

Otterford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 14 August 2018 at 19.30 hrs.

Present: OPC Councillors Mike Canham(Chairman), Charlie Field, Phil Wright, Steve Campbell, SCC Councillor John Thorne, TDBC Councillor Ross Henley and the Clerk.

Item	Detail	Action
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Community Time

None

Reports from other organisations

SCC Cllr John Thorne reported on the following:

- Budget - despite recent media coverage of the financial situation at SCC , things were not as bad as they had been painted: the auditors were looking at last year's budget, the media had not reported existing remedial measures, nor that the County has larger reserves than other authorities. Staff were being encouraged to submit money-saving ideas. The senior leadership team was meeting every week with a single-item agenda – money. Although the 2018-19 forecast is for an £11.5 million overspend, the previous financial year's budget started with a predicted £9 million overspend which at year end was only £2.1 million (0.7% of the total budget).
- Broadband – Gigaclear were arranging road closures to allow them to start laying their fibre network, from August to November, in Corfe, Pitminster, and Churchstanton.
- Support for young people – SCC were seeking volunteers to become advocates for children in care or for those who need extra support. See www.route1advocacy.co.uk
- Sheltered housing support – From October, instead of SCC paying TDBC who in turn commission care for their tenants the money will be used to directly commission services via Community Connect, which is run through the Community Council for Somerset. Care can then be provided for people, whether in their own home or in sheltered accommodation.
- Business Plan website - The Council's Business Plan was now available on a new website: <http://www.somerset.digital/businessplan>.
- Paperless – From 1 September, councillors will no longer have printed copies of committee agendas and reports. This will save £60k a year.

Cllr Ross Henley reported that TDBC was presently in a state of flux, with a possible Leadership challenge and disagreements over a proposal to fund the building of an hotel on the Firepool site (proposal defeated when a vote was taken). He supported OPC's likely position regarding the boundary commission changes.

Avon & Somerset Constabulary – not present. Noted change of beat PC.

1. Apologies

Cllr Viant (family commitments).

2. **Declarations of Interest**

1. Cllr Canham is a member of the Otterford Parish Hall Committee

2. Cllr Canham is a Trustee of the Otterford Charity

There were no further Declarations of Interest in agenda items that accord with any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (s31 & 33 of the Localism Act 2011).

3. **Meeting of 10 July**

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

3.2 Matters Arising:

3.2.1 Parish Hall – no further progress – ongoing.

**B/F to
October**

3.2.2 Otterford Playing Field – the Parish Handyman (SS) had completed the additional two days' work agreed at the last meeting but there was still work to be done. He had kindly offered to do this on a voluntary basis. The Clerk had accepted and thanked him for this offer.

3.2.3 Bridleway — Peter Hopley (SCC) had advised that he had now found a contractor who could help the engineer with the design work and would be in touch again soon.

3.2.6 Pothole above Pitlands Farm – this was not a pothole, but a dip in the gravel surface off the road. No further action.

3.2.7 Duck Fayre – Cllr Canham advised that he was still waiting for information from one person before he could finalise the DF accounts but will have the final outturn next month.

3.2.8 Fingerposts – it was agreed to finish work on 14 parish fingerposts this year, but leave the Corfe hill fingerpost restoration until next spring. New arms were needed for fingerposts 6 and 9, at a cost of c£900: these would now be ordered and fitted. Cllr Wright would talk to his contact who might be able to repair the Corfe Hill fingerpost.

**Clerk/
MC**

PW

4. **Planning**

4.1 New applications - 29/18/0014 Erection of lean-to extension for fodder storage on agricultural building at Church Farm, Otterford Rd, Culmhead. No comment.

29/18/0015 Erection of single storey extension to the front and detached double garage & 29/18/0016/LB Erection of a single storey extension to the front with various internal and external alterations and erection of a detached double garage at Woodend Farm, Whatley Rd, Bishopswood. The Council agreed to object to this application on the grounds that: the sun room was an inappropriate and unsympathetic addition to the front of a Grade II listed building; and there were safety concerns about the new vehicle access, which would open onto a blind bend, and involve removal of part of the old wall. There are already allocated parking spaces at the rear for Woodend Farm and the Council questioned the need for the garage / new driveway. Clerk to contact Lisa Turner at the AONB for her views. [post meeting note: LT has commented that she expects TDBC to apply its development management policies, supported by the AONB management plan, when it considers this application.]

