

Otterford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 10 September 2024 at 1930 hrs in Otterford Parish Hall

Present: OPC Councillors Mike Canham (Chairman), Charlie Field (Vice Chairman), Lucy Montgomery and Emma Lupton, SC Councillor Ross Henley and the Clerk.

Item	Detail	Action
	<p><u>Community Time</u></p> <p>Cllr Henley reported that the Wellington Fitness Centre (including the swimming pool) had recently been refurbished and was now open. The Council agreed to publicise this – Cllr Henley to send further information. Council to send him a list of outstanding issues: Culmhead and Blagdon junctions unfinished, Bishopswood 20 delays, and S106 grant issues. He agreed to chase up the highways projects.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
	<p><u>Reports from other organisations</u></p>	
1.	<p><u>Apologies</u> Cllr MacLeod (holiday).</p>	
2.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u> 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>	
3.	<p><u>Meeting of August 2024</u></p>	
3.1	<p>The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed.</p>	
3.2	<p><u>Matters arising</u> (3.2) Information regarding the EE mast on the B3170 still awaited. Cllr Henley had got nowhere with SC officers. It was agreed to approach EE directly. (5.1) OPF statutory safety inspection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Playdale now have photos of the splintering and splitting and are considering.• Playdale have kindly supplied some replacement bolt head covers for free. Still to be fitted.• screws on top of Playdale equipment have been removed by Wednesday Volunteers.	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>MC</p>

- Darren's Den have gone back to the manufacturer about the splinters/cracks.

(5.3) CBO 2 - Churchstanton PC would be considering whether or not to support the day following this meeting, Buckland St Mary PC had not yet indicated whether they were in support and there had been no reply from the PCCs.

Clerk

4. Planning

4.1 No new, granted or refused applications.

5. Other matters

5.1 Projects/activities/events – update.

Openreach had held their community meeting in the Parish Hall earlier and it had been well attended. Current plan seems to be that the fibre broadband will 'go live' in December.

Improvement works to the footpath below Griggs Farm - Still waiting for a reply from Pete Hobley (manager, SC ROW):

Clerk

All three highways projects (Culmhead crossroads, Bishopswood 20 and Whatley Road drainage) are waiting for SC to complete (Cllr Henley to chase). Latest estimate for Bishopswood 20 is December. There had been an accident at the top of Corfe Hill which had demolished some of the new road signs. Highways informed.

RH

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

Report noted. The Clerk had still not yet received a reply from Daniel Lazar about the thermal imaging photos (see above). To be chased again. The Clerk had an idea who might take on the thermal imaging camera and would approach him.

Clerk

5.3 Enhanced Highway Maintenance (EHM) Pilot and Volunteer Training.

Information had been circulated before the meeting. The Council agreed not to participate in the Pilot. The Volunteer training was free and might be worth pursuing for the Parish Handyman, the Wednesday Volunteers and possibly the litter pickers. There was also a free handbook available.

Clerk

5.4 Local Community Network (Chard and Blackdowns)

The minutes of the AGM of 22 July were noted. Also noted that no OPC representative could attend the next meeting as it clashes with OPC's October meeting.

5.5 Parish Councillor Recruitment

The Council welcomed Cllr Emma Lupton who had recently been co-opted.

The first phase of the second recruitment (to see if at least ten parishioners request an election) ended on 19 August with no such request. The post has been advertised to invite people to apply for co-option, with a deadline of 17 September. There were two parishioners potentially interested so far.

6. Correspondence

None.

7. Financial matters

- 7.1 Monthly Financial summary – August.
Noted.

8. Other business

Council to ask SC Cllrs if they can alternate their attendance at OPC meetings.

Cllr Field submitted apologies for the next meeting.

Clerk's retirement – it was agreed to advertise the post locally in the first instance, using Otterford and Buckland newsletters, noticeboards and word of mouth. Cllr Canham was drafting a vacancy notice, job description, contract, a persons specification and an application form.

Clerk

- 9. The next meeting of the Council will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 8 October 2024, in the Wright Room, Otterford Parish Hall.**

Penny Hart, September 2024