

Otterford Parish Council

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

Present: OPC Councillors Mike Canham (Chairman), Lucy Montgomery, John Marsden, and Simon MacLeod, SCC Councillor Ross Henley and the Clerk.

Item	Detail	Action
	<u>Community Time</u> Cllr Henley was pleased about the progress at the Culmhead crossroads. He took away a diagram showing the paucity of electric vehicle charging points in all 3 of Somerset's AONBs.	
	<u>Reports from other organisations</u> None.	
1.	<u>Apologies</u> Councillor Field (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 12 September 2023</u> 3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed. 3.2 <u>Matters arising</u> CBO2 – Councillor Canham had attended a meeting with Buckland St Mary PC and others to discuss but this had not moved things forward very much. 20mph site visit – was on the Friday following this meeting.	
4.	<u>Planning</u> 4.1 New applications: 29/23/0008, Conversion of an agricultural building to a flexible use (C1 hotel) following grant of prior approval 29/22/0010CR at Rull Farm, Whatley Road, Otterford. The Council had no objection to this application. 4.2 Granted or refused applications: None	Clerk
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
The update was noted.
Still no details of thermal imaging camera training.
- 5.3 Otterford Playing Fields
Councillors' inspection deferred as annual safety inspection had just taken place. Clerk to send pro forma for inspections to Cllr Montgomery. **Clerk**
Annual Statutory safety inspection – had identified a few minor niggles. Clerk to deal. Brazier pole to be removed as it is a hazard. **Clerk**
It was agreed to submit another grant application from the S106 'outdoor recreation' fund to replace both picnic tables with more robust ones. **Clerk**
Clerk to speak to contractors about care when strimming near the rubber matting. **Clerk**
- 5.4 Parish Handyman – ITT to re-tender service.
The current 3-year term was nearly up. Clerk to issue the ITT and advertise locally. **Clerk**
- 5.5 Culmhead crossroads
The Council noted with pleasure the decision by Somerset Council to instal 'Stop' signs at the Blagdon hill crossroads, and at the second crossroads above the Holman Clavel. Somerset Council also proposed to instal rumble strips at the crossroads at both crossroads. – Clerk to arrange for the resident at Highbridge Cottage to be briefed and any comments obtained. **Clerk**
- 5.6 Chard and Blackdown LCN, 23 October
Councillors Canham, MacLeod and Marsden would send Councillor Montgomery some thoughts on matters to raise. Clerk to ask Councillor Field if he has anything to add. **All Cllrs**
- 6. Correspondence**
The Clerk had received thanks from Dr Thomas in Buckland St Mary for its support against the alpaca farm planning proposal.
- 7. Financial matters**
- 7.1 Second Quarter – summary of receipts and payments
The Clerk circulated a paper which was noted.
- 7.2 Monthly Financial summary – September.
Noted.

8. Other business.

The Clerk had reported damage to the road surface at Anders Lane and between there and Otterford Lakes caused by Forestry Commission contractors hauling logs. Councillor Marsden mentioned incidents in which cars had ended up in a ditch, just below Rull Farm. Clerk to see if Somerset Council would instal a couple of flexible bollards there.

Clerk

9. The next meeting of the Council will take place on Tuesday 14 November, in the Wright Room, Otterford Parish Hall.

Penny Hart, Clerk, October 2023