

Otterton Parish Council

Date & Time	13 th May 2024		Location	Otterton Village Hall		
Councillors Present	Initials			Also Present	Initials	
MS Melanie Martin	MM	Parish Councillor		Members of the public	2	
Mr Jerry Fry	JF	Parish Councillor		Henry Riddell	HR	
Mr Richard Witherby	RW	Parish Councillor		Jess Bailey	JB	
Roger Pellow	RP	Parish Councillor		Charlotte Fitzgerald	CF	
Ian Simpson	IS	Parish Councillor				
Steve Culverhouse	SC	Parish Councillor				
Ms Belinda Shoemaker	BS	Parish Councillor				

Apologies	Initials	Reason for Absence	Absent without Apology	Initials	
Peter Wells	SC	Holiday			

In Attendance	Initials	Capacity	Minutes to
F Mills	FM	Clerk	Councillors, website, notice board

Ref	Main meeting agenda item, comment & decision	Action Owner & deadline
1	Welcome & Apologies received & accepted as above.	
2	Declarations of Interests: MM declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item number 4	
3	<p>Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 5th April 24 were signed as an accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p>Matters arising not featured on the agenda:</p> <p>3. Sign refurbishment continues as work in progress. Complete Thanks to RW & IS for this work</p> <p>4. Graffiti on bus stop reported by a resident will be addressed by JF. JF reported a work in progress.</p> <p>MM proposed that the Parish Council Annual Meeting would take the form of a Village Open day with all village Clubs/Groups invited to come along to advertise. Date confirmed as 1.6.24 10.00 – midday. Clerk to advertise in May newsletter.</p> <p>School, Clinton Devon, OVA. Budleigh Lions. Village Hall, Shop. Community Bus. LORP – Land recovery.</p> <p>Emergency Planning Application. In progress</p> <p>Road warden scheme may be of interest. MM to explore. In progress</p> <p>River Otter Pathway. A robust discussion took place following Iain Ure's thorough & well received report which is attached. It was agreed that rather than call a meeting of interested parties & following last month's comments from JB when it was confirmed that the Environment agency has a schedule of works for completion the Clerk would write to DCC & the EA seeking confirmation of the schedule of works & timescales attached to this. Photo evidence of the current situation would be attached to the letter in the form of Iain's report.</p> <p>Communication regarding playpark update. SC commented that communication regarding the playpark was not reaching the whole village and other potentially interested parties. IS agreed to place an update in the Parish News for those not using social media.</p>	

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4	<p>Local Planning: 244/015/MFUL Ladram Bay</p> <p>A village meeting took place to hear the views of residents on 7th May following which, at the request of attendees at the meeting, 6 councillors visited the site to consider the planning application and to ensure they were fully informed.</p> <p>At the OPC meeting the clerk read out a summary of the concerns of attendees at the village meeting.</p> <p>Steve Harper-Smith from Ladram Bay commented as follows:</p> <p>Ambitious project. Mindful of the concerns of residents. Removal of 32 units. Replacement with 8000k tree & shrubs. Native & semi mature. Luxurious lodges with no additional occupancy. Investment in sewerage system has been agreed. Blending of lodges into environment important. Transported in 2 pieces making the unit smaller and easier to come through the village. Life of each lodge 40 years which is much longer than current units. Improvement of landscape through sympathetic planning & conservation of site. Employment opportunity increases. Lower density areas on the site with better landscaping. Enhancement & improved biodiversity.</p> <p>Following a robust and detailed discussion by the Councillors when the concerns of the attendees at the village meeting were considered and the comments made by Mr Harper-Smith were taken into account a vote was taken and the planning application 244/015/MFUL was approved with 5 councillors approving the project & 1 councillor strongly objecting.</p> <p>MM declared an interest and left the room throughout this agenda item.</p> <p>24/0883/TEL - Field Off Ladram Road Lower Landram Lane Otterton EX9 7HH. Site visit to be arranged.</p>	
5	<p>Public Questions: Slippery crossing at Basclose – this situation has been largely remedied by the recent rain. Residents to be encouraged to use footpath rather than taking a short cut across the stream.</p> <p>A noisy manhole cover will be reported on the DCC website.</p>	
6	<p>District & CC Reports</p> <p>JB: Tipton St John School: The governors of the Otter Valley Federation have launched a public consultation on the 'relocation' of Tipton school to Ottery St Mary which runs until 19th June. Whilst I recognize the very serious flood risk issues with the current site, my view is that the reports carried out by the Department for Education and DCC and which detail four potential site options do not justify the school moving to Ottery St Mary. In reality the 'relocation' means the loss of the school for Tipton St John. Full details of the public consultation can be found on both DCC's website and Tipton St John schools website. Proposed relocation of Tipton St John C of E Primary School - Have Your Say (devon.gov.uk)<https://www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/consultations/relocation-of-tipto</p>	

