

## OTTERTON PARISH COUNCIL - ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2019

Tuesday 23rd April 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

### Minutes

**Present: CClrs Fudge, Hiles, Lister, Pride, Bennett (Tony Farrington absent)**

**Fran Mills as Clerk.**

**CLlr Geoff Jung, Cllr Claire Wright (arrived 19.51)**

14 members of the public present.

1. Welcome by the Chairman.
2. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th April 2018 were signed as an accurate record of the meeting. There were no matters outstanding.
3. Chairman's Annual Report:-

### **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT**

I would like to start by reminding everyone of the areas of responsibility of Parish Councils.

These are;

- 1) Representing the local community
  - 2) Delivering services to meet local needs
  - 3) Improve the quality of life and well being of the community
- We are a relatively small parish with just over 600 inhabitants and our main areas of responsibilities are;

The Village Green

The War Memorial

The Cemetery

The Jubilee Playground

and Stantyway Recreation Area

Other responsibilities include:

Maintaining of PROW'S

The Emergency Plan and Flood Defence and

Maintenance of Bus Stops

In addition each of our councillors has a specific area of responsibility on which they report back to the council on a monthly basis.

We also have the opportunity to comment on Planning Applications although I have to say that the Planning authorities do not always agree with what we recommend, in the last 12 months we have considered some 15 planning applications. Your Parish Council also has representation on the LORP Stakeholder Group.

Our Roads Warden is Councillor John Hiles and our footpaths warden is Mr Iain Ure.

Our year runs from May to April and every year we request a precept from the District Council. For the current period 2019 to 2020 the amount is £10,500 which has only increased by £400 over the last 5 years. This is good news for our parishioners as our precept is clawed back by the District Council through your Council Tax.

So, what have we done in the last 12 months?

**In May** we re appointed Halcyon Landscapes as our contractor for grass and hedge cutting and I think all of us are pleased with the level of service that they have provided.

3 members of the Parish Council attended a training session given by EDDC on planning issues. This was most helpful given the range of applications which come before us.

We placed 4 new plant boxes on The Green and Councillor Valerie Pride kindly planted them and continues to look after them. A generous donation of £200 was made by an anonymous parishioner to help pay for the costs.

**In August** our auditor agreed our accounts and Mr Iain Ure was appointed as our new Footpaths Warden and I would like to thank Iain for his monthly reports which are most comprehensive. Also, I would like to thank Mrs Briony Sharp who assisted Iain in getting to know the complexity of the parish paths and PROW some 20 miles in total.

**In September** the Vice Chairman and I attended a meeting with the management of Ladram Bay to discuss the progress of large loads through the village. At around this time a large delivery to Ladram Bay was unable to proceed beyond The Kings Arms due to parked cars which caused the road to be blocked for some considerable time.

Those present at the meeting were;

Mr Mike Brown – Local Highways Officer

Steve Harper-Smith, General Manager of Ladram Bay

and Mr Fred Nichols of Nichols Transport.

It was agreed that there are 2 main problem areas in Fore Street, or as we called them ‘pinch points.’ The first of which is to the west of the Kings Arms where the road narrows and the second just to the west of the phone box, again where the road narrows.

It was agreed by Ladram Bay that prior to a large delivery they would undertake to;

- a) continue to place a notice on the parish web site
- b) place a warning sign near to the Kings Arms on the day of delivery
- c) to notify residents of these actions by way of a leaflet drop

**In October** we organised repeat defibrillator training for our parishioners as this is covered as part of our annual fee to SWAS.

**In November** we led the annual Parish Boundaries Walk. The war memorial was cleaned and on Remembrance Sunday we organised the planting of a small English oak at Stantyway in memory of the 14 men from the parish who lost their lives in the WW1. The tree will shortly be joined by a circular bench which Ladram Bay have kindly agreed to erect on our behalf.

**In December** we paid for a repair to the church clock. Parish clocks are one of our responsibilities and in **In January** we agreed our precept for the period 2019/ 2020.

**In February** we approved the proposed 20 mph speed limit and committed to some of its costs. As you know Councillor Claire

Wright has fought hard for its implementation and the current situation is that HATOC, who are the committee responsible for implementation of speed limits, have not approved the scheme due to a technicality. This project is ongoing. Due to wood rot we removed the small slide in The Jubilee Playground and a new slide is on order.

**In March** we approved our Data Privacy Document and a new lease was written for Otterton Football Club. This has not yet been signed and is subject to ongoing discussions.

**And in April** our Parishes Together Funding was approved by EDDC for use in repairing or replacing broken footpath signs. This amounted to £3,289 which we share with a neighbouring parish and the first 2 posts have been ordered with more to follow. We also organised the installation of a new dog bin at the top of Ottery Street.

