

Otterton Parish Council

A **Meeting** of Otterton Parish Council was held on **Monday 1st April 2019** at 7.30pm in the Committee Room of Otterton Village Hall. All members of Otterton Parish Council were summoned to attend the meeting. Members of the public and the press were also made welcome.

Minutes

Present: Cllr Fudge, Farrington, Lister, Pride, Hiles & Bennett. Fran Mills as clerk.

1. **Apologies for Absence:-** Apologies received from Cllr Roy Young, Cllr Geoff Jung, Cllr Claire Wright.
2. **Declarations of Interests:** None.
3. **Confidential Items of Business:** None. (Steve Harper's son is doing work experience in the Community Shop)
4. **Minutes:** To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2019 and to resolve that they be signed as a correct record of the meeting. *Subject to changes made in pen on original document relating to Neighbourhood Plan being sent for consultation which applies to agenda item *** in March meeting minutes.*

To consider any matters arising from the minutes, not elsewhere on the agenda: None

5. **Public Questions and Comments: *Items for Discussion and Decision***

- Drilling of bore holes in. Why is this happening. The PC does not know the answer to this but will endeavour to find out.
- Query regarding 3 minute rule for members of the public, this was seen by a resident as detrimental and inhibits other residents from attending the meeting. The Chair replied that it was within his gift to limit the time all residents have to speak and doing this enabled the meeting to be managed efficiently.
- Concern re Otterton Railway Bridge which is the responsibility of EDDC & also culvert gives cause for concern, gate post has been shattered and brick work has been scratched. Dipping of road, suggests it should be seen by a bridge engineer to review the problem. Action Cllr John Fudge to contact appropriate section of highways.
- Water leak draining into Piscombe Lane, need to notify SWW
- Budleigh Salterton Town Council has secured money for Budleigh Skate Board park to be rebuilt. **Meeting at 6.00 on 17th April all users invited to come along to give input.**

6. **Chairman's Business:**

Stantyway Commemorative Tree

The circular bench which will surround our commemorative tree has been delivered to Ladram Bay who have kindly agreed to erect it. We have decided to place the bench on circular slabs and these will cost £478.00 which will make the total cost of the project £1,517.99 which is £17.99 over the agreed budget of £1,500. The final task will be to install a brass plaque. The size and wording has yet been decided.

BHIB - Insurance Brokers

BHIB Insurance Brokers have sent a flyer to Parish Councils reminding them of their responsibility in maintaining the trees within their parish.

Although we have insurance cover any injuries sustained by members of the public from falling branches would not be covered by our insurance if it were proved that the fallen branch was due to lack of maintenance. They quote a test case.

Parishes Together Funding

The Chairman was pleased to report that our application for a grant from the Parishes Together Fund has been approved and that we can spend our share of the £3,289.50 on the revised countryside signage project. The funds must be spent by 30th September 2019. This was covered by item 11 on the agenda.

Bicton Footbridge (known as Rickety Bridge)

Although Devon County Council have stated that the new Rickety Bridge will be installed some time in the summer of 2019 we have written to them asking if they could carry out some temporary repairs to enable the existing bridge to be opened. They have not yet replied.

Devon County Council - Heritage Conference

DCC will be holding a Heritage Conference in Sidmouth on Saturday 27th April between 9am and 4pm. Subjects covered include local museums and artefacts. There will be guest speakers from various universities around the country. Entry fee is £18 which includes lunch.

7. **DPO** – The policy & notice were adopted April 2019, to be reviewed April 2020

8. Items from Previous Meetings

- To consider further the use of Section 106 funding to provide recreation facilities. (Sports £6346.46) Sulina Tallack is to be invited to the Parish Annual meeting to discuss how the children within the village wish the money to be spent as a Skate board park is problematic and too costly.
- Consider replacement equipment for Jubilee playpark. Update & complete.
- Election of Parish Councillors. 4 Councillors have applied to be re-elected with possibly one more.
- Planning 19/0515/TCA – agreed unanimously.

9. **Ladram Bay:** Consider any further developments regarding retrospective planning applications. Dealt with report from Cllr Geoff Jung.

10. **Stantyway Recreation Field:** Draft documents as sent by Cllr John Fudge and agreed by Parish Council. sent to Football club for agreement. After discussion it was agreed that at this time a formal tenancy would not be pursued.

11. **Pathways and PROW:** Sign off Parishes Together claim form for expenditure on replacement posts. The claim was duly signed. Thanks given to Iain Ure for report and the work he has done on the pathways. Correspondence is ongoing with Clinton Devon Estates regarding Rickety Bridge. It was suggested that the Parish Council needs a policy on Tree Management and to do this the limit of Stantyway Recreation Field should be defined. It is thought that the boundary is the hedge but issues of health and safety should be addressed on bank.

