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|  | **Otterford Parish Council** **Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 14 January 2020 at 19.30 hrs.** Present: OPC Councillors Mike Canham (Chairman), Charlie Field, Lucy Montgomery, John Marsden and Phil Wright and the Clerk. |  |
| Item | Detail | Action |
|  | **Community Time** None. |  |
|  | Reports from other organisationsSCC Cllr Thorne had submitted a written report prior to the meeting which was discussed. Of note:* He had not made any progress with the un-filled salt bins(see below)
* As indicated in Cllr Fothergill’s letter to the Council, SCC are recommending a single unitary authority for Somerset with all existing authorities merging into a single entity; this could save about £47m per year but was likely to mean more responsibility (and probably cost) for parish councils. It would be several years before this could happen and it needed approval from central Government
* SCC’s financial situation was now much improved and a 3-year financial plan had been produced
* There were 4 new innovative dementia projects being supported by SCC

TDBC Cllr Ross Henley – not present.  |  |
|  | **Apologies**None. |  |
| **2.** | Declarations of Interest 1. *Cllr Canham is a member of the Otterford Parish Hall Committee*
2. *Cllrs Canham and Montgomery are Trustees 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 December 2019** |  |
| 3.1 | The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed.  |  |
|  3.2 | Matters arising: |  |
| 3.2.1 | The Corfe Hill fingerpost had been mended. Cllr Wright would check for the internal ‘scaffold pole’, and length of both post and pole. One of the four arms is missing; if SCC cannot fund from their insurance (Cllr Field to check), it was agreed to purchase a replacement arm.  | **PW****CF** |
|  3.2.2 | The Clerk had written to the occupants of Nos 1-3 Woodcroft Meadows about parking on the pavement; there had been no further incidents since her letter. She had reported this and two other potholes further along Whatley Road. *[post meeting note; the holes near Rooks House had been fixed and work had started on the one opposite Woodcroft Meadows].* |  |
| 3.2.3 | Bridleway restoration – this was now complete and the path was usable.  |  |
| 3.2.4 | Community First Responders – the Clerk had not yet had a reply to her appeal. To be chased. | **Clerk** |
|  3.2.5 | Council Credit card – Barclays have not yet replied about their reasons for refusal. | **Clerk** |
| **4.** | **Planning** |  |
|  4.1 | New applications: [*29/19/0016/LB*](https://www2.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/asp/webpages/plan/PlAppDets.asp?casefullref=29/19/0016/LB)*,* and *29/19/0017*, Erection of single storey extension on the north-west elevation with various internal and external alterations (amended scheme to 29/19/0001) at Woodend Farm, Bishopswood, Chard. The Council had no comment on these applications. |  |
| 4.2 | Applications granted, withdrawn or refused: none |  |
| **5.**  | **Other Matters** |  |
| 5.1 | Road Safety - The Council agreed, with one amendment, a draft letter to SCC Cllr Woodman(Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport) about the dangerous junctions in the parish and asking that certain safety measures be undertaken. The letter would now be sent. [*post meeting note: Dave Brown, the Highways Superintendent, has met with the Forestry Commission to discuss reducing the tree canopy on the approach to the Corfe Hill crossroads].*  | **MC** |
| 5.2 | VE Day 2020 (VE 75) – Cllr Canham had attended Buckland St Mary’s PC January meeting and they had agreed that on this occasion the parishes would not organise joint events. Cllr Canham had produced a draft programme in conjunction with the Candlelight Inn. This would be fleshed out further. The Council agreed to proposed expenditure.  | **MC** |
| 5.3 | Climate change – this would be discussed in more detail in February. Cllr Canham circulated a draft paper listing possible actions the Council could take and asked that everyone submit any other ideas to the Clerk before the next meeting. | **All** |
|  5.4 | Volunteers in 2020 -The fingerpost/footpath team were keen for a new project; a list of priorities was agreed. | **MC/JM** |
|  5.5 | Otterford Amble 2 - A second walk would take place in April covering the second half of the parish. | **MC** |
| 5.6 | Outstanding matters – the Clerk circulated a summary of outstanding matters, which was noted. |  |
| **6.**  | **Correspondence** Noted. |  |
| **7.** | **Financial matters** |  |
| 7.1 | 3rd Quarter Financial Review. This was noted. |  |
| 7.2 | Monthly Financial summary. This was noted.  |  |
| 7.3 | Payment of Invoices. None. |  |
| **8.** | **AOB** |  |
| 8.1 | Flooding on B3170 near the RacecourseThe Clerk would ask SCC Highways about recent flooding near the Racecourse. *[Post-meeting note: apparently the Racecourse has had some drainage works carried out, causing more water to run onto the highway. At the same time, a landowner has filled in a ditch, replacing it with a drain which is inadequate when* *it rains. These two events have caused the flooding. Highways are talking to the landowner about tackling this problem, but it is likely to take some time.]*  |  |
| 8.2 | The Clerk reported that the parish’s paper shredder was broken and asked that if she could not get it fixed, she could buy another (c£100). This was agreed. | **Clerk** |
|  | **The next meeting of the Council will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 11 February 2020.**  |  |