In addition we also have regular meetings with Ladram Bay to discuss issues which effect both parties.

Over the last 12 months we have replied to numerous emails from unhappy parishioners on such matters as dog fouling, illegal and unsocial parking, speeding traffic, excessive noise and smelly drains.

During the last 12 months we have lost 2 Councillors and with an additional 2 leaving at the end of this term there are now vacancies for additional members. Only today I read in a national newspaper that across the country there is a dearth of people coming forward to join Parish Councils. A rather sorry state of affairs.

As you know on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April there will be elections for new District Councillors and Councillor Geoff Yung will be standing down. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Geoff for all of the hard work he has undertaken in representing this parish especially with regard to planning matters.

I would also like to thank Councillor Claire Wright who is our DCC representative and has also worked tirelessly in

representing this parish particularly in trying to persuade DCC to implement our 20 mph speed limit.

I would also like to mention The Neighbourhood Plan. This is in its final draft and the next stage will be to present it for public consultation. I would like to thank all members of The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group but in particular Ian Birch who's computer skills and attention to detail have helped to write a long and comprehensive document and to Dee Woods whose knowledge of complicated planning issues has been invaluable.

I will be leaving the Parish Council in May and I would like to thank the Clerk and all councillors for their support throughout the year and in particular Councillor Tony Bennet who's knowledge of the parish has been a great help to me.

4. A presentation was given on Himalayan Balsam & other invasive species by Kate Ponting Clinton Devon Estates Countryside Learning Officer with focus on education in the community and David from the OVA April/May growing time and river is populated from Newton Poppleford to White Bridge. Problem is that the plant grows prolifically which suffocates all other growth, when it then dies in winter the banks are left bare and are potentially subject to erosion. Tributaries are current area of focus and an annual meeting to monitor situation occurs. Strategy is to clear tributaries not flood plane to try and stop seeds washing down river. Hand pulling easy to do but due to amount control difficult, dependant on community to manage, if thrown down however it re roots and thus exacerbates the problem. Currently Iain Ure monitoring the hotspots and reporting to CDE.
5. To receive a report on a public consultation regarding 106 Funding from Sulina Tallack from EDDC.gave a talk on the use of 106 funding. The fund is a planning obligation to mitigate house building within the community. DDC seeks contribution towards enhancing community space (charge per metre of dwelling). Matched funding can be used to increase amount and enhance potential projects.

All spending must be done in conjunction with public consultation but within the constraints of practicality, suitable site and realistic budget.

6. To receive the draft accounts for 2018. Remain in draft form as attached.

7. Presentations by:-

**Cllr Geoff Jung** This was Geoff's last meeting with Otterton Parish Council due to Boundary changes. Geoff recognised all those he has works with and thanked everyone one for their support.

**Cllr Claire Wright**

**Motions:-**

UK laws for protection of animals - changes likely due to Brexit.

Countryside management also to be protected after BREXIT

Public speaking laws at scrutiny committee have been relaxed to enable members of the public to speak.

Foster carers: Amendment to proposal to level up income and allowances.

This year DDC now more reliant on Government Grant has forced them to cut services whilst continuing to make a loss. Those at risk through cuts are those that are unable to defend position.

Challenge NHS re thinking on various issues current focus on unpaid carers and sufficient paid carers to care for people discharged from hospital. Bed closures in community hospital under challenge.

20 MPH continues to be an issue and CW continues to work on this  
Shift in attitude by DCC.

8. To update the Otterton Village Emergency plan.

Needs to be comprehensively updated to ensure certification remains in place. Plan to seek useful volunteers from the community to support emergency plan.

Flooding continues to be a risk. Encourage individuals to seek flood defence for own properties.

Sandbags available in village.

Water treatment would be supported by SWW.

Snow clearing. Local effort to be in line with Environment Agency guidance.

Maritime focus to support estuaries guidance from Environment Agency to be followed.

Earth movements currently unplanned for.

Mass gatherings, isolation of dangerous areas, vigilance by event organisers and support from police.

Storms & gales continue to be a threat.

Bridge needs to be inspected to ensure remains robust.

Places of safety need to add the church – need to ensure that behaviours are monitored.

Clerk to update plan. Stantyway football ground ideal for Air Ambulance. Modifications needed for lighting - potential cost £3k survey to come. Cost to be covered by PC with support of funding.

Thanks and a presentation made to Tony Bennett for 26 years on the PC. Tony will retire following this meeting.

Francesca Mills

Parish Clerk

April 2019