

# Otterton Parish Council

A **Meeting** of Otterton Parish Council will be held on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018** at 7.30pm in the Committee Room of Otterton Village Hall. All members of Otterton Parish Council are summoned to attend the meeting. Members of the public and the press are also welcome.

Present: Cllr John Fudge, Cllr Tony Farrington, Cllr John Hiles, Cllr Tony Bennett, Cllr Roy Young, Cllr Val Pride.

## Minutes

1. **Apologies for Absence:-** Cllr John Lister and Cllr Claire Wright sent apologies for absence.
2. **Declarations of Interests:** There were no declarations of personal and pecuniary interests from Councillors relating to items of business on the agenda.
3. **Confidential Items of Business: No** business was sought to be dealt with in confidence.
4. **Minutes:** To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018 were signed as a correct record of the meeting. There were no matters arising from the minutes, not elsewhere on the agenda:
5. **Public Questions and Comments: *Items for Discussion and Decision***

Complaint about parking in the village. If folk parked more considerately and within the law the traffic problems would be eased. Difficulties for bus parking on the green due to inconsiderate parking. There should not be any parking outside 'old post office' as it narrows the road. Pinch points in village remain a problem and white lines need repainting. 'Highways' reluctant to act unless parking is deemed to be dangerous.

**Memorial tree.** Lack of maintenance has meant that several trees in the village which have been planted have subsequently died due to lack of care. Millennium trees planted by Lord Clinton are cared for but who will look after the memorial tree? 30 mile an hour sign at bottom of bell street has swung around. Cllr Hiles has offered to reposition it.
6. **Chairman's Business:** The report from the chairman was read and is attached.  
**The Parish Council voted to give an exceptional extension to deliveries coming to Ladram Bay as long as delivery was outside of school hours, if the vehicle has been delayed.**
7. **DPO** – The requirements of GDPR continue to be considered by the Parish Council.
8. **Items from Previous Meetings**
  - To consider further the use of Section 106 funding to provide skateboard/scooter facilities for the older children in the village – Nothing to report at this meeting.  
Discussion took place regarding other opportunities for use of 106 funding. (106 funding cannot be used on repairs must be new spend and must be spent within 5 years of grant)
  - Consider quotes for hedge cutting in Cemetery and Jubilee playground. These have not yet been received from Halcyon landscapes it was agreed that these would be circulated as soon as received and agreement or objections noted. The work will be commissioned on agreement.
  - Request for Salt – Cllr Hiles to send contact to Clerk so order can be made.
9. **Ladram Bay:** Nothing to report at present.

10. **Sewerage Pipe:** on Bell Street. It was acknowledged that there is a smell which needs addressing. (email from Sean following visit on the 21<sup>st</sup>)

11. **Planning:** Following a site meeting at Hawkern House and conversation with Mrs Mills, the home owner, the Parish Council has withdrawn it's objection to this planning proposal. The clerk has sent the necessary paperwork to the planning authorities.

12. **Cemetery Guidelines:** Consider progress in drawing up guidelines. In the absence of Cllr Lister who has responsibility for the cemetery it was agreed to postpone discussion regarding the pre-purchase of exclusive rights to plots in the cemetery.

### 13. **Stantyway Recreation Field**

Consider progress with Tenancy Agreement & report on current maintenance of field. **It was agreed that Cllr Fudge will attempt to write a tenancy agreement for consideration by the Council.**

Agree actions regarding the planting of memorial trees. A quote obtained for oak tree and equipment to plant it amounted to £66.00 inclusive of VAT. This does not include cost of wooden seat or ground clearance.(Perivale Nursery of Honiton).

The planting of tree would take place during a service/ceremony at Stantyway recreation Field. During the service an introduction of project will take place by JF and an introduction of names by Cllr Bennett. Tim Gorman to spread earth as symbolic planting. Rev'd Canon Ian Pusey will conduct a brief service and a Bugler will sound the last post. Refreshments to be offered to public attending. This ceremony to follow on from Church Service at St Michael's on 11<sup>th</sup> November and should take approx. 30 minutes.

14. **Pathways and PROW:** See report attached.

