

Otterton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Committee Room of the Village Hall on Monday 3 April 2017

Present: Cllr Ian Simpson (Chairman)

Cllr Tony Bennett

Cllr Tony Farrington

Cllr John Fudge

Cllr John Hiles

Cllr John Lister

Cllr Roy Young

In Attendance: Mr Mike Miller (for the Clerk)

District Councillor Mr Geoff Jung

and 4 members of the public

17/80. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Sarah Whittingham and Mrs Francesca Mills (Clerk)

17/81. Declarations of Interest

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

17/82. Confidential Items of Business

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

17/83. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 13 March 2017, were approved as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

17/84. Triangle of Land by the Bridge

Arising from M17/60, the Council considered again the potential future use of the Triangle. It had been intended in mid-2016 to develop the space as a picnic area, or for ball games, and preliminary discussions had been held with Clinton Devon Estates on that basis. Councillors were now less enthusiastic about this proposal, conscious of the difficulties and costs of maintenance and the risk of occasional flooding. The land might have a future use as a car

park if the surface could be raised sufficiently. It was **AGREED** not to proceed at present with the previously agreed plan and to notify CDE accordingly.

17/85. Parishes Together Fund Application

Arising from M17/34 it was noted that the application for the plant and animal signage scheme had been recommended for approval; it would be necessary to liaise closely with Woodbury Council once the funding was received.

17/86. Public Questions and Comments

Members of the public raised the following matters:

- (i) Whether the concrete bus shelter opposite the Village Green could be used to store wheelie bins; the Council turned down this suggestion as the bus shelter remained in use;
- (ii) The condition of the Jubilee Children's Playground; the Chairman reported that improvements were being planned (M17/89);
- (iii) Whether there had been any progress with the proposed telecoms masts; there was nothing to report, and proposals were still awaited;
- (iv) The future arrangements for the Reindeer Run, and the possible disruption to bus services. Councillors felt that some disruption was worth the great benefit of the event which raised considerable funds for the school. In any event Cllr Hiles noted the concerns and would consider how to minimise disruption when more detailed planning for the event took place; and
- (v) Claire Wright introduced herself to the Council as a candidate for the new Otter Ward in the forthcoming County Council elections.

17/87. Chairman's Business

The Chairman reported on the following:

- (i) A refresher familiarisation/training session on the use of the defibrillator would be arranged during April or May. It would be held in the Hall;
- (ii) The next Volunteer Working Party project would be the levelling of the football area in the Jubilee Playground. A date would be agreed shortly; and
- (iii) Cllr Hiles had arranged training as the Council's Road Warden

17/88. Greater Exeter Strategic Plan

The Council considered the invitation to contribute to the consultation on the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan. Whilst being conscious that the development of Exeter could not be ignored, and that EDDC was working with the City Council in relation to the plan, the Council did not have any contribution to make at this stage.

17/89. Section 106 Funding for the Jubilee Children's Playground

The Chairman reported that he had been seeking prices for the two items of equipment that had been requested by the children in the consultation, a zip wire and a basket swing. It was suggested that the funding should be used to replace the damaged items identified in the

Playsafe inspection report, though the popularity of those pieces with the children was not known.

17/90. Planning Matters

The Council considered planning applications 16/1957/FUL and 16/1958/LBC relating to the extension of the Old Vicarage in Ropers Lane. Cllrs Simpson, Young and Fudge had visited the site and met the applicant, Mr Parkin. It had been clear from this meeting that the changes from the previous application were principally concerned with materials and design. The Council was not convinced of the benefits of the changes and felt that the development would be more attractive if it was designed to be consistent with the Georgian style of the original building. Some councillors remained concerned at the loss of the shippen, though it was noted that it was in a very poor condition. The Council was pleased to note the planned improvements to the new boundary wall.

The Council considered planning application 17/0635/TCA, relating to the proposed felling of a number of trees at 20 Fore Street. It was not clear how this application related to an earlier application for tree work at this property so the Council **AGREED** to make a visit to the site on Wednesday 5 April 2017 at 6pm.

17/91. Lower Otter Restoration Project

Cllr Fudge reported on the meeting of the Stakeholder Group held on 15 March 2017 at Seaton Wetlands Centre. The development at Seaton was impressive, including the construction of footpaths, hides and a range of visitor facilities. It was expected that visitor numbers would reach over 100,000 per year as parking and other facilities were expanded further.

The Environment Agency was reported to be still considering the options for the development of the lower Otter valley; public exhibitions and consultations were being arranged.

17/92. Jubilee Children's Playground Annual Inspection

The Council considered the report from Playsafety Ltd following their annual inspection of the playground on 14 March 2017, noting that the overall risk rating was high, arising from a number of medium risk assessments of the equipment, which councillors felt was due to inadequate monitoring and maintenance over recent months. It was suggested that contractors should be used to deal with a number of the issues identified, but before proceeding Councillors would inspect the playground further on Wednesday 6 April, following the visit to 20 Fore Street (M17/90 above).

The Council reiterated the need for more regular attention to the playground, noting that a visual inspection was required each week, with a more in depth check once a month; a log should be kept of these checks.

17/93. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Fudge gave a brief oral report on the work of the Steering Group. The Council noted that a questionnaire survey had been designed and was now being tested. When the survey had

been completed and the results analysed, a public meeting would be held to consider the findings and how to take them forward.

