

Otterton Parish Council

AGM 2022

Minutes							
Date & Time	4 th April 2022		Location	Otterton Village Hall			
Councillors Present	Initials			Councillors Present	Initials		
Mr J Hiles	JH	Parish Councillor		Cllr Alan Dent	AD	District Councillor	
Mr T Wright	TW	Parish Councillor		Paul Jarvis	PJ	District Councillor	
Ms Melanie Martin	MM	Parish Councillor		Also Present			
Mr J Lister	JL	Parish Councillor		4 residents			
Mrs J Bove	JB	Parish Councillor					
Mr R Witherby	RW	Parish Councillor					

Apologies	Initials	Reason for Absence	Absent without Apology	Initials	
Cllr J Fry	TW	Covid			
Cllr J Bailey	JB	District Councillor conflicting commitments			

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 2021 were signed as a true record.	
4	Appoint chair. Cllr Tom Wright was appointed as Chair of the Parish Council. Proposed by JL & seconded by JH the vote was carried unanimously.	
5	Appoint vice chair. Cllr JH was appointed as Vice Chair of the Parish Council. Proposed by MM & seconded by TW the vote was carried unanimously.	
6	<p>Appoint reps to external bodies: The following appointments were carried unanimously and a monthly reported will be provided for each.</p> <p>The village green - Cllr Melanie Martin The War memorial – Cllr John Hiles Community Shop – Cllr John Hiles The Raleigh federation – Cllr Richard Witherby Stantyway Recreation Ground & Football Club – Cllr Jerry Fry Jubilee Playground – Cllr Julia Bove The Otterton Cemetery – Cllr John Lister The Village Hall – Cllr Melanie Martin Trees/PROW – Mr Iain Ure Contracts & Finance – Cllr John Hiles DAA Defibrillator – Clerk</p>	

Meeting of the Otterton Parish Council minutes

Signed

Dated.....

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7	<p>Outgoing Chair's Report:</p> <p>A turbulent but successful year with: Facebook page supporting the village throughout covid pandemic.</p> <p>Return to face-to-face meetings after many months on line. The Otterton parish Council didn't miss a meeting during the pandemic when many councils did.</p> <p>DAA Air landing site is now operational.</p> <p>Great new energy from 4 new councillors</p> <p>Successful stream clearance by many of the village. Another massive thank you to Sam Walker for removing all the vegetation.</p> <p>Name plates on WW1 memorial seat.</p> <p>I would like to congratulate the village shop committee, volunteers and Nicky for all the work they did over the pandemic and the vouchers back to the village.</p> <p>LORP Parking increase from 30 to 55.</p> <p>A successful village open day where many people came to meet the new councillors and see what fantastic clubs we have in the Parish.</p> <p>420 trees were planted within the Parish last year</p>	
8	<p>Report for Otterton Parish Council Annual Meeting 2022</p> <p>COVID: Thanks to the success of the vaccination programme, all restrictions have been removed but the virus still circulates, albeit in a less virulent form. East Devon and Budleigh have high numbers of those infected and the effect on hospitals, schools and council employees is severe. At the end of March there were near record numbers of patients in RD&E. Fortunately very few were on ventilation.</p> <p>At East Devon District Council all meetings other than full Council are still being held remotely and officers continue to work from home.</p> <p>FINANCE: As Government has largely withdrawn supportive funding to local councils, they become more reliant on funds raised from council tax and the revenue from fees and charges whilst struggling to maintain both statutory and non-statutory services.</p> <p>No good news with regard to inflation, the general cost of living, fuel prices, gas and electricity prices or interest rates. Clearly, we are all in for a very difficult time in the coming months.</p> <p>WASTE AND RECYCLING: Housing growth in the District has been slightly faster than originally predicted and the Street Scene team now collects from over 70,000 houses every week. Street Scene have been seriously affected by staff shortages through sickness and difficulties in recruitment. A number of collection rounds have been affected and delays across the District continue.</p> <p>LOWER OTTER RESTORATION PROJECT: Work continues much on schedule with a target completion date set for spring 2023. The base for a new road has been completed and will soon be connected to the new bridge across the River Otter for access to South Farm. Work on the footpaths either side of the new wetlands are being upgraded.</p>	

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8 Report for Otterton Parish Council Annual Meeting 2022 continued.....

CAR PARKS: A general increase of the hourly cost from £1.00 an hour to £2.00 for 21 car parks and £1.50 per hour for many of the remainder has been agreed at full council. The decision was made without an EDDC Car Parking strategy in place, no strategy planned for the foreseeable future and no consultation with communities or businesses. A number of us objected and voted against these proposals.

The result is that from April both Lime Kiln and Rolle Mews car parks will cost £2.00 per hour. Station Road and Brook Road parks are likely rise to £1.50 per hour.

For local residents, the annual car park pass is the best possible way to keep car parking costs to a minimum. At present this is £100 a year for one town with additional towns costing £20 each. From April this will increase to £120. The cost for additional towns has yet to be published.

PUBLIC TOILETS: EDDC will be keeping 14 of their public toilets across the district, and will update and refurbish these sites at a cost of £3 million to provide modern, safe and accessible toilets. EDDC will be charging people to use these refurbished toilets when they are open, using contactless payments. Pre-paid cards will be made available for those with disabilities or for those who receive certain benefits. EDDC is working on the marketing information for the 13 other sites which the Council is no longer able to support from April 2023. The priority for these 13 sites is to find alternative uses which favour community or local business.

EDDC will shortly be writing to town and parish councils to update them on the Public Toilet Review and discuss next steps with them. Whilst EDDC progresses these discussions most of these public toilets will remain open until April 2023.

In Budleigh the two seafront toilets will be retained. Brook Road will be closed and the Station Road car park toilets will be the subject of negotiation between the Town Council and EDDC.

LONGBOAT CAFÉ: The extension that the new operator installed was done without planning permission and as a result an enforcement notice was threatened. After our intervention the planning officers agreed that if the extension could be made temporary i.e. movable, then they would consider it more favourably.

This has now been done along with a considerable amount of internal rearrangement and operational improvements.

Whilst not everyone likes the design, we felt the service provided was a valuable addition to the local tourist economy and attracted many visitors to the seafront.

BEACH HUTS: As you may have seen there are twelve new beach huts at the Longboat end of the seafront. These have finally been provided by EDDC for the Information Centre to rent out but it took a considerable effort by us ward members, along with the Chair of the Budleigh Chamber of Commerce, to achieve this result.

Originally, due to the financial pressures on EDDC, officers had recommended these huts - which were in a very poor state of repair - should be removed and the sites offered to the public as are all the other sites on the seafront.

To them and the Portfolio Holder, this made financial sense. To us in Budleigh, it was a substantial loss of a major holiday attraction and an essential source of income for the Information Centre. We ward members actually had to 'call in' a Cabinet decision for it to be reversed and the council persuaded to invest in the new huts that we now see. If you're wondering why they haven't been painted it's because they are under warranty for two years and to paint them would negate that warranty.

Cllr's Alan Dent. Tom Wright. Paul Jarvis.

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9	Receive draft accounts. The 2021 draft accounts were unanimously agreed and will be sent to the internal auditor. It was also agreed that in line with the Annual Governance Accountability Return stipulations an external audit of the Otterton Parish Council finances will not be required. The audited accounts will be published on the website and Parish notice board with supporting documents.	
10	AOB – None.	

The meeting closed at 7.49

Draft until signed