15. **Consider safety of plant pots on High Street.** Cllr Fudge has sought advice from 'Highways' regarding the positioning of pots on the road outside houses on High Street. These pots are situated between the building and the white line over which traffic should not pass. As they do not inhibit the flow of traffic they are not seen as a danger. It should also be KIV that there is pedestrian walkway on the other side of the road. It was agreed that these are an attractive feature but inhibits safe progress along that side of the road. It was agreed that Cllr Pride could talk to resident asking for space between pots

**Plant pot outside the entrance the Kings Arms also seen as a problem as it is taking up parking places which are at premium in the village. Will Tottle will seek owners permission for removal.**

### 16. **Reports from Councillors with Specific Responsibilities**

- (i) The Village Green – Cllr Simpson, nothing to report.
- (ii) The War Memorial – Cllr Bennett, nothing to report.
- (iii) Stantyway Recreation Ground – Cllr Simpson, nothing to report
- (iv) The Jubilee Playground – Cllr Fudge (Consider safety of Slide). It was agreed that clerk should seek advice from Rhino Play equipment regarding the possibility of repairing the unit or if this could be replaced. Cllr Fudge will rope off piece of equipment.
- (v) The Cemetery – Cllr Lister

### 17. **Reports on Village Amenities and Bodies**

- (i) Trees – Cllrs Simpson. Nothing to report.

- (ii) Footpaths – Cllr Young. Nothing to report.
- (iii) Contracts and Finance – Cllr Fudge. Nothing to report.
- (iv) Football Club – Cllr Farrington. Nothing to report. Cllr farrington will seek removal of bag of sand in front of goals.
- (v) Raleigh Federation – Cllr Hiles – HT to take early retirement from school. Otterton came first in Budleigh Carnival Float overall competition.
- (vi) Twinning – Cllr Bennett. Nothing to report.
- (vii) Village Hall – Cllr Fudge. Nothing to report.
- (viii) Community Shop – Cllr Pride. Nothing to report.

18. **Police Report:** Copy report from PCSO Justin Willis. Re police advocate.

19. **County Council Report:** A report from County Councillor Claire Wright was received and read by Cllr Fudge and is now attached to these minutes.

20. **District Council Report:** To receive a report from District Councillor Mr Geoff Jung:-  
 Diary dates:- Flood resilience forum – need to send someone 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov @ Victory Hall Broadclyst commencing 10.00a.m.  
 East Devon meeting 19<sup>th</sup> October re flooding issues.  
 LORP meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> October.  
 House building within current limits for greater Exeter area but extra building sought as a bargaining tool to provide improved infrastructure.

21. **Correspondence:** Invitation to Tree Warden Forum

22. **Financial Matters:** To receive a note of payments and receipts for July 2018  
**Invoices to be paid following meeting 10th September 2018:-**

<b>Outgoings</b>		Opening Balance £12245.97
SWW	Water for cemetery annual Fee Paid monthly £5 by d/d	£5
1515 Otterton Village Hall	Hire of Village Hall (August)	£11.
<b>Incomings</b>		
EDDC	Precept	<b>£5260</b>
EDDC	Refund on Council Tax	<b>£70.50</b>
		<b>Closing balance £17560.51</b>

It was agreed that cheque 1515 could be paid for hire of village hall.

It was also agreed that cheque number 1519 for £12.00 for hire of the hall (September) could also be paid.

23. **Items for the Next Agenda. 106 funding. Feedback on pots.**

24. **Date of Next Meeting:** To agree that the next meeting will be held on **Monday 5th November 2018**  
 Apologies received from Cllr Pride for this meeting.

**Chairman's Report - 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018**

## **Ladram Bay Deliveries**

The Chairman and Vice Chairman attended a meeting on 26th September arranged by Steve Harper-Smith of Ladram Bay to discuss the progress of large loads through the village.

Attendees were;

Steve Harper Smith – General Manager Ladram Bay

Mike Brown – Local Highways Officer

Fred Nicholls – of transport company L F Nicholls

John Fudge – Otterton PC

John Hiles – Otterton PC

The situation is that lodges are designed to last 45 years and caravans for 15. This means that we will see many more caravans delivered than lodges. Unfortunately, caravans are wider than lodges which is causing access problems.

2 problem areas (pinch points) were identified. The first between The Kings Arms and The Village Green and the second just west of the phone box where the railings which surrounding the stream form a corner and protrude into the road.

The problem is parked cars which are often visitors to the village.

Various options were discussed but some of these were either undesirable, unachievable or long term.

Current deliveries are made between 10am and 2pm. Mr Nicholls said that it would be difficult to give a tighter time frame as road conditions are unpredictable. Deliveries are made from the Midlands and there can be hold up's on the Motorway due to accidents.

