

Otterton Parish Council

A remote meeting of the members of Otterton Parish Council will be held on **Monday 2nd November** 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	Apologies for Absence	<i>To receive apologies from Cllrs.</i>	Clerk
2	Declarations of Interest	<i>To receive declarations of pecuniary interest on items on the agenda</i>	Chair
3	Minutes	<i>To accept and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 7th October 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	Public Questions/ Comments/correspondence	Response to items received by email, post or in person via zoom.	All
5	Chairman's Business	<i>To receive a report from the Chairman.</i>	Chair
6	Village infrastructure.	Update from LORP Meeting	Chair
7	Planning Matters	Consider planning applications & note objections.	All
8	Warning Signage	Revisit warning signage coming into Otterton from Ladram Bay	FM
9	Tree Management	Consider budget implication of parish responsibilities regarding Ash dieback see report from Toby Taylor	JH
10	Reports from Councillors with specific responsibilities & reports on village amenities and Bodies	<i>The Village Green & Community Shop War Memorial & Raleigh Federation (see report from Peter Halford) Stantyway Recreation Ground Football Club & Jubilee Playground The Cemetery – Cllr Lister The Village hall – Cllr Young Trees/PROW – Mr Iain Ure) Contracts & Finance – Cllr Hiles Village Defibrillator</i>	VP JH SW TF JL SY IU CH FM
11	Reports from County & District Councillors	<i>Consider reports which have been circulated in advance of meeting</i>	All
12	Financial matters	<i>To agree payment of cheques as per schedule below. Consider budget for 2021, Agree any Donations 2020</i>	Chair
13	Further Actions	<i>To agree any actions and associated expenditure not previously considered on agenda.</i>	Clerk
14	106 Funding	<i>Update on progress.</i>	Clerk
15	Items for next Agenda	<i>Consider items of business for next meeting.</i>	Clerk
16	Date of next meeting	<i>7th December 2020. Propose, agree format & method. Review & agree dates for meetings in 2021</i>	All

Fran Mills Clerk to the Parish Council 26.10.20

Income & Expenditure October 2020

Opening Balance 30.9. 20	OUT	11685.03
	SWW charge Cemetery	£5.00
Halcyon Landscapes 001461	Contract	£378.50
Sidmouth print	Re LORP letter	£86.00
Fran Mills – Ink cartridges 50%	Printing	£53.52
NDC 001462	Clerks wages	£698.19

Ro Smith 001463	Website Domain	£19.32
EDDC	In - CIL	£110.41
	Working Balance	10554.91

Proposed meeting dates 2021: 1 Feb, 1 Mch, 5 Apr, 10 May (3BH), 7 Jun, 5 Jul, 6 Sep, 4 Oct, 1 Nov, 6 Dec

Correspondence:

Report from Toby Taylor

Having been asked by John to cast my eye over the ash trees in and around the playing field, I paid a visit to the site on Friday 16th October 2020, as the autumn leaves had started to turn colour and to fall, my observations were based on the condition of the trees in relation to each other within the proximity, dead trees and limbs were of course easy to identify, there were several fallen limbs on the Road edge, close to where the suggested trees should be felled, I identified 17 ash trees on the Road edge between the boundary of Carters field and the main playing field entrance, one of these was dead and two others were showing initial signs of ADB. The ash tree to the west of the main vehicle gate is also showing signs of Die Back as was the first ash tree on the eastern edge of the pitch beyond the club house, these five trees have been marked with an orange dot, eight additional ash trees were identified on the western edge of the playing field, but not within falling distance of the Rd.

The furthest North East woodland corner was not surveyed.

