

# Otterton Parish Council

Date & Time	2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2026		Location	Otterton Village Hall			
Councillors Present	Initials			Also Present	Initials		
Ian Simpson	RW	Parish Councillor	Chair	Charlotte Fitzgerald			
Richard Witherby	IS	Parish Councillor		Members of the public	1		
Belinda Shoemaker	BS	Parish Councillor		Jess Bailey			
Jerry Fry	JF	Parish Councillor					
Stevie Mears	SM	Parish Councillor					
Peter Wells	PW	Parish Councillor					

Apologies	Initials	Reason for Absence	Absent without Apology	Initials	

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

## Minute

<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	<i>To receive apologies from Cllrs: As above.</i>	Clerk
<b>2</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	<i>To receive declarations of pecuniary interest on items on the agenda. JF declared interest in 26/0341/FUL Old station planning application.</i>	Chair
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes</b>  <b>Matters arising</b>	<i>The minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026 were approved as a correct record of the meetings. Matters arising from the minutes, not elsewhere on the agenda.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gate at Stantyway. Work in progress</li> <li>• Hornbeam Tree on Green. Now planted. Tree kindly donated by Parnell family.</li> <li>• Seat on Green: Ordered &amp; arrived paving needed before installation.</li> <li>• Tree on Vieux Close. To be completed by mid March</li> <li>• Removal of Bin Cemetery. Not actioned.</li> <li>• Report on meeting at East Budleigh Parish Council re Brick Cross. Nick Hookway reported line marking scheduled for 2027. A discussion took place regarding unscheduled work. Action: attendance at next TTG meeting. Clerk to send date &amp; link.</li> </ul>	Chair/clerk
<b>4</b>	<b>Public Questions</b>	<i>Response to items received by email, post or in person. Fete: Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July on the Green. Permission given for use of the Green for this event.</i>	All

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5	<b>Correspondence</b>	<p>Correspondence from members of the public  <i>Geoff porter gave a presentation on Water Quality in the River Otter: ORCA has been monitoring this for 12 months. Phosphate levels still high particularly near pumping station. Discharge due to rain.</i></p> <p><i>Environment Agency also tests water at the Otterton Mill but only annually so OVA testing is much more regular &amp; shows trends.</i></p> <p><b>River Fly testing</b> is also undertaken this is an indication on health of river &amp; the results are encouraging. This ties in with the Landscape recovery plan. Since Sept 25 there are 2 sights on river 6 on Bicton far side. Currently there is discussion with EA on testing sites for national scheme. Coordination is taking place by previously trained personnel with OVA to take on testing. It was noted that the flow of the river affects test results. Invertebrate testing results in Otterton show good health. Elders, catfish present at Mill.</p> <p><b>Road closed at Lime Kiln car park.</b> SWW pipe going across to Knowle &amp; down Maer Lane work not completed and slow progress.</p> <p><b>Bridge at Box Cottage</b> needs work. Action: Contact Tom Cox@ Highways to inspect and to suggest maintenance. Pot holes now reach criteria for urgent work. SM has measured and reported work.</p>	All GP
6	<b>Chairman's Business</b>	<p>Report from the Chairman.</p> <p>Thanks to GP for updates on river. Clearance for work on river needed but must comply with H&amp;S. See letter from Dr Bridgewater at CDE.</p> <p>Discussion regarding planting of fruit trees on scraps of land in the village. Tree donations from Otter Breweries available &amp; J F to investigate.</p> <p>Speed of cars at night in village a concern.</p>	JF re Tree donations
7	<b>Parish Path Partnership</b>	<p>SM spoke to the Council about a P3. Claim which can be made for footpaths to support maintenance. Otterton parish includes 10 miles of footpaths, &amp; bridleways. Iain Ure provided background context for not having previously</p>	Action: SM

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		<p>applied. Training provided by Bicton. SM to provide link to Clerk. Previously annual donation provided by Ladram Bay. May be a chance to reinstate. Action: JF to investigate.</p>	Action: JF
8	<b>Snow Warden/Road warden</b>	Clerk to Progress.	Action: FM
9	<b>Local Planning</b>	<p>Discuss any applications received: <b>26/0201/FUL land adjacent to oak cottage.</b> Site visit by OPC. Roof line OK, good design. Well screened. Unanimously approved. <b>26/0341/FUL Erection of timber car port at Old Station:</b> Unanimously approved.</p>	
10	<b>Emergency Plan</b>	High Vis Jackets received & distributed. Complete.	
11	<b>Time capsule</b>	Received. RW to liaise with school regarding content.	Action: RW
12	<b>District&amp;County</b>	<p>Update of reports already circulated. <b>CF: Alms houses</b> built by Shandford Trust. Date for application **** through website. CF suggested that people are Signposted to application if interested. <b>Housing survey:</b> - Encourage completion by all groups. <b>2042 Playing pitches survey.</b> CF to ensure pitches for locale pursued. <b>Rights for Rivers:</b> DCC looking at health of rivers. Various catchments at District level working together. JB: <b>Budget week at DCC:</b> Library budget amendment – agreement to include £650,000. Focus on libraries. Massive issue affecting 50 libraries. Locality budgets for local projects stalled due to Highway concerns. A discussion took place regarding methods to slow traffic. <b>Northmostown Lane closure:</b> JB reported that this is a complicated job due to river proximity &amp; drop to road. Expensive to rectify.</p>	DCs
13	<b>Otterton Housing Survey</b>	Need to encourage completion of survey. End date of 31.3.26. Suggestion results of survey are the subject for the Parish Annual Meeting & clerk to investigate logistics	Action: FM

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14	<b>Resilience Reports</b>	<b>Reports from Councillors with specific responsibilities:</b> Stone Trap (Tom Cox to empty) & Gullies, Environmental reports, Water levels. Sand bags, sand & salt (salt needed JF chasing)	Action: JF
15	<b>Reports from Councillors with specific responsibilities &amp; reports on village amenities and Bodies</b>	<i>Reports for the amenities &amp; bodies:</i> The Village Green - SM. Looking good. Cooper beech needs bracing due to water damage. Discussion regarding a picket fence around Green to safeguard children playing & surface of Green. Clerk to write to Tom Cox War memorial – PW NTR Speed Watch – RP. NTR Village Hall – BS. NTR Phone Box – BS. Parish newsletter request for jigsaws. Stantyway Recreation Field & Football Club – JF NTR Raleigh Federation – RW. NTR Jubilee Playground – IS. New equipment to progress. The Cemetery- PW Contracts & Finance – RW Footpaths & ROW - IU Village Defibrillator – FM <b>Community outreach: 17.4.26 talk at Village hall. Cost of hire covered by OPC.</b>	Action: FM
16	<b>Financial matters</b>	To agree payment of cheques as per schedule below	
17	<b>106 Funding</b>	Clerk to progress.	<b>Action: Clerk</b>
18	<b>Items for next Agenda</b>	Consider items of business for next meeting. Bench on River Otter. Clerk to contact CDE re replacement like for like preferred. Road Warden scheme	<b>Clerk</b>
19	<b>Village events.</b>	Note dates for village events: Garden Club Show: 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2026. Otterton Village News – SM to speak to Jill Beacham.	Action: SM
20	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	<b>OPC Meeting - Scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026. AGM Annual Meeting</b>	

Meeting finished at 21.20.

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Draft until signed