It was agreed that the short term fix was for Ladram Bay to

- a) continue to inform the village in advance via the village web site
- b) to place an advance warning on the village notice board at Cross Trees
- c) to place an 'A frame' at a strategic point in the village.
- d) to deliver a leaflet to every household involved

Discussions with Ladram Bay are ongoing.

## **Rickety Bridge**

Clinton & Devon have placed notices near to 'Rickety Bridge' stating that they intend to start work on the bridge week commencing Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October. This is subject to weather conditions as they need relatively firm ground to operate their crane.

## **Ladram Bay Road - Grit Bin**

It was reported that the grit bin in Ladram Bay Road was empty. Highways have informed me the Chairman that the bin has been refilled.

## **Otterton Film Club**

Otterton Film Club presented their first film on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September. Entry was free of charge and the village hall was packed. Annual subscription will be £20.

## **Footpath and Rights of Way Report for September 2018**

### **General**

1. This is a brief report as there was only 3 weeks between Parish Council meetings and I have been away for 2 of them.
2. Geoff Porter kindly kept an eye on the Footpaths whilst I was away.
3. Richard Spurway (DCC Public Rights of Way Warden) responded to some of my queries following our meeting last month.

### **Issues**

4. Clamour Bridge (officially known as Bicton Bridge) is to be replaced in October, starting 8<sup>th</sup> October. Work is subject to the ground remaining firm.
5. DCC contractor is Environmental South West. They are aware of issues relating to Otters and Beavers in the locality.
6. Hedge trimming has been ongoing and most paths I visited are accessible without a problem.
7. Chockenhole Lane (305) has had its hedges trimmed and the fallen tree removed. Unfortunately the small sign posts at both ends were damaged during this work. At the west end the post has had its top cut and is leaning at 30 degrees but firm. At the east end the post is OK but firmly resting at 45 degrees.

#### **Proposal**

8. In my last report I proposed that a programme of wooden finger post sign replacements be compiled and a strategy of priorities should be developed to inform the programme. No feedback from the Parish Council has been received. Richard Spurway has given me a suitable contact for obtaining price estimates.

Iain Ure 30 September 2018

#### **Report from Claire Wright (Ms) Devon County Councillor - Otter Valley Ward**

##### **20mph limit for Otterton to be recommended for approval by Devon County Council Highways officers**

Two senior Devon County Council Highways officers have confirmed that they will recommend Otterton has a 20mph limit, following my work to prove that the village meets every policy requirement bar one. The recommendation is that the new 20mph limit should replace the existing 30mph limit. Beginning and ending in the same places. Two short speed checks were carried out in April and September and found that mean speeds were around 20mph (although of course I am aware of many reports of speeding at other times, particularly in the evenings).

The policy requirements include:

- community support, which has been demonstrated by over 100 people voting in favour at a public meeting in January, the support of the parish council, the headteacher of Otterton Primary School and its county councillor – me
- significant vulnerable road user activity
- mean speeds around 20mph
- road is not serving a strategic function
- there will be little or no environmental impact

The cost will be between £3 and £5,000, which includes the signage and advertising as part of a regulatory traffic order. I have agreed to allocate a third of the funding through my locality budget and I hope Otterton Parish Council will provide another third.

I have written to the manager of Ladram Bay Holiday Park to ask if the company would supply the remaining third, given how much traffic is generated by the business. I have not yet received a reply. The recommendations from the highways officers will be considered by the Speed Compliance Action Forum (SCARF) on 22 November. If SCARF agrees the proposal, the works could take around a year to complete.

Further covert speed checks will be carried out in the village over the next few months to establish whether there is also a need for a flashing 20mph speed sign to accompany the new 20mph limit.

This is the result of around nine months work so I am absolutely delighted that highways officers have been convinced to back up the views of Otterton residents in this way. Just a few months ago, it was not looking so hopeful! I will message you with further updates when I receive them.

### **The Secretary of State for Health visits Ottery Hospital – and leaves at speed – James Bond style!**

Matt Hancock, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care sped out of Ottery Hospital car park, in his ministerial car, with blue lights activated last Wednesday morning (26 September), in an apparently desperate attempt to avoid speaking to me and around a dozen hospital supporters.

Just before he left in a hurry, officials actually asked me and around a dozen residents to leave the car park where we were peacefully waiting for him to exit.

