

Otterton Parish Council

Date & Time	1 st September 2025		Location	Otterton Village Hall			
Councillors Present	Initials			Also Present	Initials		
Mr Richard Witherby	RW	Parish Councillor		Charlotte Fitzgerald			
Ian Simpson	IS	Parish Councillor	Chair	Members of the public	14		
Peter Wells	PW	Parish Councillor		Jess Bailey			
Jerry Fry	JF	Parish Councillor					
Belinda Shoemaker	BS	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

Ref	Main meeting agenda item, comment & decision	Action Owner
1	Welcome & Apologies received & accepted as above.	
2	Co-Opting of new Councillors Stevie Mears. Long time resident of Otterton & living with his family & attending the local primary school, Stevie has helped out with maintenance tasks within the village & would like now to give back more formally to the community. Proposed by BS & seconded by JF Stevie was welcomed to the Council.	
3	Declarations of interest: None	

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4	<p>Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 7th July as circulated were signed as an accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p>Matters arising not featured on the agenda:</p> <p>Gate at Stantyway: Ready to be installed JF & IS to action. Agreed a priority action. Lock on the existing gate is already in place. Ground is too hard for progress but hope weather will allow completion shortly.</p> <p>Chapter 8 Training: Distribution of cards. Qualification stands for 5 years. Agenda item complete.</p> <p>A discussion 2 x men at work direction signs £172.60. (Clerk to write to Highways)</p> <p>Rewilding at Stantyway: A site walk took place on Friday 22nd August when the following was agreed. Plan to install wild flower meadow. (Delderfield gardens to give guidance)</p> <p>Flood prevention re crops. A report was circulated by Geoff Porter (attached).</p> <p>The following points were made:</p> <p>Following summer investigation phosphate measured at 5 times acceptable level (with no un treated sewage) despite no run off from land & crops.</p> <p>Nothing in plan for removal of phosphate until 2035.</p> <p>River rating poor, hot & sunny weather makes impact of phosphate worse.</p> <p>Local MPs have been lobbied.</p> <p>Impact of maize also to be considered. When harvested in rain (against guidance) run off & debris blocks stream. Hill side planting causes concern with run off & tracks from tractors causes channel to form directing water into the stream.</p> <p>Methods of planting currently used against guidance.</p> <p>One mitigation could be the installation of 'Leaky dams' – Request for OPC to contact Clinton Devon for plan to input at Otterton. (Apparently a plan locally)</p> <p>Guidance for farmers is available from Government, Environment agency & agriculture agencies.</p> <p>A query was made regarding enforcement policies which is difficult.</p> <p>Request for OPC to contact Environment agency raising concerns regarding the planting of maize in sandy hill side fields in village.</p> <p>Tree on the Green. Land Lord of Kings Arms to speak to brewery who have offered trees. Needs to be Pear/Crabapple. It was noted that Geoff Porter has a Horse Chestnut sapling to offer.</p> <p>Clerk to contact to Toby Taylor regarding raising canopies of trees on the Green.</p>	<div>Action clerk</div> <div>JF Clerk</div>
5	<p>Public Questions: Jubilee playpark. A resident reported a concern regarding a post with nails protruding. Also, handrails with nails & tunnels has holes. IS detailed current plan for gradual replacement of equipment with maintenance of equipment ongoing.</p> <p>Regular inspection of the playpark is undertaken both locally & annually by ROSPA.</p> <p>Resident was thanked for his feedback which will be swiftly addressed.</p>	<div>IS</div>

