

Otterton Parish Council

AGM 2021

Minutes							
Date & Time	4 th May 2021		Location	Meeting via Zoom @ 7.30			
Councillors Present	Initials			Councillors Present	Initials		
Mr J Hiles	JH	Parish Councillor	Chair	Debbie Knowles	DK	Parish Councillor	
Mrs V Pride	VP	Parish Councillor	V.Chair	Jonathan Nanke	KN	Parish Councillor	
Mrs S Young	SY	Parish Councillor		Also Present			
Mr J Lister	JL	Parish Councillor		1 resident			
Tony Farrington	TF	Parish Councillor					

Apologies	Initials	Reason for Absence	Absent without Apology	Initials	
Cllr T Wright	TW	District Councillor another meeting	Paul Jarvis	PJ	
Cllr A Dent	AD	District Councillor another meeting			

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 4 th May 2020 were signed as a true record.	
4	Appoint chair. Cllr John Hiles was appointed as Chair of the Parish Council. Proposed by TF & seconded by SY the vote was carried unanimously.	
5	Appoint vice chair. Cllr Valerie Pride was appointed as Vice Chair of the Parish Council. Proposed by TF & seconded by SY the vote was carried unanimously.	
6	<p>Appoint reps to external bodies:</p> <p>The village green - Cllr Val Pride</p> <p>The War memorial – Cllr John Hiles</p> <p>Community Shop – Cllr Jonathan Nanke</p> <p>Stantyway Recreation Ground & Football Club – Cllr Tony Farrington</p> <p>Jubilee Playground – Cllr Debbie Knowles</p> <p>The Otterton Cemetery – Cllr John Lister</p> <p>The Village Hall – Cllr Sharon Young</p> <p>Trees/PROW – Mr Iain Ure</p> <p>Contracts & Finance – Cllr John Hiles</p> <p>DAA Debribulator – Clerk</p> <p>The appointments listed above were voted to be accepted unanimously and a monthly report will be provided.</p>	

Meeting of the Otterton Parish Council minutes

Signed

Dated.....

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7 Receive a report from the chair: CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

I would like to start by reminding everyone of the areas of responsibility of Parish Councils.

These are;

- 1) Representing the local community
- 2) Delivering services to meet local needs
- 3) Improve the quality of life and well-being of the community

We are a relatively small parish with just over 600 inhabitants and our main areas of responsibilities are; The Village Green, The War Memorial, The Cemetery, The Jubilee Playground, and Stantyway Recreation Area

Other responsibilities include:

Maintaining of PROW'S

The Emergency Plan and Flood Defence and

Maintenance of Bus Stops

In addition, each of our councillors has a specific area of responsibility on which they report back to the council on a monthly basis.

We also have the opportunity to comment on Planning Applications although I have to say that the Planning authorities do not always agree with what we recommend, in the last 12 months we have considered some 17 planning applications.

Your Parish Council also had a representation on the LORP Stakeholder Group.

Our Roads Warden is Councillor John Hiles and our footpaths warden is Mr Iain Ure.

Our year runs from May to April and every year we request a precept from the District Council. For the current period 2020 to 2021 the amount was £11,881.

So, what have we done in the last 12 months?

A year like no other.

On March 23rd 2020 at 2000hrs the Prime Minister put the whole country into a national lockdown.

We had to adapt meetings which went online via Zoom however this has worked and members of the public have been able to attend.

The Parish council set up a Facebook page CV19Otterton which helped many people within the Parish, picking up prescriptions, helping with shopping and also the mental welfare of a few.

CV19Otterton has also proved a great tool to raise awareness of local issues quickly.

The Neighbourhood Plan.

Is now only two days away from the finishing post, this was applied for in 2014 by the Parish council and the working group was set up in 2016 a small group of dedicated individuals who have produced an in depth comprehensive document for the Parish to take forward. I would encourage you to vote on Thursday 6th May.

Devon air ambulance landing site.

The Parish council was planning a VE75 party to raise £3000 for a landing site within the village, but sadly due to the lockdown this didn't happen, however local businesses stepped up to the plate and donated in excess of £2500 towards the landing site.

A very warm and grateful thank you to;

Cllr Claire Wright, Cllr Christine Channon, Ladram Bay Holiday Park, Kach developments

The Butleigh Lions, Planning for this is expected very soon.

Phone mast

A phone mast at Stantyway recreation ground was submitted and refused twice, this would have given the Parish a one off payment of £3000 and a small annual income of between £200 and £300.

This has now gone to appeal.

WW1 Posts: All 17 post from WW1 have now been completed and two posts from WW2 have been placed in the ground. Money for the remaining five will be raised at some point in the future, The Parish will need around £500 to finish this project off.

If anyone would like to sponsor or donate to this project please get in touch with the Clark.

WW1 Bench: The Brass plaques with the 16 names of the men who died in the first world war have now been ordered and will be placed on the bench very shortly.

Trees: Sadly, we have had to cut five Ash trees and one Cherry tree down this last year.

However. The Parish council secured 240 trees and hedging plants from the Woodland trust many of these have now been planted with the remaining being planted in the next few days.

LORP: Has been approved and exploratory works have been concluded, with full construction starting on the 5th May 2021.

The Parish council looks forward to working with the developers over the next 2 years.

John Hiles Chair Otterton Parish Council May 2021

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8	<p>Reports from District Councillors</p> <p>The last year has been dominated by the COVID pandemic. All face-to-face meetings were cancelled and held via Zoom instead. For the most part the broadband signal was sufficient but a number rural areas have a very slow connection.</p> <p>Council officers at District have largely been working from home while making every effort in providing support to the community. Some of the major issues tackled have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distributing over £60 million of government funds to local businesses• Managing Universal Credit which has increased by 40%• Manning a central Hub to direct callers to appropriate services• Maintaining the kerbside recycling and waste collections against a background of sickness and increased loads <p>Looking ahead, there is considerable concern that the government want councils at all levels to resume face to face meetings. Whilst the vaccination roll out has been a huge success, not everyone is fully protected and the prospect of meetings in close quarters is causing justified worries.</p> <p>To date the government has not authorised hybrid meetings where both face to face and remote connections could be held simultaneously. We await further developments on this issue.</p> <p>The Lower Otter Restoration Project (LORP). This is an Environment Agency backed project designed to bring the valley back to it's original form and to encourage more diverse wildlife. Survey work has begun and construction work will start in May. It will take a year or more to complete and then several years to settle and establish.</p> <p>At District the continued reduction in government funding has created serious financial issues, highlighted by the closure of Leisure Centres, swimming pools and tennis courts. Some £1.5 million is having to be found to keep these valuable health and wellbeing services operational.</p> <p>All three ward members are on the District Licensing Committee where the main issues have been the problems facing pubs and restaurants - hence the increase in pavement and car park 'pop-ups'. Also, the loss of business faced by taxi firms.</p> <p>On a more positive note, a proposal to install 30 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points in car parks across the District is being presented to the District Council on 21 April. If approved, this will mean there will be one such charging point (serving two cars) in the Rolle Mews car park in Budleigh.</p> <p>Cllrs. Alan Dent, Paul Jarvis and Tom Wright.</p>	
9	<p>Receive draft accounts. The 2020 draft accounts were unanimously agreed and will be sent to the internal auditor.</p>	
10	<p>AOB</p>	

The meeting closed at 7.28