

Otterford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 14 May 2019 at 20.30 hrs.

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

Item	Detail	Action
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Community Time

Reports from other organisations:

SCC Cllr John Thorne reported the following:

- Finances – Somerset County Council's projected underspend is now around £2.5 million, resulting in reversal of some cuts. An additional £3.75 million will be available to spend on services in 2019/20. SCC has promised there will be no further cuts to frontline services over the next two years.
- Broadband – Still no news on when/if Gigaclear's latest proposals are going to be acceptable to CDS. It now seems possible that CDS will have to start again.
- A358 – Still awaiting clarification about possible impact on plans for the A358 Expressway of Highways England's decision to 'pause' 11 of its major road schemes. The A358 preferred route was to be announced in late June; if not announced by then it will probably mean that the scheme is one of the 11. While some schemes will be scrapped, others will be pushed into the second Road Investment Strategy which runs from 2020-2025. Given that the A358 has already slipped into RIS2, it could be that it is in a stronger position to proceed.
- Gritting – The review of winter gritting routes is now underway with feedback from winter 2018-19 being taken into account and the reinstatement of many of the previously gritted routes already acknowledged. Oddly, there has been no mention of feedback from Bishopswood but Cllr Thorne has queried this and will continue to push for Royston Road to be put back in. SCC are putting £200,000 back into a pot from which they saved £120,000 last year, so it's unlikely it would be anything to do with cost. There has been no mention of parish councils self-funding gritting routes. Once the gritting network for 2019-20 has been agreed, they will look at the filling of grit bins and provision of salt bags to see how they can work more closely with parish councils.
- A Block – Work on the refurbishment of County Hall's A Block is progressing well and the 30-year-old boiler has been replaced. This is an invest to save scheme which will save £700k a year by closing other buildings.
- Public Health Nurses – More than 200 public health nurses transferred from Somerset Partnership NHS Trust to the County Council at the start of the financial year. They will continue to work with local communities and families in different settings such as homes, children's centres, GP surgeries, schools, and Early Years settings.

Cllr Henley was congratulated on regaining his seat on SWTDC. He advised that the new Leader of the Council was Federica Smythe-Roberts. The Annual Meeting of the Council was to take place week commencing 20 May. He promised to look into the fly tipping issue and cessation of printed planning applications (see below). Cllr Canham asked if the new Council would abandon plans to use Otterford B as a transit site. Cllr Henley said he would continue to oppose this. Clerk to send Cllr Henley OPC's briefing paper of 8 years ago.

Clerk

Avon & Somerset Constabulary – not present. The Clerk had contacted them to find out which officers now covered Otterford – two PCSOs were now responsible for the beat, PCSO Scott Windsor (on desk duties only at present) and PCSO Jake Edwards. The Clerk would try to establish if the beat also had a PC/Sergeant.

Clerk

1. Apologies

None.

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 9 April

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

3.2 Matters Arising:

3.2.1 Bridleway – Cllr Field had been finalising the paperwork: once received the Council would be able to issue the ITT within the next week.

**CF
Clerk**

3.2.2 Salting and gritting roads – SCC Leader Cllr Fothergill had emailed the Clerk with a personal reassurance that all the Blackdown gritting routes would be restored next winter. He had apologised for the lack of refills to the parish grit bins, which he thought was an error and should be addressed before next winter. He had given a rather vague reply about Skanska and the lack of contact with Cllr Wright to clear roads during last winter's snow. These matters to be reviewed in September.

B/F Sep

3.2.3 Fly tipping in the Goyle
Still no news regarding enforcement action. Cllr Henley was pursuing this.

**Cllr
Henley**

3.2.4 Corfe Hill fingerpost - Cllr Wright's contact had the post and thought he could repair it. He was content with up to £150 for the work, but was busy, so it would be done when he had the time.

PW

3.2.5 Dog fouling in Bishopswood – this seemed under control at present but would be kept under observation.

All

3.2.6 Playing fields 6 monthly inspection – Cllr Campbell and former Cllr Viant had submitted a report summarising what needed to be done. The most urgent of these was to tighten up the handles on the castle play equipment. Parish Handyman (PH) to be asked to do this. It was agreed to ask the fingerpost team to repaint the goalposts, OPC to pay for any materials needed. Cllr Canham had replaced the bin liner. Clerk to ask Mr Godsmark of the conservation group to update the noticeboard.

**Clerk
MC**

Clerk

3.2.7 First Aid training – the Clerk had only received one enquiry. She would contact the existing first aiders about attending, and inform the two parish pubs of their free

Clerk

places.

3.2.8 Cllr Campbell had purchased a trailerboard at a cost of £26 for the parish for use on litterpicks. He already had a numberplate he could use; Cllr Canham would get another for his car.

3.2.9 Fingerpost arm, Corfe Hill. The new arm was in storage pending drilling out the old arm which was firmly stuck. This work would need a generator, and would be undertaken by the Fingerpost Team as time permitted.

**F'Post
Team**

3.2.10 ACVs – There had been no further communication from the Trustees of the Bishopswood Chapel; in the absence of further objections this would be re-nominated. Cllrs Canham and Campbell would go together to talk to the Candlelight Inn – Clerk to fix the meeting.

Clerk

Clerk

4. Planning

4.1 New, refused or withdrawn applications: none

4.2 Applications granted by SWT: 29/19/0004 Erection of a single storey extension to the rear of Neates House, Bishopswood

5. Other Matters –

5.1 Waterhayes Lane – Cllr Canham circulated a report of his recent site visit with Dave Brown, the SCC Highways Superintendent. The road was not unacceptably bad but there were a few things which could be done to improve it. Cllr Wright to speak to adjacent landowners and ask them if they could dig out the ditches to reduce water on the road. He would also dig out the road gullies at the lower end of the road.

PW

5.2 Footpath Signs – Cllr Canham submitted a survey of all the parish footpath signs which he and a parishioner had conducted. He had had an exchange of emails with Pete Hobley from SCC Rights of Way and it was possible that SCC might supply some replacement posts if they were required. In the meantime, there were about 15 posts which could be renovated now and the fingerpost team was happy to start this work in June. OPC to meet costs of materials. The Parish Handyman would walk the footpaths over the next 6 weeks or so and cut back overgrown vegetation around stiles and gates.

MC

5.3 Printed planning applications - SWT had announced they were to stop producing printed copies of planning applications for Parish Councils. Many parishes had already objected to this change but the Planning Department had sent a further email saying the decision would not be reversed. Cllr Henley agreed to take this up with the Planning Department (Clerk to send him details).

**Clerk/
Cllr
Henley**

6. Correspondence

None

7. Financial matters

7.1 Monthly financial summary – noted.

7.2 Payment of invoices – agreed.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 Cllr Viant had retired at the local elections. Cllr Canham formally thanked her (in her absence) for her 17-year service as Councillor, most as Vice Chairman.

9. **Date & Time of next meeting:**
Tuesday 11 June at 7.30pm, in the Wright Room, Otterford Parish Hall.