

Otterton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Committee Room of the Village Hall on Monday 3 October 2016

Present: Cllr Ian Simpson (Chairman)

Cllr Tony Bennett

Cllr Andrew Davies

Cllr Tony Farrington

Cllr John Lister

Cllr Sarah Whittingham

Cllr Roy Young

In Attendance: Mr Mike Miller (Clerk)

District Councillor Mr Geoff Jung

And 3 members of the public

16/125. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Jerry Fry and John Fudge, and from County Councillor Christine Channon and PCSO Sarah Trayhurn.

16/126. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of personal or pecuniary interest from councillors relating to items of business on the agenda.

16/127. Confidential Items of Business

The Council did not wish to consider any business in confidence.

16/128. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 5 September 2016, were approved as a correct record, subject to the alteration of the heading for M16/115 to read "Otter Valley Association Survey of Heritage Assets", and signed by the Chairman.

16/129. Planning Matters

Arising from M16/112, the Council noted that the Chairman and Cllr Young had attended a presentation at the Old Vicarage on 14 September 2016, and had not seen any grounds for objecting to the application. In discussion, members of the Council asked about the listing

status of the barn and cob wall, which it was understood were to be removed. The Clerk would look into this.

Arising from M16/112, it was noted that there were no grounds for objecting to the application relating to Seaview Farm.

It was also reported that Ladram Bay had withdrawn its application to construct a shed and service yard close to the entrance to the holiday park.

16/130. Public Questions and Comments

Members of the public raised matters concerning the hedges in the cemetery and Jubilee children's playground, which had recently been cut; the condition of the grass in the cemetery and around the War Memorial; debris left behind after the cutting of vegetation in gullies; street cleaning arrangements; car parking and dangerous driving. Councillors asked if Streetscene could be contacted to see if it would be possible to give notice of street cleaning, so that residents could move cars as necessary, and that the issue of parking should be addressed in the Neighbourhood Plan.

16/131. Chairman's Business

The Chairman reported as follows:

- (i) He was hoping that those residents who had shown willingness to join a working party to help clear up the village would be able to start work on the morning of Saturday 22 October 2016, weather permitting. A number of tasks had been identified.
- (ii) The next meeting of the Lower Otter Valley Restoration Project Stakeholder Group had been postponed and would now take place on 19 October 2016.
- (iii) The Annual Parish Walk would be held on Saturday 12 November 2016; he would ask Iain Ure if he would be willing to lead it.
- (iv) Special Repair IT events were being held across the county at which members of the public could take damaged electrical items for repair free of charge. The next of these events were at Sidmouth Farmers' Market on 8 October and at Exeter Community Centre on 5 November 2016.
- (v) East Devon Citizens' Advice had written to offer free workshops on switching energy suppliers if parishes were able to supply a venue; efforts would be made to see if there was likely to be a demand for such a service.
- (vi) He proposed holding a Guy Fawkes competition for children in the village. The Council supported the idea, and Cllr Whittingham would liaise with the school and publicise this in the School Newsletter.
- (vii) The main road from East Budleigh to Newton Poppleford was to be closed on 6 and 7 October 2016 for maintenance; further details were on the parish web site

16/132. Proposed Telecoms Mast at Stantyway Recreation Ground

The Clerk reported that Ratio Law had agreed to act for the Council, but that there was, as yet, no date for a site visit by any of the potential operators. It was also reported that Mrs J

Lee had written expressing health concerns about the siting of the mast as well as disagreeing that the recreation ground should be used as a site for a mast. The Council noted the position.

16/133. Parishes Together Fund

It was noted that Woodbury Parish Council had agreed to join the project, but Colaton Raleigh and East Budleigh did not wish to take part. It was not certain if the funding was only available if the collaborating parishes were contiguous; this would be checked with EDDC. The Council **AGREED** that the seeking of letters of support and other preparation should continue, with a view to making a submission in November.

16/134. Dog and Waste Bins

The Council considered the outcome of a review of litter and dog bins in the village, by EDDC (PC/16/08). The original request, to locate a dog bin close to Otterton Bridge had been accepted, and other proposals made. The Council was broadly content with the review's outcome, other than in relation to dog bins. It was felt that by relocating the dog bin by the playground to Park Lane, and that on the Green to Stantyway Cross it would be possible to remove two parish-owned ones, thereby making a financial saving.

There were different views about the proposal to create a compost area in the cemetery, and the Clerk was asked to investigate the possible installation there of a green waste bin.

16/135. Use of the Triangle

It was reported that the governors of the primary school had agreed to return the Triangle as it is no longer used by the school. This would now be taken forward in conjunction with Clinton Devon Estates.

16/136. Management of the Cemetery

The Council considered a proposed Guide to Otterton Cemetery (PC/16/09), which had been developed from the set of regulations tabled by Cllr Lister at the last meeting. Councillors accepted the change in tone of the document, which it was hoped would achieve the cooperation of cemetery users. The Guide was approved, subject to specifying a timescale in clause 7 of 3 months and including a provision that no more stone kerbs would be permitted around graves. It was also **AGREED** that those applying in future to buy a grave space or arrange an interment would be asked to agree to abide by the provisions in the Guide. It was accepted that some elements could not and should not be applied retrospectively.

