

## Otterton Parish Council

A remote meeting of the members of Otterton Parish Council will be held on **Monday 6th July** at 7.30pm using the dial in details supplied in an email by Cllr John Lister. All members of Otterton Parish Council are summoned to attend the meeting. Members of the public and the press are welcome to be present. **If any member of the public wishes to join the meeting please email the clerk so that the appropriate invitation can be sent, any questions sent to the clerk by email or post will be addressed.**

Francesca Mills Clerk Otterton Parish Council

### AGENDA

1	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	<i>To receive apologies from Cllrs.</i>	Clerk
2	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	<i>To receive declarations of pecuniary interest on items on the agenda</i>	Chair
3	<b>Minutes</b>	<i>To accept and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 and sign as a correct record of the meeting. To consider any matters arising from the minutes, not elsewhere on the agenda:</i>	Chair
4	<b>Public Questions/ Comments/correspondence</b>	<b>Response to items received by email, post or in person via zoom.</b>	All
5	<b>Chairman's Business</b>	<i>To receive a report from the Chairman on the Community response to COVID 19 emergency and any other business.</i>	Chair
6	<b>Planning Matters</b>	<b>Consider planning applications &amp; note objections.</b> 3 Higher Maunders Hill 20/1021/FUL Stantyway recreation Ground 20/1251/TEL	All
7	<b>Local Signage on Ladram Road</b>	<b>Revisit request for replacement signage and consider additional warning signage coming into Otterton from Ladram Bay</b>	FM/JH
8	<b>Tree Management</b>	<b>Consider budget implication of parish responsibilities regarding Ash dieback</b>	JH
9	<b>Reports from Councillors with specific responsibilities &amp; reports on village amenities and Bodies</b>	<i>The Village Green &amp; Community Shop The War Memorial &amp; Raleigh Federation Stantyway Recreation Ground Football Club &amp; Jubilee Playground The Cemetery – Cllr Lister The Village hall – Cllr Young Trees/PROW – Mr Iain Ure (see correspondence sent separately) Contracts &amp; Finance – Cllr Hiles Village Defibrillator – consider renewal of contract.</i>	VP JH SW TF JL SY IU CH FM
10	<b>Reports from County &amp; District Councillors</b>	<i>Consider reports which have been circulated in advance of meeting</i>	All
10	<b>Financial matters</b>	<i>To agree payment of cheques as per schedule below. Update on progress with draft accounts &amp; sign relevant documentation for AGAR 2020</i>	Chair
11	<b>Further Actions</b>	<i>To agree any actions and associated expenditure not previously considered on agenda</i>	Clerk
12	<b>106 Funding</b>	<i>Update on progress.</i>	Clerk
13	<b>Items for next Agenda</b>	<i>Consider items of business for next meeting.</i>	Clerk
14	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	<i>7<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Propose and agree format &amp; method.</i>	

Fran Mills Clerk to the Parish Council 26.6.20

### Income & Expenditure June 2020

Opening Balance 30.4. 20		£5258.34
	SWW charge Cemetery	£5.00
Halcyon Landscapes	Contract	£378.50
Income - Vat Refund		1886.19
	Working Balance	<b>£6760.93</b>

Correspondence – Ash Dieback

You are probably aware that CDE have felled all the ash trees in the triangle. Very sad. There are two issues for us;

1. Was it necessary to remove them all?
2. Do we need to get the ash trees at Stanayway checked out professionally.?

I attach a Tree Council guide.

I exchanged emails with Kate at CDE and then talked to John Wilding. Kate said:

You are correct, this work is because of Ash dieback. The operation commenced in the Colaton Raleigh area a few weeks ago and is now in Otterton.

### **Roadside hedges:**

Much of the felling of trees, at this time, is part of roadside safety work due to ash dieback which spread quickly last winter and is a major problem. The scale of the problem in Devon is such that we don't have the luxury of waiting – trees are dangerous now. Not just to the public but also the fellers who have to take them down.

The operation has been mechanised to sever the trees at hedge height to minimise disturbance to hedges as much as we can. Trees are inspected for nests by the ground crew before dismantling begins. Fortunately young ash is not a favoured nesting tree. If we find a nest they will leave the tree and come back. Most trees are scattered hedge row trees that have grown since Dutch Elm disease so not old. This is really helpful in that they don't have holes and habitat suitable for bats. We have many such trees to fell and these are not being down at this time. Significant lengths of hedges between trees are not being disturbed.

### **Railway line and in-field hedges:**

We are also taking advantage of the current very dry ground conditions to work inside fields such as along the railway line and not from the road, to minimise disturbance to wildlife and disruption to the public. In-field working makes for a quicker job = less disturbance. If it all had to be done in the winter roads would be closed for days on end.

Given the progress of Ash Dieback in the county and number of trees on Estate land the decision was to get ahead of this disease as far as possible, to minimise the risks to felling contractors and to the public. Thankfully this year's early spring and fine weather has seen early broods fledge and many species are between nesting.

<https://www.devonashdieback.org.uk/resources/devon-facts/>

<https://www.devonashdieback.org.uk/take-action/complying-with-the-law/>

The trees at the triangle were not along the road. I think it is a shame all the trees were cut on mass but I can see that it is expensive to have to revisit.

2 I have not seen any die back at Stantyway, a few lower branches need to be removed (see my last report). However, as dieback has hit the area badly the Parish Council need to budget for potential removal. Cost is between £400-£800 a tree. I have not counted them but there are at least 4 large ones. Ash trees go brittle very quickly and it rapidly becomes unsafe to climb them. Thus requiring a cherry picker if left too long. If we need to do any work I would favour reduction rather than removal if at all possible.

Kind regards  
Iain