

Otterton Parish Council

Minutes							
Date & Time	1 st March 2021		Location	Meeting via Zoom @ 7.30			
Councillors Present	Initials			Also Present	Initials		
Mr J Hiles	JH	Parish Councillor	Chair	Cllr A Dent	TW	District Councillor	
Mrs V Pride	VP	Parish Councillor	V.Chair	Cllr P Jarvis	PJ	District Councillor	
Mrs S Young	SY	Parish Councillor		Residents 14			
Mr T Farrington	TF	Parish Councillor					
Mr J Lister	JL	Parish Councillor					

Apologies	Initials	Reason for Absence	Absent without Apology	Initials	
Cllr C Wright	CW	County Councillor			
Cllr T Wright	Tw	District Councillor			
Cllr S Walker	SW	Work committments			

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 as above.	
2	Declarations of Interests: There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.	
3	The minutes of the meeting held on 1 st February 21 were signed as a true record of the meeting with amendments listed below: All matters arising not detailed form part of this agenda.	JH
4	Public questions by email/letter: Many emails & representations received concerning the proposed Glamping site on Stantyway farm and the additional traffic it would bring to the area. Whilst this is not a matter for the OPC as planning permission is not required and the license application has been signed off by the land owner the strength of feeling in the village was noted. Having met with the 'glamping' organisers and listened to representations made by several residents over the weekend Cllr Sam Walker has made the decision not to go ahead with this project. Currently the PC await confirmation from CDE that no other farms in the area are going to hold a glamping event. Concern also raised by residents regarding a conflict of interest that Councillors are not acting in the best interest of the village, an AON and in line with the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Hiles reiterated that Cllr Walker was working completely within his rights and has chosen to support the village. Whilst the NP does not make mention of temporary events it was accepted that the glamping is against the principals set out in the plan. A resident questioned the powers of the PC to prevent such an event happening in the future. JH explained that within the current guidelines the PC is powerless. 26 & 28 Highstreet subsidence which may be a water issue JH to investigate and inform the appropriate authority. Neighbourhood Plan hopefully to be voted on in May, encouragement sought for residents to vote for adoption.	JH

Meeting of the Otterton Parish Council minutes

Signed

Dated.....

Otterton Parish Council

5 Chair's report: Covid-19 update

With numbers falling the lockdown and the roll out of the vaccine seem to be working. A light at the end of the tunnel is in sight with the first easing of restrictions starting on the 8th March. As stated last month I now attend a Covid-19 meeting every week.

Update: The Budleigh hub is supplying 40 meals a week to local residents,

Over 700 people have used the transport to the vaccination centre.

Some of the volunteers have individually done over 250 hours since March.

The Hub are planning a thank you tea party in July.

The Budleigh relief in need charity are supporting 17 households this week with a weekly spend of £980. The total since March is £33,320. 11 households have reapplied this week. 2 households in Otterton are being supported and the Otterton relief in need charity will reimburse BRINC.

It has been brought to my attention that a parishioner has an issue with Ash trees with Ash dieback being cut down.

I would like to assure all parishioners that expert advice was and will be taken. All works carried out will be done by qualified persons.

As we are a functional Parish council all trees cut down is by a majority vote after taking into consideration expert advice.

I would also encourage all parishioners to read past minutes to avoid asking questions where the answer is in the public domain.

I would also ask for parishioners not to troll the Parish council on Facebook and if you have a problem please get in touch with myself or any other member.

More trees to the Parish. I have been working with the woodland trust since late last year. I did originally secure 420 trees for the Parish but after talking to Clinton Devon Estate who were luke warm to the idea of the Parish council giving them free trees to plant on their land I decided to reduce the order we will now be getting 240 trees to plant within the Parish.

Join Parish council: I would encourage you all to consider joining the Parish council we have 3 vacancies at the moment maybe more by the end of this statement.

After 2 years as Chair I would encourage one of my colleagues to step into the breach when we vote the Chair in, in May.

Landing site: In last month's meeting I reported on monies raised for the landing site. Claire wright has donated £1000 from her infrastructure fund. Ladram bay have donated £500 Kash Developments have donated £500

This left us £1000 short which the minutes state the Parish council will pay the balance.

I still thought this was a little much out of our small pot.

So this month Christine Channon has kindly donated £500 from one of her pots.

So last year I was intending to hold a VE day celebration to raise money for the landing site but through talking to local councillors and local businesses who are willing to look after the local community I have secured £2500 To go ahead with the landing site.

I have instructed the Devon air ambulance to contact the Clerk and go ahead.

Dreamfields Glamping: It is good to hear that Cllr Walker won't be hosting Dreamfields. However my original post on CV19OTTERTON still stands as it stated a CDE farm and I have had no confirmation that they are not going to host Dreamfields at this time. However as stated earlier the 56 day rule allows for this and does not require planning and if another farm hosts within the parish there is very little we can do.