16/137. Section 106 Funding for the Jubilee Children's Playground

Cllr Davies reported that he would, on the advice of EDDC, be visiting the school to talk to the children about the selection of the Wendy House and that he would be securing quotations for the work in line with EDDC advice.

16/138. Planning Applications

The Council considered planning application 16/1711/LBC in relation to the application to create a timber day room and other alterations at Anchoring Barn in Ottery Street. It was

noted that the substantive application had already been considered and no objections had been made; this listed building consent was regarded as acceptable.

There were no objections to planning application 16/2078/FUL, a proposal to convert 120 sq. metres of agricultural land at the rear of 9 – 11 Ottery Street into garden use.

16/139. Neighbourhood Plan

The Council noted the arrangements for the public meeting to be held on 25 October 2016 in the Village Hall.

It was also noted that East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council had submitted its Neighbourhood Plan, which was available for consultation until 17 October 2016.

The Clerk reported that, as Otterton was a neighbouring parish, the Council was being invited to comment on the draft Budleigh Salterton Neighbourhood Plan. This would be on the agenda for the November meeting.

16/140. Annual Return and Audit – 2016

It was noted that the auditors had reported that the audit had been successfully completed. The auditors had made three comments relating to the publication of information that will be helpful for the 2017 return. The Clerk reported that the documents which the Council is required to publish are available on the web site.

16/141. Otter Valley Association Survey of Heritage Assets

Cllr Bennett introduced a copy of the list of heritage assets located in or close to the village (PC/16/10). He explained that Dee Woods had made a presentation to the Council in 2014, before the survey had been undertaken. It was noted that the survey had now been submitted to EDDC, and it was anticipated that the Council would in due course be invited to comment on it.

16/142. Reports from Councillors with Specific Responsibilities

Councillors reported as follows:

- (i) The Village Green – the Chairman reported that the grass had recently been cut.
- (ii) The War Memorial – the grass around the Memorial would have to be cut shortly in advance of Remembrance Sunday.
- (iii) Stantyway Recreation Ground – it was **AGREED** that the hedge should be cut and that Gordon Sage should be asked to do that.
- (iv) The Jubilee Playground – already covered (M16/137).
- (v) Cemetery – Cllr Lister reported that the grass had been left too long.

16/143. Reports on Village Amenities and Bodies

Councillors reported as follows:

- (i) Trees – nothing to report

- (ii) Footpaths – Cllr Young had followed up his request to Richard Spurway for a new footpath map, but had not yet heard from him.
- (iii) Contracts and Finance – nothing to report
- (iv) Ladram Bay – the Clerk had followed up the financial contribution towards the cost of maintaining village footpaths.
- (v) Football Club – Cllr Farrington reported that the Football Club had not responded to any of his contacts about their annual contribution. The Council **AGREED** that the Chairman should now write to the club and formally request early payment. District Cllr. Jung reported that EDDC was now introducing commercial rates for the use of playing fields and that the Council might consider a similar approach, or might suggest that payments by standing order would help to avoid any significant increases expected from the club.
- (vi) Raleigh Federation – nothing to report.
- (vii) Twinning – nothing to report
- (viii) Village Hall – nothing to report.
- (ix) Community Shop – It was reported that there had been further acts of vandalism at the shop.

16/144. Police Report

No police report was available.

16/145. County Council Report

In the absence of County Councillor Channon, the Clerk reported that she had asked the County Council to cut the grass verge at Brick Cross (as requested at the last meeting); asked Devon Highways to alter the right turn arrow on the road at Brick Cross; and that she had been elected Vice-Chairman of Governors at the Raleigh Federation, in which role she would do all that she could to support the future of Otterton and the school.

16/146. District Council Report

District Councillor Jung reported that EDDC was intending to charge commercial rates for the use of playing fields (with the provision to make grants as necessary) and explained some of the background to the review of East Devon County Council. He also advised that some grants were available from the District Council to help with the running of cemeteries.

16/147. Correspondence

The Council noted the correspondence received, as set out on the agenda.

16/148. Payments and Receipts for September 2016

The September payments and receipts (which had been set out in paper PC/16/11) were noted, as follows:

Payments	£
<i>South West Water d/d</i>	<i>5.00</i>

<i>Village Hall – Room Hire June Meeting</i>	<i>11.00</i>
<i>Parish Clerk – office and travel expenses – June to Aug 2016</i>	<i>48.32</i>
Total	64.32

Receipts

<i>Precept from EDDC</i>	<i>5050.00</i>
<i>CTDG from EDDC</i>	<i>210.00</i>
<i>J E and M L Gregory – re the late Susan Ann Packham</i>	<i>267.50</i>
Total	5527.50

16/149. Date of Next Meeting

The Council **AGREED** that the next meeting would be held on Monday 7 November 2016.

16/150. Business for the November Meeting Agenda

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

- (i) The Electoral Review of East Devon;
- (ii) The Budleigh Salterton Neighbourhood Plan;
- (iii) The relationship with the Football Club
- (iv) Section 106 Funding for the Jubilee Children’s Playground; and
- (v) The Parishes Together Fund Application

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Mike Miller

Clerk to the Parish Council

5 October 2016.