Date & Time	4 th Ma	arch 2024	Loca	ation	Otterton Village Hall			
Councillors Present	Initials				Also Present	Initials		
MS Melanie Martin	MM	Parish Cound	cillor		Members of the public	4		
Mr Jerry Fry	JF	Parish Cound	cillor					
Mr Richard Witherby	RW	Parish Cound	cillor					
Roger Pellow	RP	Parish Cound	cillor					
lan Simpson	IS	Parish Cound	cillor					
Peter Wells	PW	Parish Counc	cillor					

Apologies	Initials	Reason for Absence		Absent without Apology	Initials	
Charlotte Fitzgerald	CF	Maternity leave				
Ms Belinda Shoemaker	BS	Holiday				
Steve Culverhouse	SC	Unwell				
Jess Bailey	JB	Personal reasons]			
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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: None	
3	Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 5 th February 24 were signed as an accurate	
	record of the meeting.	
	Matters arising not featured on the agenda:	
	Speed Watch update: Final training has now taken place. First watch will take place on	
	22 nd March, 3 sites in the village can be used at various times. Offensive behaviour	
	towards the speed watchers will not be tolerated. Thanks to Roger & team noted.	
	Topple Testing: PW & FM met with the Vince Orchard of Orchard memorials to assess	
	well-being of memorial stones in the Cemetery. It is recommended that stones are tested	
	5 yearly to ensure stability. On this occasion all stones were firmly placed although some	
	displayed a slight lean.	
	FM to speak to Old Vicarage to seek a contribution to cost of Defibrillator.	
	A discussion took place regarding the appeal for a contribution of £115.00 towards the	
	Voluntary Community Bus. Agreement to support Community bus proposed by Roger	
	Pellow & seconded by Jerry Fry and unanimously agreed. Clerk to action	Clerk to action
4	The chair confirmed the arrangement for public discussion:	
	All members of the public are welcome and comments on items on the agenda will be	
	heard. If you would like to add an item to the agenda, please contact the clerk at least 7	
	days before the meeting. Public questions by email/letter or in person:	
	Ongoing : Tuesday 12 th March 2024 the first meeting of the new camera club will take	
	place in the Kings Arms.	
	Query regarding additional bid for £1.4 million for the prevention of flooding by the	
	Environment Agency and the effect this will have on the village. It was suggested that	
	queries are directed to the MP as this is not a matter the Parish Council can control.	
	A query was made regarding mud on the road and whether it has reached dangerous	
	levels. Queries need to be directed to Highways at DCC	
5	Correspondence: None	

Meeting of the Otterton Parish Council minutes

Signed

6	Chairman business: The Chair has spoken to Ro Smith regarding a possibility of updating the parish Council page on the village website. The Councillors all agreed that a new design would benefit the page together with an updated content. Ro has kindly donated his time free of charge with the Domain name continuing to be the only charge. New email addresses also to be available for Parish Councillors.	MM & all
7	District & County Reports. Insert JBs report.	
	MM & HR Reported that Ice tankers have been used to clear gullies.	
	Motion of no confidence in SWW - HR had first speech at East Devon. Conflict between	
	the need for new homes and the lack of infrastructure for SWW.	
	Concern regarding anti-social behaviour in Lime Kiln Car park to be addressed by Police.	
	Celebration of opening of national Nature Reserve. Otter Estuary named to celebrate the	
	coronation of King Charles.	
	Green wedges review, separating Knowle and B/S: the methodology used seems to be	
	flawed & scheme to be revisited. Local representation through DCs.	
	Temporary toilets to be installed at Lime Kiln.	
	Youth Group disco to be hosted at B/S on 6 th July possibly Y6 – Y9.	
	Cllr Jess Bailey, Devon County Councillor (Otter Valley)	
	Devon County Council met to discuss and approve the 2024-5 budget on 15 February	
	2024. My independent and green group at DCC put forward formal budget amendments. I	
	believe that these would have made a significant improvement to the residents of Devon.	
	They are included in full at Appendix 1. But particularly worth noting is our following	
	proposals: That the capital expenditure for footpaths be increased by £250k to £1m;	
	An increase in the number of public rights of way wardens by 4; An increase of £100k to	
	£250K for 20mph zones to improve the pace of roll out of the zones which are very	
	oversubscribed; We called for the council to write to MPs asking why they voted	
	for a settlement that disadvantages Devon's children – Devon's	
	school children are 114 out of 151 in the funding table across the	
	country. Devons school children receive £213 less per year than the average child in the	
	country – meaning Devon County Council is shortchanged by £20m. The high needs block	
	funding from government is underfunded against the national average by £96 per head.	
	With 9,401 children within this group DCC have a shortfall of £868k a year against the	
	average council. Our budget amendments were however unfortunately voted down by the	
0	Conservative led County Council.	
8	Chapter 8 Training: Highways will fund 3 places for Chapter 8 Training which needs to be	
0	Pre-actioned by an online Safety Awareness Course which is available through DCC. Local Planning Applications - None	
9		

