

Otterford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 12th September 2023 at 1930 hrs in Otterford Parish Hall

Present: OPC Councillors Mike Canham (Chairman), Lucy Montgomery and Sim MacLeod; and the Clerk.

Item	Detail	Action
	<u>Community Time</u> No one present. Cllr Wakefield had submitted a written report: there were no comments or questions relating to this.	
	<u>Reports from other organisations</u> None.	
1.	<u>Apologies</u> Councillors Field and Marsden (both on holiday).	
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 8th August 2023</u>	
3.1	The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed.	
3.2	<u>Matters arising</u> (5.3) The Open Session at the Playing Fields had been held. (5.4) The application and the £500 deposit for the Community Funded 20mph Speed Limit scheme has been submitted to SC. (6) It had not been possible to find a date convenient for all those due to attend the 'CBO2' meeting – ongoing. (8) Additional posts have been ordered for the bridleway. The Parish Handyman will install.	Clerk
4.	<u>Planning</u>	
4.1	New, granted or refused applications: None	
5.	<u>Other matters</u>	
5.1	<u>Projects/activities/events</u> – update.	

An updated list was circulated. Noted the 'New Play Equipment' Project had been completed. Other Projects noted.

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

The update was noted.

Councillor MacLeod had been nominated as the lead on this (as he leads on 'Climate'); and a camera volunteer has now come forward. Contact details reported back to the BHPN; details of training awaited from them.

5.3 Otterford Playing Fields

Installation of the new equipment is now completed. Noted that Alvian will shortly be undertaking the annual statutory safety inspection (of the 'old' equipment and will double-check the new. The Wednesday Volunteers will complete a number of tidying-up jobs around the Fields before winter sets in.

5.4 Traffic Speeds in Bishopswood

The Council considered and reaffirmed earlier decisions regarding traffic speeds in Bishopswood.

+ That the existing Bishopswood Village controlled zone be reduced from 30mph to 20mph. (this dates from 2014)

+ That the existing Bishopswood Village controlled zone be extended to Westfield in the north and to the other side of the bridge at the bottom of Bishopswood in the south – either at the same speed as the controlled zone, or as a buffer zone. (this dates from 2015)

+ That flashing or smiley face speed limit signs be installed in the village (this dates from earlier in 2023)

These will continue to be raised with Somerset Council, initially when following up the Community Funded 20mph application.

5.5 Chard and Blackdown LCN

Noted the next meeting will be held on Monday 23rd October, venue and time not yet known. Agreed Councillor Montgomery will attend.

LM

5.6 Otterford Charity

Noted that Councillor Montgomery's term of office expired this month. She is content to continue: Charity to be notified.

Clerk

6. Correspondence

None

7. Financial matters

7.1 Monthly Financial summary – August.

Noted.

8. Other business.

The postcards and emails about 'broadband vouchers' from Openreach are causing much confusion. Councillor Canham advised that he continues to believe Bishopswood residents are not eligible because there is an existing government-funded contract (CDS/Airband) in place – and the government does not allow double-funding. He has contacted CDS and Somerset Council to check this is correct.

Post-meeting Note: This is correct – details circulated in Otterford Update 16th September 2023

Noted the alpaca farm planning application in Buckland St Mary has been refused.

9. The next meeting of the Council will take place on Tuesday 10th October, in the Wright Room, Otterford Parish Hall.

Mike Canham, Chairman, 19th September 2023