

Otterford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 8 August 2023 at 1930 hrs in Otterford Parish Hall

Present: OPC Councillors Mike Canham (Chairman), Charlie Field (Vice Chairman), John Marsden, Lucy Montgomery, SC Councillor Ross Henley, one parishioner and the Clerk.

Item	Detail	Action
	<u>Community Time</u> Cllr Wakefield had submitted a written report. Cllr Henley fed back on the first LCN meeeting (see below). 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> None.	
2.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> 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.	<u>Meeting of 11 July</u> 3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed. 3.2 <u>Matters arising</u> The Clerk had given Mr Hill a job description for the role of tree warden, and he was considering it. The dead tree at Upper Whatley was not listed and could be felled.	
4.	<u>Planning</u> 4.1 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. SC had not objected to this application. 4.2 New, granted or refused applications: None	
5.	<u>Other matters</u>	

- 5.1 Projects/activities/events – update.
An updated list was circulated and noted.

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

An updated list was circulated and noted.

Thermal camera – the training on use of the camera was being arranged presently. It seemed unlikely that Otterford would be able to participate this year because no volunteers have come forward.

- 5.3 Otterford Playing Fields

Work in the fields installing the new equipment was complete but needed sign-off from a safety inspector. This was being arranged by the contractor. It was agreed to hold an Open Session for those involved in bringing the project to its conclusion, and including the weekly inspection volunteers.

Clerk

- 5.4 Speed limit in Bishopswood

5.4.1 Community Funded 20mph Speed Limit

More details on the scheme had now been provided by Somerset Council and it seemed that the £15k was a baseline figure and the costs would be less – about £5k - for a smaller parish. On this basis, the Council agreed to committing to the £500 scoping fee.

Clerk

5.4.2 Smiley face signs – quotes being obtained.

- 5.5 Chard and Blackdown LCN

Cllr Henley reported that the first meeting had been very positive. Councillor Keith Reid from West Hatch had been elected Chairman, with Councillor Sarah Wakefield as Vice Chairman. The next meeting would be in October. Cllr Field had attended for OPC. He said there seemed to be too much focus on the A358 proposals and was concerned that meetings might be hi-jacked by issues affecting some parishes, rather than on more general matters affecting all. All communications regarding LCN matters should be routed via the Clerk since attendees might be different for each meeting.

6. Correspondence

The Clerk had had an email from Buckland St Mary's Clerk, asking for a meeting to discuss a possible replacement for the CBO News. Clerk to liaise with councillors (2 if possible) to come up with some possible dates. Also to ask if PCCs and Churchstanton PC were invited.

Clerk

7. Financial matters

- 7.1 First Quarter Financial Review

Noted.

- 7.2 Monthly Financial summary – July.
Noted.

8. Other business.

Buckland St Mary PC had now objected to the alpaca farm planning application following a parish meeting.

Cllrs Canham and Field had attended an incident at the bridleway where someone had driven their car up the bridleway and then had to reverse down it as unable to get through the bollards at the top. It was agreed to place a further bollard just beyond the last field gate to stop this happening again. There did not appear to be any damage to the path.

- 9. The next meeting of the Council will take place on Tuesday 12 September, in the Wright Room, Otterford Parish Hall.**

Penny Hart, Parish Clerk, August 2023