

Otterford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 11 July 2023 at 1930 hrs in Otterford Parish Hall

Present: OPC Councillors Mike Canham (Chairman), Charlie Field (Vice Chairman), John Marsden, one parishioner and the Clerk.

Item	Detail	Action
	<u>Community Time</u> Cllr Wakefield had submitted a written report. Cllr Henley was away. Mr Godsmark reported on further improvements at Otterhead Lakes and developments with the hydropower scheme.	
	<u>Reports from other organisations</u> None.	
1.	<u>Apologies</u> Cllr Montgomery (away).	
2.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> Cllr Canham is an OPC-nominated (nominative) Trustee 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.	<u>Meeting of 6 June</u>	
3.1	The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed.	
3.2	<u>Matters arising</u> 8.1 The Clerk had yet to produce a job description for the role of tree warden, or inform Somerset Council of the change. 8.2 Cllr Field had yet to check on the dead tree's status.	Clerk CF
4.	<u>Planning</u>	
4.1	New application: 29/23/0005/AGN , Application for prior notification for the erection of an agricultural storage building on land at Yalham Farm, Otterford Road, Otterford. The Council had no comment on this application.	
4.2	Granted applications: 29/23/0003, Change of use of land from agricultural to residential curtilage at 3 Church Barton, Otterford Road, Culmhead (retention of works already undertaken).	

- 4.3 Refused/withdrawn applications: none

5. Other matters

5.1 Projects/activities/events – update.

An updated list was circulated and noted. The Council was pleased to note that Somerset Council Highways has agreed to install an additional drain and associated pipework in Whatley Road.

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

An updated list was circulated and noted.

Thermal camera – as there were still no parish volunteers to co-ordinate it is unlikely that parishioners would be able to benefit from this in the coming winter.

5.3 Otterford Playing Fields

The Council noted that some additional minor works to the new French drains were needed. These had been agreed and will be undertaken by the main contractor whilst on site.

The work on the new large climbing frame was nearly finished, with just the swings to do. There is a water leak at the entrance to the field which has made access difficult, so the contractor has put down some scalplings. Wessex Water are due to carry out some work there next week and hopefully this will resolve matters.

5.4 Community Funded 20mph Speed Limit

It was noted that a 20mph speed limit in Bishopswood is an outstanding Parish Plan action, and residents continue to raise the matter. It was agreed that the cost - £15k - seemed excessive. The Council would express an interest in the scheme but ask for a detailed breakdown of the costs proposed. It was agreed the Council could not justify spending that amount. It was separately agreed to look into the costs of installing two 'smiley face' speed indicator devices (SIDs), photovoltaic vs electric.

Clerk

Clerk

6. Correspondence

None.

7. Financial matters

7.1 Monthly Financial summary – June.
Noted.

7.2 Deposit Bond

The Cambridge and Counties 5-year Bond would mature on 17 July. It was agreed to reinvest the full balance to a one-year

bond as interest rates being offered were reasonable and also transfer the balance from the Council's 95 day Nationwide account to the new C&C account. Clerk

8. Other business.

Cllr Field apologised as he would be missing the September and October meetings.

The alpaca farm planning application in Buckland St Mary parish had been amended but with no material changes. The Council agreed to re-state its original objection. Clerk

LCNs – the 1st meeting would be on 17 July. Cllr Canham would attend on this occasion and raise highways matters and broadband. MC

Noted with disappointment Wessex Water and Somerset Council's decision to again use Whatley Road as the official diversion when Royston Road is closed at the top of Bishopswood during the week of 17th July. The Clerk has already contacted both to try to get this changed. The Council agreed to brief both Division Councillors. Clerk

9. The next meeting of the Council will take place on Tuesday 8 August, in the Wright Room, Otterford Parish Hall.

Penny Hart, Parish Clerk, July 2023