My recommendation would be to remove the five trees with orange dots, all showing signs of ADB, before Christmas, the volume of timber in these trees would not exceed the permitted allowance as governed by the forestry commission, of five cubic meters per calendar quarter, further Road side trees could be felled in the next calendar quarter or an application for a felling licence be submitted, i would suggest that from April 2021 onwards a recorded survey of the remaining trees could take place as in line with the 'tree councils' guidance,

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-felling-licence-when-you-need-to-apply>

<https://treecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Tree-Council-Ash-Dieback-Toolkit-2.0.pdf>

John did ask for an idea of the expenditure involved to undertake the works, this is very difficult to give a detailed cost without a full survey of all the ash trees in the area, as a very rough guide £100 per tree could be a realistic figure to use for planning estimates. There are many variables even in this figure, does the tree need to be climbed and dismantled? are the Parish council happy for the arising to be milled on site, (brash put into windrows and mashed up with the chainsaw) on site? or would a chipper preferred to be used? Each of these points has an influencing factor on the actual costs.

To deal with the identified five trees it is felt that these works could be achieved within the £500-00 limit.

I would appreciate Iain's thoughts as I see that during the summer he was keeping his eye on the ash trees within the football field and his records might be less autumnal influenced than my 16th October visit.

I hope that this is useful and gives you an idea of what is entailed? Do not hesitate to get back to me with any questions. All the best Toby

Response from Iain Ure

Thanks for your email. I have kept an eye on the Ash Trees (about 20+ large ones and another 20 younger ones) in the playing field. There were some dead branches but nothing that worried me too much (non-professional eye). However, with the die back in the area it is only a question of time before most of them succumb.

I would hope the Parish Council go with your suggestion of removing the 5 you have identified. There is also a cherry tree near the west entrance which is leaning badly and has 50% trunk rot. That should also be either removed or the branches trimmed back. Removing a few trees now and staggering the rest as die back advances has advantages in that there will only be small gaps to start with and hopefully replacements can be budgeted for. I think it will be quite dramatic once the majority (if required) are removed at some point in the near future. I do note that if trees are not removed early on they rapidly become unsafe to climb - and then need a cherry picker. A lot more expensive.

The Tree Council also released a new publication in June 2020 (<https://treecouncil.org.uk/science-and-research/ash-dieback/public-guidance/>) and in it they say; The Tree Council, Defra and the Forestry Commission advocate that ash trees that do not pose a health and safety risk should be retained in the landscape wherever possible so they can continue to provide biodiversity benefits. We strongly encourage all tree owners to replace ash trees lost by replanting other species. We hope that resistant ash trees will also regenerate naturally from seed.

Where our ash trees are not dangerous to vehicles or users (of the playing field) - maybe by moving the path around the field and signing / fencing off parts of the area - we could avoid removing all of them. Particularly along the northern edges. This would need to be included in an action plan.

My preference would be to create habitat piles with the smaller branches and brash. Less tidy but environmentally sound. Does your estimate assume you will remove (for sale) the logs from the larger branches? If not I guess they could be made available to the locals for a nominal sum.

John - I would hope the Parish Council can get Toby to remove the 5 Ash trees plus the cherry tree this winter, and get Toby to produce an Action Plan (in conjunction with you and me) by late Spring. The plan to include a replacement strategy.

Kind regards Iain

Report from Peter Halford Head Teacher Otterton School

It has been a really successful first half term back at school for the children and staff at Otterton Primary School. The children have settled back into school life brilliantly, taking the new procedures and routines in their stride. Over the last few weeks they have taken part in a very successful PE day, focussing on teamwork and communication, skills that are especially important in the times that we are in and the Year 6 children have become play leaders, setting individual challenges for the other children to complete. In PE the children have been learning Frisbee skills and have taken part in a very successful virtual tournament against some of the other Link Academy Trust schools.

We have held a non-uniform day in aid of Just One Tree, an organisation that plants trees in disadvantaged areas in a bid to combat CO2 levels by reforestation. For every £1 that our children and their families donated a tree will be planted!

Whilst we haven't yet arranged Open Days for this year, we are welcoming prospective parents to our school by way of a Virtual Tour which is on our website www.otterton.thelink.academy and Facebook page (search for Otterton CofE Primary) and also by personalised visits. Please contact the office on 01395 568326 or adminotterton@thelink.academy to make an appointment.