

Otterford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 14 March 2023 at 1930 hrs in the Wright Room, Otterford Parish Hall

Present: OPC Councillors Mike Canham (Chairman), Charlie Field (Vice Chairman), John Marsden, Simon MacLeod and Lucy Montgomery, SWATDC Cllr Ross Henley, SCC Cllr Sarah Wakefield and the Clerk.

Item	Detail	Action
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Community Time

Cllr Wakefield advised that Council Tax Bills would be arriving shortly – she would be happy to try to explain these to parishioners. She mentioned the local transport plan and asked if there was a demand for buses in the parish – Cllr Canham replied that he thought probably not, but the BHPN were investigating the need for an Uber bus in the AONB. Both Cllrs Henley and Wakefield would be on the planning committee of the new Somerset Council. Cllr Henley reported that the new Council were still waiting for news of the Public Health grant for the next FY.

Reports from other organisations

1. Apologies

None.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Canham and Montgomery are OPC-nominated(nominative)Trustees of the Otterford Charity. Cllr Canham is Chairman of Otterford Parish Hall Committee. He represents OPC at the BHPN and is also a member of the Steering Group and a representative on the Blackdown Hills AONB Management Group.

3. Meeting of 14 February

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

3.2 Matters arising

A letter had been sent to Mrs Grabham about her proposal to continue the CBO, explaining that the Council cannot agree to support her proposal.

4. Planning

4.1 Planning Matters

4.2 New, refused, granted or withdrawn Applications: none.

The Council had agreed, by email subsequent to the last meeting, to object to planning application 23/00059/FUL in Buckland St Mary parish. This was confirmed at the meeting.

5. Other matters

5.1 Projects/activities/events – update.

An updated list was circulated and noted. The Wednesday volunteers had met recently and listed proposals for what they might work on this year. These were agreed and it was agreed to earmark £300 to allow draw-down of minor expenditure as the projects progressed.

Coronation celebrations – a financial spreadsheet of costings was circulated and agreed, with one amendment (to reduce the street party sandwiches to 100 rounds).

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

The BHPN is very hopeful that its application to purchase a thermal camera will be approved shortly. This will be for loan to AONB parish councils. A volunteer in each parish will need to be trained to use the camera and produce reports for residents.

An updated list was circulated and noted. A compost bin had been sold to a Buckland resident for £10.

5.3 Otterford Playing Fields

- Grass cutting 2023-2025. No quote had yet been received – the Clerk had chased and it had been promised for tomorrow. The quote would have to be considered by email subsequent to the meeting as the first cut was due in April.
- Tree – the work had been completed.
- Play equipment – the grant application had been successful. The Parish Handyman was waiting for better weather and would then install the drainage.
- Wayleave agreement - Miss Campbell had not replied to the Council's most recent email and it appears that we may lose access to the field over the Campbell's land once the Lease expires at the end of the month. To be discussed by email if this changes. Notices to be fixed to the gates if not.

Clerk

Clerk

5.4 Council Risk Assessment – annual review

This was noted and agreed.

6. Correspondence

The Clerk had received a quote from SWAT for dog refuse bin emptying in the next FY. This was agreed. Clerk to sign agreement and return to SWAT.

Clerk

7. Financial matters

7.1 Monthly Financial summary – February.
Noted.

8. Other business.

The Parish Website was online temporarily for comments before being finalised.

The Council agreed to submit a new s106 grant application for Outdoor Recreation to improve access to a footpath in the parish.

The Wednesday volunteers will also look into water quality monitoring on the Yarty. Cllr MacLeod advised that the Environment Agency check the Yarty behind the Candlelight each month.

9. The next meeting of the Council will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 11 April 2022, in the Wright Room, Otterford Parish Hall.

Penny Hart, Parish Clerk, March 2023