Otterton Parish Council

11	<p>Cllr Claire Wright: 20mph limit for Otterton</p> <p>I have formally submitted Otterton’s Fore Street (again!) to become a 20mph limit, once the Newton Abbot trial is complete. There are really strict rules about 20mph limits currently. There must be a school and rather depressingly, a speed related death. However, government policy is changing and residents of Otterton have repeatedly told me this is what they want for the village. It is incredibly frustrating that Otterton’s 20mph limit was informally agreed by officers about 3 years ago but was all put on the back burner while a trial was carried out elsewhere in the county. I have also asked that Church Hill is included as this is where the school is.</p> <p>I will keep you posted when I know more...</p> <p>Devon County Council budget meeting sees council tax rise by 4.99 per cent</p> <p>At Devon County Council’s budget meeting last Thursday (18 February) the ruling group voted through a 4.99 per cent increase in the DCC element of council tax in order to offset 10 years of austerity and a social care system in crisis. Here’s my speech, which explains more. It is however, quite political!: https://claire-wright.org/its-budget-day-at-devon-county-council-heres-my-speech/ Motion to council opposing government u-turn on use of bee killing pesticides I brought this motion after learning that the government intends to relax the rules on using neonicotinoids on sugar beet, even though they are proven to kill bees, which are rapidly declining. The motion will come before cabinet for a steer before being debated at the full council meeting in April. For more see...</p> <p>https://claire-wright.org/motion-lobbying-the-government-on-bee-killing-pesticide-u-turn/</p> <p>Education Secretary ignores Devon County Council’s representations (my anti-racist motion). This was related to a motion I put forward last year, which was backed by full council. It urged the Education Secretary to take stronger action on persisting racist attitudes in schools among other things. Unfortunately, four months later and despite chasing, there has been no answer from Mr Williamson. For more see.</p> <p>https://claire-wright.org/education-secretary-stonewalls-devon-county-council-on-anti-racist-motion/</p> <p>How the pandemic is causing an explosion in unpaid carers and distress in Devon</p> <p>A piece I wrote for local press following the last DCC Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee meeting, where I asked that we reached out to unpaid carers again, following the news that distress had significantly increased</p> <p>https://claire-wright.org/how-the-pandemic-is-causing-an-explosion-in-unpaid-carers-and-distress/</p> <p>DCC covid-19 update</p> <p>Devon's case number highest among 20 to 39 year olds, more cash for Devon's most vulnerable and mobile testing units hit the road soon (govdelivery.com)</p> <p>Best wishes Claire Wright Devon County Councillor - Otter Valley Ward</p> <p>Alan Dent: Rise in council rates – (Copy attached to minutes)</p> <p>Paul Jarvis: Poverty working panel. Concerns re effect of the pandemic on poverty in this area. Citizens Advice ready to help in times of need and can signpost to most effective support.</p>	
12	<p>Financial matters: Agreement to pay cheques as detailed on agenda. Unanimous decision To decline OVA Grant - suggestion that money is used for a better cause at present.</p>	Clerk to action
13	<p>Further actions: Protocol for death of a senior royal.</p> <p>Village website will direct folk to the book of condolence in the church & online book at Buckingham Palace</p>	Clerk to action
14	<p>106 Funding. For next meeting.</p>	
15	<p>Items for agenda.</p>	Clerk to action
16	<p>It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 12th April 2021 by zoom.</p>	.

The meeting closed at 20.42

Meeting of the Otterton Parish Council minutes Signed

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Otterton Parish Council

East Devon District Council agrees £5 annual Council Tax increase for average Band D property

Council despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic have agreed a budget which will continue to protect and provide quality front line services.

In line with many other councils across the country, East Devon District Council have agreed to a small Council Tax increase. This amounts to a £5 annual Council Tax increase for an average Band D property for 2021/22 to ensure EDDC continues to secure crucial front line services for its residents and businesses.

The increase means the authority's portion of the annual Council Tax bill for a Band D property will be £151.78 a year or £2.92 a week for all the services it provides. The increase, which was approved by the council on 24 February 2021 is less than 10p extra per week.

The council takes 7p in every pound of the total Council Tax bill with the rest of the money going to Devon County Council, Devon and Cornwall Police, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service along with town and parish councils.

Councillor Jack Rowland, East Devon District Council's portfolio holder for finance said: "I appreciate that any news announcing an increase in costs may be difficult to accept and understand during the current situation caused by Covid-19. However, I hope the following explanation will help clarify the reason for the 3.41% (on average £5 a year) increase from April on the East Devon District Council's element of your Council Tax.

As a direct result of Covid-19 EDDC has over the past year seen a fall in income and a rise in expenditure and we are legally obliged to present a balanced budget for 2021/22.

The mandatory service costs involving, for one example, the waste and recycling service, have risen due to increased volumes and we have decided to retain all the discretionary services as well

The discretionary services cover sports centres, swimming pools, parks and public toilets. As an example the council contracts Leisure East Devon (LED) to operate the sports centres and swimming pools owned by the authority. In the current financial year up to the end of March we will have supported LED with an additional £1.3m to keep them afloat due to the restrictions and lockdowns we have all experienced, but EDDC have only received £280k back from Central Government to offset this extra financial support.

In addition we have decided not to increase the EDDC owned car park charges from April, but to achieve a balanced budget we are using £300k from the general reserves that will reduce that reserve to the lowest level. Obviously we cannot continue to use those reserves going into the future to support income and certain car park charges will eventually have to be increased from April 2022 as by then they will not have been increased for 11 years so have not kept pace with inflation and the VAT rises over that period.

I hope residents will understand the need for the EDDC percentage increase as part of the overall precept charge that the council collects on behalf of themselves, Devon County Council, Devon & Cornwall Police, Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority and the Town and Parish Councils."

Vote for NP to come in May this year. Encouragement for all to vote. Big thanks.