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	<p>n-st-john-c-of-e-primary-school/> and Welcome - Tipton St John (tipton-stjohn.devon.sch.uk)<https://tipton-stjohn.devon.sch.uk/>.</p> <p>Notice of motion for swift bricks - Devon County Council</p> <p>I have submitted the following notice of motion to Devon County Council today calling on Michael Gove to take urgent action.</p> <p>The swift population has fallen by almost 60% in the last thirty years and it is estimated that there will be fewer than 40,000 pairs of swifts remaining in the UK by 2025.</p> <p>Adding a swift brick to all new homes is an easy and cheap way to help ensure that swifts have somewhere to roost and nest at the end of their 3,400 mile journey. Introducing mandatory swift bricks will help stem the dramatic decline of this iconic species which was added to the red list in the 2021 UK Conservation Report as a species needing urgent action. DCC notes local planning authorities face considerable difficulties in requiring swift bricks to be introduced in new builds as this has to implemented through the lengthy local plan process. That is why we need Michael Gove urgently to change building regulations now to make swift bricks mandatory.</p> <p>Devon County Council therefore agrees to write to the Secretary of State Michael Gove calling on him to urgently make swift bricks a mandatory requirement in all new housing development. DCC also agrees to write to all Devon MPs urging them to press Michael Gove to support the mandatory introduction of swift bricks as a matter of urgency in order to stem the decline of swifts.</p> <p>Devon County Council signs up to be a Combined County Authority with Torbay Council On 29th April 2023 DCC signed up to become a Combined County Authority with Torbay Council. I did not vote in support of this because I am concerned it will increase bureaucracy, there is lack of clarity on governance issues, and it is unclear how it will deliver any tangible improvements for the lives of Devon residents. I am also concerned about there being a democratic deficit because Devon County Council (population 953,000) has three seats on the CCA and Torbay Council (population 139,000) also has three votes. Cllr Jess Bailey Otter Valley Ward</p> <p>MM: Green Wedges: Following on from the workshops regarding Green Wedges, , there will soon be a public consultation. Green wedges are a crucial part of the development of the Local Plan and consultation is part of the local plan production process, and it gives the public the opportunity to comment on important matters. The report acknowledges the universal lack of support for eroding the Green wedges. Mr Freeman is trying to respond to the objection in a way that is robust and won't delay or have our Local Plan or have it rejected, and us having to start the whole process again. He is saying that if the feeling is as strong at the consultation process, the inspector examining the local plan will have to take notice. Take a look at the timings referred to on the report.</p> <p>CF: Reported that she has been assigned the role of Assistant Portfolio Holders at EDDC. She will provide help, assistance and support to the Portfolio Holder that she has been assigned to.</p> <p>HR: letter to Susan Davey acknowledged and await reply.</p>	
7	Correspondence: Graffiti on road. Clerk has reported this to DCC	Clerk

