

## Otterford Parish Council

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 12 December 2023 at 1930 hrs in Otterford Parish Hall**

Present: OPC Councillors Charlie Field (Acting Chairman), Lucy Montgomery, and John Marsden, one parishioner and the Clerk.

Item	Detail	Action
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#### **Community Time**

Cllr Wakefield had submitted a written report but she and Cllr Henley were attending the Wellington LCN meeting and could not attend.

Mr Godsmark attended on behalf of the Trustees of the Otterhead Estate Trust. He reported that the hydro electric equipment had worked for one day and then stopped. This would be investigated.

#### **Reports from other organisations**

None.

#### **1. Apologies**

Cllrs Canham (indisposed) and MacLeod (working away).

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Montgomery is an OPC-nominated (Nominative) Trustee of the Otterford Charity.

#### **3. Meeting of November 2023**

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

3.2 Matters arising

5.3 – Darren's Den still to deal with minor issues identified in Annual Safety Inspection [post-meeting note – now completed]. Brazier pole still in situ.

- Clerk still to send proforma for Cllr's inspections to Cllr Montgomery

**Clerk**

- benches still to be investigated

**Clerk**

- Clerk had been promised a quote for the playing fields grass cutting but had not yet heard any more.

#### **4. Planning**

4.1 New applications: 29/23/0007, Change of use of land for a residential caravan site for 7 No. gypsy families each with 2 No. caravans with hardstanding and erection of 4 No. amenity

buildings on land west of Yalham Farm, Otterford Road, Otterford. The Clerk had circulated background papers from previous issues with this site. The Council agreed to object on the grounds: that this parish already hosts a high percentage of travellers compared to other parishes; the proposed number of pitches is far too high and the site would be over-intensified; and there are no employment opportunities in the parish, nor shops, schools, public transport or other facilities nearby.

**Clerk**

29/23/0009, Erection of single storey extensions to the side and rear with conversion of garage into ancillary accommodation at Clifford Cottage, Rull Farm, Whatley Road, Otterford. The Council had no comment.

4.2 Granted or refused applications: None

## **5. Other matters**

5.1 Projects/activities/events – update.

An updated list was circulated and noted.

If funding for the Whatley Road drain works was in jeopardy because of Somerset Council's financial difficulties, it was noted that the Council could offer to fund the work (c£1600).

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

The update was noted.

The thermal imaging camera training should be taking place this and next week.

5.3 Parish Handyman Service 2024-26

One application had been received from Phil Holness, who had filled the role for some years. The Council agreed to accept.

It was agreed additionally to add Phil Wright as a second handyman, to formalise the occasional work he does for the parish.

**Clerk**

## **6. Correspondence**

None.

## **7. Financial matters**

7.1 Monthly Financial summary – November.

Noted.

7.2 2024 Budget – deferred until next meeting, when SC's plans for delegating works etc may be identified. Precept letter has not yet arrived from SC.

B/F to  
January

**8. Other business.**

None.

- 9. The next meeting of the Council will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9 January 2024, in the Wright Room, Otterford Parish Hall.**

Penny Hart, Clerk, December 2023