

## Otterford Parish Council

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 1930 hrs in Otterford Parish Hall**

Present: OPC Councillors Mike Canham (Chairman), Charlie Field (Vice Chairman), and Lucy Montgomery.

Item	Detail	Action
	<p><b><u>Community Time</u></b> There was no one present from the community.</p>	
	<p><b><u>Reports from other organisations</u></b> Somerset Councillors and A&amp;S Police were not in attendance.</p>	
<b>1.</b>	<p><b><u>Apologies</u></b> Cllr Marsden (unwell), Cllr MacCleod (working away from home). In addition, the Clerk was unwell and unable to attend.</p>	
<b>2.</b>	<p><b><u>Declarations of Interest</u></b> Cllrs Canham and Montgomery are OPC-nominated (Nominative) Trustees of the Otterford Charity, Cllr Canham is Chairman of Otterford Parish Hall Committee, Chairman of the BHPN and a member of the Steering Group, and a member of the Blackdown Hills Natural Landscapes (formerly AONB) Management Group.</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<p><b><u>Meeting of July 2024</u></b></p>	
3.1	The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed.	
3.2	<p><b><u>Matters arising</u></b> (3.2) Information regarding the EE mast on the B3170 still awaited. (5.2) Thermal Imaging Photos still awaited from Daniel Lazar (BHPN) (5.4) Playdale equipment in OPF – see update of projects/ actions on this agenda. (5.4) Darren's Den equipment OPF – see update of projects/ actions on this agenda.. (7.3) Deposit Bond renewed with Cambridge &amp; Counties Bank (8) SC confirmed that two separate recruitment exercises are necessary as the two resigning Councillors did so at different times two months apart.</p>	<p><b>RH</b> <b>Clerk</b></p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b><u>Planning</u></b></p>	

- 4.1 Granted application: 29/23/0008 Conversion of an agricultural building to a flexible use (C1 hotel) following grant of prior approval 29/22/0010CR at Rull Farm, Whatley Road, Otterford.

No new or refused applications.

## 5. **Other matters**

### 5.1 Projects/activities/events – update.

- 1 Noted the current Openreach work in and around Bishopswood. No information received from CDS, SC or the government (BDUK) but Openreach staff on site have indicated the fibre broadband will go-live in October. Openreach are apparently planning to organise a community meeting in the Parish Hall but have yet to make direct contact.
- 2 New picnic tables for OPF have been purchased, delivered, assembled and treated (the latter by the Wednesday Volunteers) since the last meeting. The Council again expressed its disappointment at the negative response from SC regarding the s106 grant application.
- 3 The Council agreed to progress the other s106 application to fund improvement works to the footpath below Griggs Farm despite the very disappointing initial response from SC Planning Obligations (which suggested the s106 money had to be spent within a mile of the development providing the money, and that this work should be undertaken by SC). Noted that Planning Obligations had suggested further discussion with Pete Hobley (manager, SC ROW): Councillor Canham has done so but a reply still awaited – to be chased. **Clerk**
- 4 All three highways safety projects (Culmhead crossroads, Bishopswood 20 and Whatley Road drainage) are waiting for SC to progress. **Clerk**
- 5 OPF statutory safety inspection. Playdale have asked for photos of the splintering and splitting re our claim under the guarantee. In hand. **Clerk**
- 6 OPF statutory safety inspection – Playdale can supply some replacement bolt head covers at cost (not covered by the guarantee). Agreed to purchase. **Clerk**
- 7 OPF statutory safety inspection – screws on top of Playdale equipment still to be removed by Wednesday Volunteers. **MC (WV)**
- 8 OPF statutory safety inspection – ground fixings not removed, but have been used to secure the new picnic tables.
- 9 OPF statutory safety inspection – Darren's Den has replied to say they will deal with the splinters/splitting on large swing if we pay. Agreed to go back to DD to

**Clerk**

say this is unacceptable and that they must carry out the work at no cost.

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

Report noted. Clerk had still not yet received a reply from Daniel Lazar about the thermal imaging pictures (see above) Noted the 30<sup>th</sup> Parish Litter Pick had been held in July.

5.3 CBO 2 (a new Community Magazine)

The Council agreed to support the general proposals set out in a briefing note (which will be considered by all three PCs, the other two in September, PCCs are also being consulted.

And agreed to contribute up to £300 seed-funding providing this is matched by the other two PCs.

**Clerk**

5.4 Local Community Network (Chard and Blackdowns)

The Annual Report submitted to the AGM on 22<sup>nd</sup> July was noted.

**6. Correspondence**

None

**7. Financial matters**

7.1 Monthly Financial summary – July.

Noted.

**8. Other business.**

Recruitment of two Councillors is in hand.

Under the first recruitment, two people have applied to be co-opted: interviews are being arranged.

The first phase of the second recruitment (to see if at least ten parishioners request an election) ends on 19<sup>th</sup> August. If there is no such request an advertisement will be issued to invite people to apply for co-option.

**Clerk**

**Clerk**

**9. The next meeting of the Council will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 10 September 2024, in the Wright Room, Otterford Parish Hall.**

Mike Canham, August 2024