We didn't have placards and there was no chanting.

Mr Hancock had been invited to the hospital by Mr Swire, who earlier this morning took him on a tour around Budleigh Salterton Hospital, which is now a health and wellbeing hub.

I understand that the Department of Health was unaware of the visit and it was arranged solely through Mr Swire's office.

I was contacted by ITV late on Tuesday to be interviewed about the hospital, as the Devon County Councillor for the area, and because of my work in trying to help save hospital beds and buildings, in my role as a Devon County Council Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee Councillor.

As I was being interviewed by ITV on Wednesday morning, the ministerial Jaguar drove past, slowed up sharply as the inhabitants of the car spotted me, and then drove into the car park. Mr Hancock was welcomed into the building as I was being interviewed.

I understand that there were a number of local Conservatives present inside, including Sara Randall Johnson, chair of the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee, along with one or two members of the community.

East Devon MP, Mr Swire and his aides were of course, also present.

As around a dozen of us were waiting quietly outside the building for Mr Hancock to exit, after around half an hour an officer from the Communications Department of the NEW Devon Clinical Commissioning Group came out and asked me what I wanted.

He asked us to leave because this was "private property" and "wasn't a political event" – a bizarre reason, given the number of (Conservative) politicians in the building at that moment!

And um a NHS premises paid for by taxpayers money!

The officer asked what I wanted. I replied that I wanted to talk to Mr Hancock and that we would be staying until Mr Hancock left.

He looked doubtful and responded: "Hmm, I'll see how that plays out inside."

Then the game of cat and mouse with the ministerial car started...

A few minutes later the ministerial Jaguar slowly moved away from the building. We guessed it was driving around the back. We followed.

And waited next to it at the back door.

After about 10 minutes a senior NHS manager stuck her head out of the door and said: "Hello Claire" and promptly shut the door again!

But the chauffeur had his instructions, started the ignition, activated the blue flashing lights, (presumably normally used in the case of security alerts!) and sped around to the front entrance of the hospital.

We followed in hot pursuit, almost crashing into the media and NHS communications officers, who were rapidly making their way around the back.

We arrived at the front just in time to see Mr Hancock and his team jump into his Jaguar with its flashing lights. I tried to call to him but he was too far away and didn't answer.

We then moved quickly off the road as the car sped through the car park and left Thorne Farm Way, narrowly avoiding a pedestrian and another vehicle that was arriving.

This man is the Secretary of State for Health. Why was he so frightened about talking to a dozen residents, and the local county councillor?!

As the Devon County Councillor, who has worked to save hospital beds and buildings for a long time why was I not invited to the meeting?

Why was I asked to leave the premises?!

I had been quite encouraged that Mr Hancock was visiting the hospital and wanted to hear from him that he will protect Ottery's and other hospitals. After all, he commands the NHS and also NHS Property Services, which now owns many hospital buildings in the area.

They are all at risk of possible closure and sell-off due to the lack of funding available to pay the enormous rents NHS Property Services demands.

But his cowardly escape bid simply gave the impression of a man who does not wish to be even remotely accountable.

I really do hope that some good can come out of his visit, despite the Sidmouth Herald reporting that Mr Hancock could guarantee the hospital remaining open.

Pics: The Secretary of State's car with blue lights activated leaves the hospital's rear entrance at speed.

Me being asked to leave the premises by an NHS official

For more photos see Twitter and my Facebook account at Claire Wright Independent Parliamentary Candidate. And for further updates see [www.claire-wright.org](http://www.claire-wright.org)

### **Community hospitals update**

Interestingly, I have a motion before DCC full council (submitted in July) on Thursday (4 October), which asks the council to urge the NHS to retain community hospital buildings and oppose any plans to declare any such buildings surplus to requirements. This is very valid as the local NHS prepares its Estates Strategy. So far two committees of Devon County Council have rejected my motion. The conservatives on the health and adult care scrutiny committee voted my proposal down in June and the all conservative cabinet simply noted that 'it was a matter for the NHS' at its 12 September meeting. For a full report see - [http://www.claire-wright.org/index.php/post/devon\\_county\\_council\\_cabinet\\_rejects\\_my\\_motion\\_to\\_back\\_retention\\_of\\_community](http://www.claire-wright.org/index.php/post/devon_county_council_cabinet_rejects_my_motion_to_back_retention_of_community)

On 4 October, all 60 councillors will get to debate the issue and vote. I am hoping that common sense will prevail. We need our community hospital buildings to provide local health services.

