

Otterton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Committee Room of the Village Hall on Monday 1 August 2016

Present: Cllr Ian Simpson (Chairman)

Cllr Tony Bennett

Cllr John Fudge

Cllr John Lister

Cllr Sarah Whittingham

Cllr Roy Young

In Attendance: Mr Mike Miller (Clerk)

And 2 members of the public

16/73. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Andrew Davies and Tony Farrington, County Councillor Mrs Christine Channon and District Councillor Geoff Jung

16/74. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Roy Young declared an interest in planning application 16/1684/FUL (M16/84). There were no other declarations of personal or pecuniary interest from Councillors relating to items of business on the agenda.

16/75. Confidential Items of Business

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council **AGREED** to consider the appointment of a new Volunteer Footpath Warden in Private Session (Part B). The public (including the press) would be excluded from the meeting for this item.

16/76. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 4 July 2016, were approved as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

16/77. Funding for Jubilee Playground Improvements

Arising from M16/52, it was reported that the Chairman, Clerk and Cllr Davies would be meeting Sulena Tallack from East Devon District Council, to look into the possible use of S.106 funding for improving the football pitch and other work in the playground, on 17 August 2016.

16/78. Public Questions and Comments

A member of the public raised a number of concerns about the proposed new service yard and building at Ladram Bay. These were noted (see M16/84).

16/79. Chairman's Business

The Chairman reported briefly on a number of matters:

- (i) He had attended the launch event for the Clinton Devon Estates Space for Biodiversity Audit on 18 July 2016, at which a substantial report on the flora and fauna of the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths had been presented. Copies of the report would in due course be available to all councillors;
- (ii) The service being provided by Lloyds Bank was not satisfactory, in particular very slow response times and problems with telephone banking. After a complaint by the Clerk a compensation payment of £100 had been made to the Council. In due course alternative banking facilities might be considered;
- (iii) The meeting with Clare James of Clinton Devon Estates to discuss the future of the Triangle had been held; Ms James could not envisage any difficulties with the Council's plans and thought that a nominal rent could be agreed. The Head of the School had been consulted and she would put the proposal to the governors in September; and
- (iv) A resident had suggested setting up volunteer working parties to tackle projects in the village such as overgrown paths or the edges of the stream. This had been successful in the past, and the Council **AGREED** that it should be tried again.

16/80. Proposed Telecoms Mast at Stantyway Recreation Ground

The Council noted that a formal offer had now been received from Shared Access Ltd in relation to the proposal to site a mast at Stantyway Recreation Ground. An offer of £30k had been made, payable on completion of the lease. Councillors noted that 2 letters of support for the proposal and the need to improve mobile phone coverage in the village had been received, together with two objections, primarily based on health and environmental concerns. The Church had also been contacted by a separate company proposing to site a mast inside the Church Tower. Shared Access Ltd recommended the appointment by the Council of a firm of solicitors, Ratio Law Ltd, which had acted in other similar cases. Shared Access would contribute £1,250 towards these legal fees if the Agreement for Lease is exchanged. The Council, while being aware of the concerns expressed by the two residents, felt that it was important to try to improve mobile phone coverage in the village and that the capital sum could be used for the benefit of the community, and **AGREED** that the offer from Shared Access Ltd should be accepted, subject to clarification of the likely legal costs.

16/81. Parishes Together Fund

The Clerk reported that there had not yet been a response from Colaten Raleigh. Woodbury Council had also been invited to join the application, but had not yet been able to consider it. It was suggested that Clinton Devon Estates might also be interested in the proposal; the Chairman would discuss it with Dr Bridgewater.

16/82. Dog and Waste Bins

It was noted that the Clerk had been invited to a further meeting with Martin McGuire from EDDC in September.

16/83. Stream Stone Trap

It was **AGREED** that this should be reported to the DCC Highways Department.

16/84. Planning Applications

The Council considered planning application 16/1684/FUL for the construction of a replacement garage at Candys Orchard. Cllr Young withdrew while this was discussed. The Council had no objections to the proposal.

The Council also considered planning application 16/1709/FUL for the construction of a new service yard and building in the area by the entrance to Ladram Bay Holiday Park, which had not been notified when the agenda had been prepared. The Council was disappointed that neither it nor residents had been consulted prior to the submission of the formal application which left very little time for consideration of such a major development.

While recognising the economic benefits that might flow from development at Ladram Bay, serious concerns were raised about the proposal, which it was felt was not appropriate in an AONB, in particular the size of the building; the likely noise and its location on the skyline, which meant it would be widely visible. The effect on traffic and the roads of moving the entry barrier was also felt to be a significant problem, with the likelihood of traffic queues developing in Ladram Road at busy times. It was also feared that winter flooding on the road would be exacerbated by the proposal.

The Council **AGREED** that its concerns should be conveyed to EDDC and also to District Councillor Geoff Jung.