Clerk✓

4.2 • Applications granted - 29/18/0007 Construction of footbridge and raised decking at Royston Cottage, Whatley Road, Churchinford (Retention of works already undertaken).

4.3 Applications refused – none

5. Other Matters –

5.1 West Somerset & Taunton Council - Boundary Commission consultation on proposed new electoral wards. Following outline discussion at an earlier meeting, Cllr Canham circulated a draft letter from this Council detailing the proposal (to the Boundary Commission) that a single one-Councillor Blackdown Ward – comprising Churchstanton, Corfe, Otterford and Pitminster parishes – be created. This was agreed subject to one minor amendment.

Cllr Canham had met with his fellow Chairmen from Corfe, Pitminster and Churchstanton Parish Councils to discuss the Commission's proposals. All had agreed – subject to their Councils' ratification – to submit an alternative proposal to make a new Blackdown Ward as above. The other Councils would send individual letters and, provided they agreed, a joint letter from all four Chairmen would be sent.

MC

5.2 End of World War 1 Centenary Commemoration – Cllr Canham gave an update on progress. It was noted that the Parish Hall Committee will run a pay bar at the Barn Dance, and a number of volunteers have offered to assist the Clerk to prepare the food for the event. The design for the commemorative mug was agreed: these will now be ordered.

Clerk/
MC

- 5.3 Holman Clavel – six monthly inspection. Cllrs Campbell and Viant had conducted the inspection and reported:
- the recently reported 'fire' in the microbrewery had actually been only smoke from the heating oil pump
 - several minor maintenance matters needed dealing with. These could be a time-limited requirement in the new Lease
 - the woodburners were not in use at present but the Landlord needed to ensure he observed the insurance company's requirements before they were lit (Clerk to check that he had the correct fire extinguishers)
 - tree in the paddock needed assessing. Cllr Viant has offered to obtain an independent report from a tree surgeon. Clerk to ask her to organise this.
- Clerk/
RV**
- 5.4 Whatley Road – SCC were due to start the work in mid September. Clerk to publicise to local residents. Separately, it was reported there was hedge damage opposite Lower Whatley.
- Clerk**
- 5.5 OPF – Annual safety report. This had identified a few non-urgent matters which needed attention and some which had already been dealt with. It was agreed to ask Alvian to do the remedial work necessary to the Multiplay Unit, costing £285+VAT. Picnic tables to be moved to the top field so they could not endanger children if moved near the play equipment. Litter bin to be moved to top field, re-anchored and sited at least a metre from the hedge.
- The Clerk had also received a note of the latest Conservation Group meeting, which had identified a number of things they wished the Council to consider. Some were already covered by the grass-cutting contract. Clerk to reply, suggesting the Group identify the trees they wanted thinned and organise volunteers to treat the bracken next June.
- Clerk**
- 5.6 Litter Pick – Cllt Canham circulated a report. The pick had been well-attended but slightly less rubbish collected, as usual in the summer.
- 5.7 Otterford Charity – parish nominee. The Council agreed unanimously to nominate Nikki Pryce for another four year term.
- Clerk**
- 6. Correspondence**
Noted. No action required.
- 7. Financial matters**
- 7.1 Deposit accounts – the Clerk had transferred £10,000 into the Cambridge & Counties Bank 5-year deposit account as agreed. She had not yet had time to set up the other account but would do so at the first opportunity.
- Clerk**
- 7.2 Monthly financial summary – noted.
- 7.3 Payment of invoices – agreed.
- 8. AOB**
CF submitted apologies for the next meeting.

9. **Date of next meeting:** 7.30pm, Tuesday 11 September 2018 in the Wright Room, Otterford Parish Hall.