10	Allocation of responsibilities & reports from Councillors: Where there is nothing to	
	report the following abbreviation will be used (NTR)	
	Village Green (MM). IS offered to refurbish the Otter Sign & planters that are in need of	
	TLC currently to wet but will be done when weather improves. RW to prep and IS to	
	refurbish. Thanks to both. MM requests quote for aeration, scarification & topdressing of	
	The Green. Clerk to action.	
	Hall (BS) NTR	
	Community shop: (SC) NTR	
	War Memorial: (RP) NTR	Clerk to actior
	Stantyway recreation ground & Football Club: (JF) Contribution towards gate to come	
	from football club. Clerk to send letter to football club to confirm & seek amount.	
	Raleigh Federation: E/O Spring term 28 th March. New Toddler Group in place	
	Jubilee Play Park: New gatepost in place & new gate to be installed. ROSPA report	
	awaited. Funding now available to put swings in. £700 to come from soap box race on	
	1.4.24. Currently 20 entries. Total fundraising to date £2k	
	Cemetery: Mound to be flattened. PW suggests that soil could be distributed around the	
	end cemetery to improve levels.	
	A discussion took place regarding the maintenance of the benches at the Cemetery some	
	of which are in need of attention. A review will take place to see if the families of those	
	with memorial benches can be contacted following a policy for care will be proposed	
	recognising the need to maintain safe equipment.	Action PW
	Contracts & Finance: The renewal of the DAA Defibrillator contract was discussed &	
	informed by the comparisons provided by FM. It was proposed by Richard Witherby that	
	the DAA contact at £1800 ex vat would be renewed. Seconded by Melanie Martin.	
	Unanimously agreed.	
	An announcement was placed in the parish news inviting applications for details of the	
	grass cutting contract. None received so far. After discussion it was agreed that FM would	
	contact Halcyon to confirm their ability to continue however in line with standing orders 2	
	other quotes must also be sought & considered.	
	Footpaths and Public Rights of Way: Ask lain for an update.	
11	Financial matters: It was unanimously agreed that all payments listed on agenda 5.3.24	Clerk to action
	would be paid.	
12	Further actions: ROSPA Inspection due in March @ £111.00 Installation of swings before	
	this would be cost efficient.	
	FM to approach the St Michael's PCC to see if the OPC could help with the Church Fete. 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. Possible date	
	11 th May TBC.	
	Facts regarding the breach of the river Otter footpath to be confirmed to dispel the many	
	rumours & dissatisfaction which is being circulated on social media.	Clerk to action.

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13	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.	
14	Items for next agenda: Open day, website emails, Speed watch.	
	Dates for 2024 meetings: April 8 th , May 13 th , June 3 rd , July 1 st , September 2 nd , October 7 th ,	Clerk to action
	November 4 th , December 2 nd .	
15	The next meeting will take place on Monday 8 th April @ 7.30.	Clerk to action

The meeting closed at 20.45

Meeting of the Otterton Parish Council

minutes

Signed