

Otterford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 13 February 2024 at 1930 hrs in Otterford Parish Hall

Present: OPC Councillors Mike Canham (Chairman), Charlie Field (Vice Chairman), Lucy Montgomery, Simon MacLeod and John Marsden, SC Councillor Wakefield, one parishioner and the Clerk.

Item	Detail	Action
	<p><u>Community Time</u></p> <p>Mr Godsmark attended on behalf of the Trustees of the Otterhead Estate Trust. He mentioned the consultation on the next Blackdown Hills National Landscape Management Plan. Clerk to circulate this to councillors.</p> <p>Cllr Wakefield advised that the government had refused to allow Somerset Council to increase council tax beyond 4.99%. SC hoped to sell some of its assets so it didn't have to draw down on a government loan in 2024-25.</p> <p>LCN – at the January meeting there had been interest in the Highways Steward idea, with the environment being the other main issue. It was intended that sub-groups would do the 'legwork' on outcomes from the LCNs.</p> <p>No local recycling centres would be closing.</p>	
	<p><u>Reports from other organisations</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
1.	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Cllrs Montgomery and Canham are OPC-nominated (Nominative) Trustees of the Otterford Charity.</p> <p>Cllr Canham is Chairman of Otterford Parish Hall Committee. He is Chairman of the BHPN and is a member of the Steering Group, and a member of the Blackdown Hills Natural Landscapes (formerly AONB) Management Group.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Meeting of January 2024</u></p>	
3.1	<p>The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed.</p>	
3.2	<p><u>Matters arising</u></p>	
	<p>5.1 – Culmhead crossroads – the residents were content with rumble strips. Clerk to advise highways.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

5.3 OPF Brazier pole still in situ – still too wet to remove with a digger/tractor.
- benches still to be investigated
Water run-off after heavy rains – Highways superintendent to visit soon.

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

4. Planning

- 4.1 No new or granted applications.
- 4.2 Refused application: 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

5. Other matters

- 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. The thermal imaging camera had photographed 14 properties plus the hall. Three properties were unable to be done because it was too warm for the camera to work efficiently. Clerk to write formally to Richard Smith to thank him.
- 5.3 Local Community Network (Chard and Blackdown)
Cllr Canham had attended and circulated a brief summary. The minutes had also been circulated to Councillors. It was agreed not to participate in the Highways Steward scheme at the moment.
- 5.4 Consideration of quote – dog waste bin emptying 2024-25
SC had sent a quote which was around £45 more expensive than 2023-24. There appeared to be no other service locally which was licensed to empty the bins. It was agreed to accept the quote.

Clerk

Clerk

6. Correspondence

None.

7. Financial matters

- 7.1 Monthly Financial summary – January.
Noted.

8. Other business. None

9. **The next meeting of the Council will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 12 March 2024, in the Wright Room, Otterford Parish Hall.**

Penny Hart, Clerk, February 2024