Proposed upgrade to existing radio base station installation at CTIL 12081329 Taunton, Culmhead radio site, Taunton, Somerset, TA3 7ED. No comment.

29/22/0007 Application for Outline Planning with all matters reserved, except for access, appearance, layout and scale, for the conversion of barn into 1 No. dwelling at Littlefields Farm, Bodleys Lane, Bishopswood. No comment.

29/22/0009 Change of use of annexe to holiday let and/or an annexe at Otterhead House, Whatley Road, Churchinford (retrospective). As this was a retrospective application, no comment.

29/22/0010/CR Prior approval for proposed change of use of an agricultural building to a flexible use (Class C1, hotel purposes) at Rull Farm, Whatley Road, Otterford. The applicants attended for this item and outlined their plans. The Council had no comment.

29/22/0008 agricultural building at Woodend Farm – had been withdrawn.

4.3 There were no granted or refused applications.

5. **Other matters**

5.1 Projects/activities/events – update.

An updated list was circulated and noted. The Wednesday volunteers would be replacing the signpost pole between Bishopswood and Buckland St Mary, re-siting the broken(now repaired) fingerpost pole at the Corfe Hill crossroads and installing a replacement milepost later in the week.

5.2 Climate & The Environment Project- Update on Project Action Plan

An updated list was circulated and noted.

5.3 Otterford Playing Fields

- Grass cutting 2023-2025, options. There had been no bids for this contract, including from the present contractor. It was agreed to remove the requirement to take away the grass in the lower field from the ITT as this was problematic and re-issue the ITT as a 'cut and mulch' order.
- Tree – no quote had been received from Luke Spencer, despite chasing. Another tree surgeon suggested by Cllr Field would be coming to inspect the site this week.

**Clerk/
LM**

**Clerk/
LM**

- Play equipment – grant application to be submitted shortly. It is hoped that new equipment will be installed in March. In the meantime the Parish Handyman would install some drainage around the 'castle' equipment to deal with soggy ground.
- The mole traps would be removed from the upper field next weekend

Clerk

6. Correspondence

The Clerk had had a letter from SWAT confirming OPC would receive its annual cemetery/playing field/footpaths grant of £485 in the next financial year 2023/24, but that it was unclear at present whether this would continue under the new Somerset Council in 2024/25.

7. Financial matters

7.1 Third Quarter Financial Review
Report noted.

7.2 Monthly Financial summary – December.
Noted.

8. Other business.

The Parish Website has now been taken off-line as work on the upgrade continues.

9. The next meeting of the Council will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 14 February 2022, in the Wright Room, Otterford Parish Hall.

Penny Hart, Parish Clerk, January 2023