

Minutes of the Meeting of Othery Parish Council

Monday 12th April 2021 by Zoom 7:30 pm

- 1 **Apologies:** All members present. Cllr Huxtable was present but left after agenda item 4.
- 2 **Declarations of Interest:** These will always be declared at the agenda item when appropriate.
- 3 **Certifying the minutes of the meetings held on 8th March 2021:** Agreed as a true record of the meeting
- 4 **Public question time and Neighbourhood Watch/Crime report and an update from Cllr David Huxtable:** Updates emailed: Cllr Huxtable took questions the first relates to Othery School where the bus they have is not being used as they do not deep clean it. Other bus companies have no problem transporting students to and from other schools. The result is parking on the zig zag lines outside the school which are apparently unenforceable because they are not white. **Cllr Huxtable will ask highways for their views and the clerk will contact the police.** Cllr Wright reports that the trees which are the responsibility of SCC highways from Othery to Burrowbridge have at last been cut back making the road much safer. Cllr C Jones reports that the drains at Lowmoor Farm have been jetted and at last the water can be seen running through the drains into the ditch. Cllr Huxtable was pleased with the positive feedback. Cllr Jennings asked if Westlake Close had been adopted and if it had could Highways do something about the road surface which is breaking up. **Cllr Huxtable said that he would find out.** Cllr Huxtable reported that all local government meetings would have to be face to face from 6th May which is causing concern. Many halls that would be used are not available to book. Hopefully there will be a resolution soon so that preparations can be made.
- 5 **Matters Arising:**
 - Highways:** Dealt with in agenda item 4.
 - Cemetery expansion:** Still work in progress.
 - Towens problems:** No further updates from Towens but concerns that ore land might now be available for the contractor to use which is causing many real concerns. No-one from Sedgemoor wishes to get involved and take action regarding the amount being transported to the site.
 - Cemetery Railings:** One quote received, and the Clerk has written to the company. Since the meeting the clerk has had written confirmation that they will pay for the railings to be repaired.
- 6 **Highway matters:** Dealt with under agenda item 4 whist Cllr Huxtable was present.
- 7 **Playing Field:** The playing field is getting good use during the Easter holiday but why some youngsters have to tip up the benches no-one knows. As yet Cllr Wright does not have a price for the hand rails
- 8 **Cemetery:** The full tree survey will be undertaken by Sedgemoor for the Council

Planning notice: Application number: **38/21/00003/LR.** Location: **Magnolia House, Fore Street, Othery, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA7 0QQ.** Proposal: **Variation of Condition 2 of Planning Permission 38/19/00010 (Demolition of existing attached garage. Erection of a detached garage and re-building of stone boundary wall) to amend the approved plans to reflect the as-built boundary walls and entrance gates.** The feeling of the meeting is that the application should be supported as it makes little difference to anyone.

10 Financial Matters: Audit date 2nd July 2021. Cllr Wright was surprise that the slight rise in precept had made such a large percentage rise. The clerk believes that the Band D rate changed which could have caused the figures to rise he would look it up.

Expenditure:

Income:

11 Correspondence:

12 Correspondence for Circulation: Already circulated by email:

13 Urgent Matters at the discretion of the Chairman: Cllr Betty reported that the local councils had as for a referendum on the unitary debate and w waiting for a decision. It is reported that the growth from one property has grown over the path. The clerk would be able to send a letter if the property can be identified.

14 Date and time of the next meeting: Monday 10th May 2021 7:30 Parish Council Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting by Zoom.