Clerk to ask Halcyon if they will fit new sign posts.

12. **New Dog Bin** placed in the layby opposite the bus turning area in Ottery Street. This will be advertised in the parish News.

13. Reports from Councillors with Specific Responsibilities

- (i) The Village Green – Cllr Val Pride. Cllr Pride to ask Mr Philip Greenhough to cut back the hanging branches on the Green in the Autumn.
- (ii) The War Memorial – Cllr Bennett Nothing to report.
- (iii) Stantyway Recreation Ground – Cllr Farrington. Request for Football club to remove rubbish which has been dumped.
- (iv) The Jubilee Playground – Cllr Fudge. New slide to be installed.
- (v) The Cemetery – Cllr Lister. Nothing to report.

14. Reports on Village Amenities and Bodies

- (i) Trees – See report from Mr Iain Ure
- (ii) Footpaths – Cllr Young (report from Mr Iain Ure).
- (iii) Contracts and Finance – Cllr Fudge Nothing to report
- (iv) Football Club – Cllr Farrington Nothing to report.
- (v) Raleigh Federation – Cllr Hiles. Due to small class numbers the tempory contract of 2 part time members of staff have not been renewed.
- (vi) Twinning – Cllr Bennett. Following the AGM it was agreed that the twinning will end at the end of the year due to lack of personnel.
- (vii) Village Hall – Cllr Fudge Nothing to report
- (viii) Community Shop – Cllr Pride. All doing well – thanks to Cllr Val pride and her team for the work undertaken in this fabulous community facility.

15. **Consider plans for 20mph traffic calming.** HATOC committee has ruled against. The council will continue to seek traffic calming in village as there may be a method of getting a result without a formal 20MPH limit.

16. **County Council Report:** To receive a report from County Councillor Claire Wright. See report.

17. **District Council Report:** To receive a report from District Councillor Mr Geoff Jung including ‘Parishes Together’ funding update. See report.

18. **Correspondence:** PKF Littlejohns re audit. Local Resident re Dog Mess. A reminder will be put in the Parish News. Signs to be sought from EDDC to deter.

19. **Financial Matters:** To receive a note of payments and receipts for March 2018. Signed with agreement for cheques to be signed as detailed below.

Allocation of Funds for upkeep of planters on the Green.

Invoices to be paid following meeting 4th March 2019:-

Outgoings		Opening Balance £12763.55
SWW Paid monthly by d/d	Water for cemetery monthly Fee	£5

1545 Halcyon Landscapes	Grass cutting	£378.50
1546 NDC	Clerks wages	£698.19
1547 EDDC	Emptying bin at Otterton Cemetary.	£213.00
1543 OVH	Hall Hire	£12.00
Incomings		
		Closing balance £11456.86

20. Items for the next agenda: Ring fenced money for plants on Green.

21. Agree agenda and prepare for annual meeting 2019: Meeting to take place on 23rd April @ 7.30

Agenda will contain the following items:

- Kate Ponting from CD re: Balsam
- Sulina Tallack re 106 funding.
- Accounts.
- Updating of emergency plan.

22. Date of Next Meeting: To agree that the next meeting will be held on **Monday 13th May 2019**

Fran Mills Clerk to the Parish Council 1.4.19

Report from Cllr Claire Wright

East Devon care at home service is 'fully recruited'The East Devon Care at Home Service otherwise known as 'rapid response' is at present, "fully recruited", Devon County Council senior officers confirmed at the most recent Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee meeting.

Councillors at the meeting, which was held on Thursday 21 March, heard from senior officers that their long-standing efforts to recruit to a team that was around 17 per cent under staffed (sorry I don't have the numbers) had been successful with the assistance of agency staff.

The service has been under-staffed for a long time, which had resulted in me proposing and chairing a spotlight review into the service last year, after a GP complained.

The review found that some GPs had lost confidence in the service and Hospiscare was also having difficulty in getting carers out to dying patients to carry out basic care such as washing and dressing.

Some GPs said they were simply admitting people to hospital because of the lack of paid carers who could look after people in their own homes. The rapid response service had received investment before the community hospital beds were closed, but witnesses told the spotlight review that their closure had put considerably more pressure on the system and Hospiscare's 12 bedded unit was now full much of the time.

Officers told councillors at the 25 March meeting that the service would need to grow so they were not complacent. There is also a drive to reduce the use of agency staff as they are more expensive.

I have asked for a full report on the situation to be submitted to the June meeting so will update about the latest situation after that.

Unpaid carers

My spotlight review into how unpaid carers are managing will be held in the summer.