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6	<p>Correspondence:</p> <p>Poo bin on Park Lane has been reported as full without regular emptying – in this instance the clerk has reported the problem but it was noted that residents can also do this independently using online reporting method which has a service standard attached & should result in timely remedial action.</p> <p>Trees on Ropers Lane: It has been reported that these are encroaching on the road. IS has offered to remove using 108 training & qualification.</p> <p>Maintenance of Brick Cross: Welcome receipt of positive feedback regarding the maintenance of Brick Cross. Whilst not in this parish it is situated at the entrance to the village so effective maintenance gives positive picture. Well done to IS, JF & RW</p> <p>Bench on River Otter/bench for Clive Parnell: Clerk: write to Clinton re replacement of bench on river. Bench for green in memory of Clive Parnell was discussed & to be progressed next meeting.</p>	clerk
7	<p>Tree at Jubilee Playpark (Vieux Close): Await report from Toby Taylor regarding cost of maintenance. RW reported that Andy Dyer suggested that the tree is felled to avoid ongoing costs and inconvenience to residents. Clerk requested to chase Toby Taylor before decision is made.</p> <p>Terry Tibbet: Sue Tibbet has notified that sadly Terry is no longer able to deal with the flags raised at the village hall. The clerk was asked to write to Terry thanking him for his service to the village over many years. In future the flags will be raised by JF & IS.</p> <p>Clerk: Details of flags & dates to be sent to JF & IS. Flags to be located.</p>	Clerk Clerk IS&JF
8	<p>To receive a report from the Chairman:</p> <p><i>IS offered thanks to the many members of the community who offered help & support to the family whose home exploded recently. IS stated that it was heart-warming to see the community come together following this dreadful and once again event gave thanks that no one was hurt. Thanks also given to emergency services for swift response.</i></p> <p>An invitation has been received for attendance at a Civic Service on 28th September @ St Peter's Church Budleigh Salterton. The invitation is meant for members of the community so any names of residents who should be invited need to go to IS asap.</p> <p><i>B/S Traffic awareness group meeting 9th September 14.00. Meeting at Town Council offices. Names to IS & clerk to contact Roger Pellow on behalf of Community Traffic scheme.</i></p>	All clerk
9	<p>Local planning: 25/1566/TCA. No objection</p> <p>Local Plan. NTR</p>	
10	<p>Bus Turning Area: Improvements noted following detailed communication with bus providers. Remains as a watching brief.</p>	
11	<p>Emergency Plan: Explosion - Recent events have proved that plans are in place. A discussion took place regarding the need for radios to improve communication throughout the village.</p> <p>It was also noted that some equipment was needed to enhance effort and keep people safe. Councillors to put together list of equipment needed including High Viz jackets, Road closed signs, torches.</p>	All

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12	<p>District & County:</p> <p>Jess Bailey: West Hill PC could give advice on torches – clerk to contact</p> <p>Consultation re yellow lines in village to happen soon. Opportunity for further lines in 2027. Requests to JB.</p> <p>Exeter City Council: Plan for extension of boundaries to include villages in the Otter valley. Exeter city council website consultation under devolution plan. Consultation until 26th September.</p> <p>20MPH project to be discussed at ECC with results to come next meeting.</p> <p>Charlotte Fitzgerald:</p> <p>EXMO20 (B3179) are being looked at again 2.9.25. Anticipated much discussion regarding access, mineral resources.</p> <p>Report from Councillor Melanie Martin received after the meeting attached.</p>	
13	<p>Resilience Reports:</p> <p>Stone trap - OK</p> <p>Gullies – Remain blocked will address on Chapter 8.</p> <p>Environmental Reports – NTR</p> <p>Water levels: Low</p> <p>Sandbags: Need to order more. Clerk to action</p> <p>Salt bin on Ladram Hill needs topping up.</p>	Clerk
14	<p>Reports from Councillors with specific responsibilities & reports on village amenities and Bodies:</p> <p>The Village Green - SM. All good.</p> <p>War memorial – PW. All good. Tidy needed before Remembrance Day. (Work party to repaint railings)</p> <p>Speed Watch – RP:</p> <p>Village Hall – BS. NTR</p> <p>Telephone box- BS. NTR</p> <p>Stantyway Recreation Field & Football Club – JF. Clerk requested to send letter to Football club re tap/loos/tidy up including a request not to burn rubbish.</p> <p>Sign needed to prevent professional dog walkers on field.</p> <p>Raleigh Federation – RW. Restarts Thursday 4th September.</p> <p>Jubilee Playground – IS: Clerk to write to Melissa wall regarding quotes for equipment.</p> <p>The Cemetery- PW: Loss of memorial stone reported. PW to investigate</p> <p>Contracts & Finance – RW: NTR</p> <p>Village Defibrillator – FM. New Defib installed in cabinet. Old defib to be offered to the Old Vicarage. Clerk to write to owner.</p> <p>Footpaths – NTR. Some footpaths overgrown.</p> <p>Beech tree on park lane moving slightly after loss of limb. Clerk to write to footpaths.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>PW</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
15	<p>Financial matters: It was agreed that payments as per the agenda should be made.</p> <p>Proposed Meeting Dates 2025 agreed as, Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 1.</p>	
16	<p>Further Actions: Web site. Discuss with Ro Smith</p>	

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17	106 Funding: Melissa Wall at EDDC has confirmed receipt of funding from KACH. 106 funding balance now stands at £26538. IS awaits report from EDDC following meeting with engineer Neil Samson regarding solutions improvements to pitch at the Jubilee playpark. Rhino have sent quotes & ideas for a new piece of equipment which could also be moved	
18	Items for next Agenda: Bench for Clive Parnell, Tree on Green, Ash quotes, Jubilee Playpark, Web site, time capsule.	
19	Village events. Princess prom to be re-scheduled towards end of May. Reindeer Run: 6 th December	
20	Date of next meeting: OPC Meeting – 6 th October 2025.	

The meeting closed at 20.54

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