### **Environmental watchdog**

Also on 4 October I have a motion on a post Brexit environmental watchdog. The government's current plans are for a rather thin arrangement which will go nowhere near providing the same level of accountability as currently provided by EU legislation. The new proposals have been criticised by top lawyers as being 'toothless.' They will let off the hook big business and government from prosecutions. This could lead to our land, sea and air becoming polluted with little or no recourse to resolve the issue.

My motion actually backs up the response from DCC officers to the official government consultation. I am however, disappointed to report that the councillors on the all conservative cabinet simply resolved to 'support the principle' of my motion and take no further action. This is a massive lost opportunity and in my view lets down Devon residents, who should have these sorts of assurances.

We are one of the most nature depleted countries in the world according to the most recent State of Nature report, and should have absolutely watertight safeguards to protect our wildlife and environment, as a result. Again, there will be a full debate and vote on 4 October. [http://www.claire-wright.org/index.php/post/devon\\_county\\_councils\\_cabinet\\_recommends\\_no\\_action\\_on\\_my\\_post\\_brexit\\_enviro](http://www.claire-wright.org/index.php/post/devon_county_councils_cabinet_recommends_no_action_on_my_post_brexit_enviro)

### **Local NHS cuts – my push for more transparency rejected**

At the last health and adult care scrutiny committee meeting last week (20 September) my proposal for a review into what cuts the local NHS is making failed as no councillor would second my proposal.

I have been asking for over half a year for information on what cuts the local NHS is making as part of the government's plan to reduce the NHS £30bn shortfall by 2020. In Devon, this has translated into around £500m by 2020 and in Devon the NHS is working to achieve this.

At the June meeting (after I had asked for more information on the cuts as the local NHS reported its confidence to get back to zero by 2020) the health and adult care scrutiny committee received a paper, including a side of A4 of bullet points on what was being cut. It was extremely vague and did not provide anything like the level of detail required for a proper scrutiny session.

I asked a further paper for our September meeting. This arrived by email two days before the meeting. The finance section was four pages of bullet points. Slightly less vague but fell very short of what I would have expected for councillors to carry out a proper scrutiny of what services are being cut in order to meet the government's requirements for financial balance in 2020.

I said I thought that there was some obfuscation going on. I proposed a spotlight review into the cuts as a result. I emphasised that there was little more important at the current time and residents were being kept in the dark. Unfortunately, the chair, Sara Randall Johnson tried to take it to a group that meets in private. I objected to this and argued that both the NHS and Devon County Council were both publicly accountable organisations and this issue should be debated and reported to the committee that meets in the public domain. The health and adult care scrutiny committee is the right place for it. The chair continued to object to what I was saying. In the end, frustrated at her attitude I simply asked for a seconder so there could be a vote. I am very disappointed to report that no committee member seconded my proposal. I remain baffled and angry about this. This programme of cuts, known as the sustainability and transformation plan essentially underpins all the work the NHS is doing for the two years and I believe that people across the county have been let down by our committee, which failed to see the importance of our committee having access to this information.

### **A spotlight review for carers**

I have been doggedly pursuing this issue in my role as a health scrutiny committee member, since the beginning of the year when I asked for more information on how carers were faring and discovered a report of a focus group that showed many carers are experiencing real emotional, physical and financial hardship. Some saying that they feel their lives are over and are in poor health as a result of the stresses of caring for a partner or a friend.

I proposed a spotlight review at the June meeting but this was delayed at this point and instead the committee was invited to attend a meeting at the Westbank League of Friends, which runs the contract for Devon County Council carers support. This was useful in determining how the Carers Act of 2014 (among other other things) has made it harder for carers to access financial support and respite care.

Two carers addressed the health scrutiny committee last Thursday (20 September) and told their stories. Both became emotional. I proposed a spotlight review to look into how carers are being supported. It was seconded by the chair, Sara Randall Johnson. The committee voted unanimously in favour. I am really really pleased to have this agreed and I hope the review will make some useful recommendations that will help carers. They do an amazing job.

### **Community hospital (care at home) review (the system which has replaced community hospital beds)**

This spotlight review, which I am chairing, will report back to the November health and adult care committee. I am anticipating some useful recommendations. We have certainly found some worrying issues, as outlined by witnesses who took part in the review.