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	<p>Film Club: Andrew Sharp is looking for someone to take over running the film club. Please contact Andrew if interested.</p>	
8	<p>Chairman business: Otterton Parish Council website Road warden scheme may be of interest in relation to Chapter 8 Training. MM to explore. Website: OPC New Website. A working party will be put together to progress. Work is already underway with help from Ro Smith Costs £109 + VAT for the first 2 years of registrations and then £61 + VAT for any subsequent 2 year renewals." MM has recommended that emails go to relevant Councillor with a copy to Fran eg Cemetery@ and a blind copy to the Clerk. I am working with Ro on content, layout, font styles and sizes, open to good ideas. Matters to decide What email address we would like to use eg. Otterton-pc.gov.uk, ottertonparishcouncil.gov.uk Do we want an emblem, coat of arms etc. Photos for pages - Home is scrolling, subsequent pages are static eg. Council, Planning, News and Events, Information, Contact Us. Please forward any photos to me that you think may work. Menu Structure to be agreed but likely to include: Home, Council, Councillors, Minutes/Agendas, Standing Orders, Planning Applications, Neighbourhood Plan Local Plan, News and Events, Information, Contact Us.</p>	
9	<p>Chapter 8 Training. NTR</p>	
10	<p>Allocation of responsibilities & reports from Councillors: Where there is nothing to report the following abbreviation will be used (NTR) Village Green (MM) Flowers coming up & planters looking good. Date for meeting about water butt TBC. Hall (BS) WiFi in hall to be completed 14.5.24. Hall Committee in need of additional personnel. Internet café to be organised. Community shop: (SC) NTR War Memorial: (RP) NTR Stantyway recreation ground & Football Club: JF & IS to seek a quote for a new gate & pedestrian entrance which they have offered to install. Otterton School: Sports Day will take place on 27th June/4th August sports. It was agreed that Otterton School can use the Stantyway Recreation Field for the purpose of their sports day and bring a car onto the field to facilitate the movement of equipment. Jubilee Play Park: New gate fitted by IS. Installation of swings ongoing. Looking good. Cemetery: PW reports that wheelie bin yet to be delivered. FM to chase. Grass had been cut a week or so ago and looked fine then. A few mole hills have appeared! With the better weather now with us (hopefully) I will look at the 'Mound' issues next month.</p>	

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	<p>Contracts & Finance: The contract for the DAA Defibrillator has expired and the DAA will not replace. The current unit which, whilst out of guarantee, is still working well will continue to provide cover for the village until a new unit is purchased. The current unit will be checked 2 times a week by RW & FM and remedial action will be taken by FM</p> <p>Footpaths and Public Rights of Way: See agenda item 3</p> <p>Speed watch: 121 cars passed latest watch with more watches planned.</p>	
11	<p>Wellbeing of Otterton Bridge: A request was made by RP that in light of the increased weight and volume of traffic over Otterton Bridge that DCC Highways are asked to complete a full structural survey & report for the OPC. JB to make a request on behalf of the OPC.</p>	JB Action
12	<p>Financial matters: It was unanimously agreed that all payments listed on agenda 13.5.24 would be paid. JB Locality Budget application to be made in the region of £750</p>	Clerk to action
13	<p>Further actions: It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Tony Gray Treasurer of St Peter's Parochial Church Council if he would complete an internal audit & report for the OPC. Unanimously carried. Community Outreach: fundraising event to raise money for playpark. Currently 3 Initiatives which BS will bring to the next meeting. Agenda item</p>	
14	<p>106 Funding: In the region of £8073.00 (Sport) £1683.00 (Recreation). The clerk reminded the OPC of the funds currently being held at EDDC and how these could be used. A meeting will be arranged to interrogate the ROSPA report & plan next action</p>	
15	<p>Items for next agenda: Open day, website emails, Speed watch, AGAR, Gate quote, 3 initiatives, road warden scheme. Dates for 2024 meetings: June 3rd, July 1st, September 2nd, October 7th, November 4th, December 2nd.</p>	Clerk to action
15	<p>The next meeting will take place on Monday 3rd June @ 7.30.</p>	Clerk to action

The meeting closed at 21.25

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