I successfully proposed the review (it took a few meetings for it to be agreed!) last September after doing some research which found that many may be struggling financially as well as with a lack of respite care.

I am pleased to say that I have now been contacted by quite a few unpaid carers looking after friends and family who would like to take part. If you would like to take part in the review, which I will chair, please contact scrutiny@devon.gov.uk Thank you!

Four Elms Hill accidents highways officer update (just for information as it is a main local trunk road)

Officers confirmed at the last Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC) on 12 March, that they have now commissioned a survey by contractor, Jacobs, to assess Four Elms Hill for a traffic survey.

It had been thought possible to carry out this work as part of highways maintenance but the maintenance work has been delayed unfortunately.

I first brought the issue to HATOC in November 2017 after residents complained about the number of accidents including a fatality in 2017. One of the problems is that inconsistent speed limit from 40mph from the Bowd to a 60mph through Four Elms Hill, to a 30mph through Newton Poppleford. The double white lines in the middle of the road indicating no overtaking is allowed, are also inconsistent.

Local councillors and a police officer recommended that double white lines be extended throughout the whole of the hill and the speed on the hill be reduced to 40mph.

I proposed this at the November 2017 meeting. However progress has been regrettably slow.

Officers at the 12 March HATOC said that a speed study had been undertaken and shown average speeds on the hill had been shown as "27.5mph uphill and 38.3mph downhill".

PC Steve Lee challenged the location of their test and it transpired speeds were taken right at the top of the hill, in the layby by the phone mast.

PC Steve Lee and Newton Poppleford Parish Councillor, Chris Burhop spoke at the 12 March HATOC meeting as did I and Cllr Christine Channon, who supported the action. We all expressed frustration that things were happening so very slowly when a dangerous road was continuing to cause accidents regularly.

Chair and highways portfolio holder, Cllr Stuart Hughes summed up saying he supported the call for double white lines and reduced speed limit on Four Elms Hill.

The issue will be brought back to the July HATOC, which will be two years since a six-car accident and a fatality.

Report from Cllr Geoff Jung To Otterton Parish Council.

I'm sorry but unfortunately, I have another meeting to attend on April 1st.

My 4 years as your District Councillor is nearly up and because of the Boundary changes I will not be your representative from May the 2nd

I have really enjoyed representing Otterton Parish and thank you for your help, friendship and assistance, I will miss my monthly visits to you!!

Funding for Signage.

I'm pleased to report that the Committee agreed to the changes for your proposal and I'm sure Iain is already getting on to organising the new signposts.

Neighbourhood Plan.

At our very first meeting 4 years ago we discussed the advantages and problems of a Neighbourhood Plan. Not all of you were convinced but you went ahead, and I'm pleased to hear its nearly complete. This has been a mammoth task on yourselves and the valiant members of the steering group. I look forward to reading it soon.

Vehicle Speeds.

Other than Dog bins this has been the most contentious issue, and I'm so pleased that Claire Wright has almost completed the work for a reduced speed limit within the Village. Hopefully other measures will come forward to help reduce the problem in the future.

Planning Issues at Ladram Bay.

Regarding the Solar Panels, several residents were concerned about the reflection and possible glare from these panels. I asked for and received further information, so last week I confirmed to the Planning team that I now supported the application.

The application for the siting of Safari Tents is still being considered, but as these will be permanent fixtures for a minimum of 10 years at a location that requires removing everything off site, out of season the application is not straightforward.

There are 3 further planning applications which hopefully will be heard together at a planning meeting to be heard on the 30th of April. These have been held up awaiting landscaping plans.

There is the landscaping and associated works together with the enlargement of the service building application, plus the application for the location of the gas tanks. (the application for the location of the gas tanks is dependant on the landscaping and associated works consent being agreed because of access)

The 3rd application is the Splash, and new locations for a few caravans. There was also included in this application a retrospective application for decking against the cliff. This was very much against the wishes of Natural England and a few other consultees because it effected the World Heritage Site and therefore withdrawn from the application. Natural England is now requesting that if it has not been removed yet, they expect EDDC to start Enforcement action as soon as possible.

Natural England are asking for a comprehensive landscape masterplan for the whole of the Ladram Bay Holiday Park site, including mitigation for this application and previous unmitigated development.

I am pleased that my concerns regarding all these planning applications have been supported by yourselves, local bodies and residents, plus Natural England and the AONB.

It is in the interests of the site owners and everyone who enjoys this wonderful location to work together, to ensure we do not destroy why people visit this area. I hope everyone will be able to continue to work together in the future.

Councillor Geoff Jung

**Renewal of
Budleigh Salterton,
Skate Park,
Meeting at 6.00pm on
17th April @ Lime Kiln
Car park**

**all users invited to
come along to give
input.**