16/85. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Fudge introduced this item by reminding the Council of the guidelines for the development of neighbourhood plans. The Council accepted the importance of setting up a Steering Group, which should include a range of skills and experience, and would probably have 7-10 members. A Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary would be needed. The Council **AGREED** that a public meeting would be held in late September/early October. This would be widely publicised, including the delivering of information to homes in the village.

16/86. Otterton Recreation Ground

It was noted that the Annual Return for 2016 had been submitted to the Charity Commission in respect of Charity 300920 and that this had been circulated to all councillors, who were trustees of the charity, on 15 July 2016.

16/87. EDDC Viewpoint Survey

Councillors completed the survey, which was intended to feed back the parish's views on various aspects of EDDC services.

16/88. Reports from Councillors with Specific Responsibilities

Councillors reported as follows:

- (i) The Village Green – one of the seats still needed attention; the Chairman would deal with it. The Council felt that the Green was looking good.
- (ii) The War Memorial – nothing to report.
- (iii) Stantyway Recreation Ground – nothing to report
- (iv) The Jubilee Playground – it was **AGREED** that the damaged Wendy House should be removed, and the cost of a replacement, possibly made of plastic, should be investigated.
- (v) Cemetery – Cllr Lister raised again the difficulties which had been discussed at the last meeting. Councillors felt that there should be rules to cover what could be placed and planted on graves, though it was recognised that these could not be retrospective, and would be difficult and time-consuming to enforce. Cllr Lister would prepare a draft for discussion.

16/89. Reports on Village Amenities and Bodies

Councillors reported as follows:

- (i) Trees – the Chairman had cleared 2 small fallen trees.
- (ii) Footpaths – Cllr Young reported on a water leak from a raised manhole cover on the Colliver Track, and a fallen water trough had now been dealt with.
- (iii) Contracts and Finance – Cllr Fudge reminded councillors of the importance of submitting the AoN insurance declarations, as the new Insurance Act, which is due to take effect from 12 August 2016, places a new duty on clients in relation to the provision of information to insurers.
- (iv) Ladram Bay – the Chairman would follow up the financial contribution towards the cost of maintaining village footpaths.
- (v) Football Club – the Clerk reported that Cllr Farrington had been in touch with the football club about their financial contribution, and that he would follow this up.
- (vi) Raleigh Federation – nothing to report.
- (vii) Twinning – nothing to report
- (viii) Village Hall – nothing to report.
- (ix) Community Shop – nothing to report

16/90. Police Report

There was no report available to the meeting.

16/91. County Council Report

There was no report available to the meeting.

16/92. District Council Report

There was no report available to the meeting.

16/93. Hedge Cutting

The Council **AGREED** the arrangements for the invitation of tenders to cut the cemetery and Jubilee Playground hedges. Wayne Ridge, Sam Thorneywork and EDDC would be invited to tender. The Clerk would finalise the timing and details of the tender documents.

16/94. Correspondence

The Council noted the correspondence received, as set out on the agenda, as well as a consultation on the Devon Minerals Plan, which was not thought likely to affect Otterton.

16/95. Payments and Receipts for July 2016

The July payments (which had been set out in paper PC/16/04) and receipts were noted, as follows:

Payments	£
<i>South West Water d/d</i>	<i>5.00</i>
<i>North Devon Council - Clerk's salary for April and May (inc admin charges)</i>	<i>342.72</i>
<i>Village Hall – room hire – May</i>	<i>11.00</i>
<i>Data Protection Registration (reimbursement to Clerk)</i>	<i>35.00</i>
<i>Tony Farrington – refreshments for Parish Meeting</i>	<i>5.06</i>
<i>Ian Simpson – strimmer nylon line</i>	<i>48.00</i>
Total	446.78
Receipts	
<i>Devon County Council – contribution to Open Gardens w/e</i>	<i>250.00</i>
<i>Lloyds Bank – compensation payment</i>	<i>100.00</i>
<i>VAT repayment</i>	<i>141.37</i>
Total	491.37

16/96. Date of Next Meeting

The Council **AGREED** that the next meeting would be held on Monday 5 September 2016.

16/97. Business for the September Meeting Agenda

It was **AGREED** that the following items of business should be on the next agenda:

- (i) The Neighbourhood Plan – next steps; and
- (ii) The Shared Access proposal for the telecoms mast.

Part B Items – discussed in private by the Council

16/98. Volunteer Footpath Warden

The Council noted with regret that Briony Sharp had decided to step down as Volunteer Footpath Warden, after holding the post for 14 years. Councillors wished to place on record their warm thanks to Briony for her dedication and commitment. The Chairman reported that Charlie Varley was interested in taking on the role and the Council **AGREED** that if, after knowing more about what was required, he remained keen to be the Warden, he should be appointed.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Mike Miller

Clerk to the Parish Council

6 August 2016.