The Council also noted the financial report (Appendix to PC/17/12).

17/94. East Devon Villages Plan

The Council did not have any comments on the plan, which had been circulated in March.

17/95. Annual Parish Assembly – 10 April 2017

The Council considered further the arrangements for the 2017 Annual Parish Assembly, to be held on 10 April 2017. It was noted that managers at Ladram Bay did not feel able to attend the assembly as it fell at a particularly busy time of the year. It was also noted that District Cllr Jung would not be able to attend. Cllrs Bennett and Farrington would provide refreshments at the event.

17/96. Emergency Plan

Cllr Farrington reported that he had updated the plan, but that further changes would be needed following the 2017 elections for Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council. District Cllr Jung indicated that the plan should include the identification of sites where a helicopter (such as the air ambulance) could land without a major impact on animals. A revised plan would be submitted to a future meeting for approval.

17/97. Little Otters Pre-School

The Council considered a request from Little Otters (PC/17/11) for funding to help with their transition to a new, scaled-down provision in the hall at Drakes Primary School. Councillors felt that this was a valuable service to the community and wished to help, but asked for further information on how much was being requested, how any support would be used and which other bodies had been approached before reaching a final decision.

17/98. Reports from Councillors with Specific Responsibilities

Councillors reported as follows:

- (i) The Village Green –It was noted that Western Power and Kier had responded positively to the Council’s concerns about damage to the Green and had filled in the ruts with top soil, which now needed to be seeded.
- (ii) The War Memorial – nothing to report.
- (iii) Stantyway Recreation Ground – nothing to report other than ongoing concerns about the damage being caused by car parking.
- (iv) The Jubilee Playground – already covered (M17/89 and M17/92)
- (v) Cemetery – Cllr Lister indicated that he would deal with the path edges, identified at the last meeting.

17/99. Reports on Village Amenities and Bodies

Councillors reported as follows:

- (i) Trees – nothing to report
- (ii) Footpaths – Cllr Young reported that new fences and gates had been put in a number of fields, suggesting that they were to be used for stock;
- (iii) Contracts and Finance – nothing to report.
- (iv) Ladram Bay – it was reported that many residents had been disturbed by heavy vehicles and other Ladram-related traffic in recent weeks. The Council had been invited to visit the holiday park to talk over the issues; it was **AGREED** to take up the offer. Cllr Jung would wish to be included if possible. It was also noted that the holiday park had a licence for 858 pitches, though the breakdown by category was not known.
- (v) Football Club – nothing to report
- (vi) Raleigh Federation – Cllr Whittingham had provided a report which was read to the meeting. The Council noted in particular the numbers on roll were now 62; the arrangements being made to continue the Little Otters Pre-School at a reduced level of provision; the anticipation of a good report from the OFSTED inspection; the budgetary pressures; current curriculum themes and the new website.
- (vii) Twinning – the Twinning AGM would be held on 11 April 2017 in the Hall.
- (viii) Village Hall – it was noted that the installation of CCTV outside the shop was being considered as a result of a number of incidents of vandalism. It had also been suggested that a skatepark be provided at the playground as skateboard users were damaging the steps outside the shop.
- (ix) Community Shop – nothing to report

17/100. Police Report

No police report was available for the meeting.

17/101. County Council Report

No report was available for the meeting

17/102. District Council Report

District Councillor Jung reported on the development of a Local Enterprise Zone, based at Cranbrook and West End, which would provide incentives for businesses. He also indicated that he would follow up the continuing concerns about the loss of the shippen at the Old Vicarage.

17/103. Correspondence

The Council noted the correspondence received, as set out on the agenda, together with a message from Highways confirming that Church Hill would be resurfaced during 2017-18. The Council asked that these repairs be held back until the work at the church had been completed. The Council also noted receipt of a message about a proposed tree survey, which would help to assess the state of ash trees. This would be passed on to the Tree Warden

17/104. Payments and Receipts for March 2017

The March payments and receipts, which had been set out in paper PC/17/12, were noted, as follows:

Payments	£
<i>South West Water d/d</i>	<i>5.00</i>
<i>Clerk's office expenses: December 2016 to February 2017</i>	<i>29.66</i>
<i>SLCC Membership – monthly standing order</i>	<i>8.20</i>
<i>Village Hall – Committee Room hire for Steering Group meetings</i>	<i>22.00</i>
<i>Village Hall – Committee Room hire for Feb Meeting and Hall hire</i>	<i>49.00</i>
<i>Tack Lockers Direct – portable sandbag filler</i>	<i>920.00</i>
<i>Playsafety Ltd – playground inspection</i>	<i>100.80</i>
<i>Neighbourhood Plan SG – stationary (R Birch)</i>	<i>3.63</i>
Total	1,138.29

Receipts

<i>Cross & Beale Funeral Directors (re June Helen Ellis)</i>	<i>267.50</i>
Total	267.50

It was also noted that there had been a unexplained receipt of £50 during March, which the Clerk would check.

17/105. Date of Next Meeting

The Council **AGREED** that the next meeting (the AGM) would be held on Monday 8 May 2017.

17/106. Business for the May 2017 Meeting Agenda

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

- (i) The Review of the Emergency Plan;
- (ii) Section 106 Funding for and issues arising from the inspection report on the Jubilee Children's Playground; and
- (iii) The request from Little Otters for financial support;

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Mike Miller, for the Clerk to the Parish Council - 5 April 2017

