

Minutes of the Meeting of Othery Parish Council
Monday 13th September 2021 by 7:30 pm in Othery Village Hall

- 1 **Apologies:** All present and Somerset Cllr Huxtable attended and left after matters arising.
- 2 **Declarations of Interest:** These will always be declared at the agenda item when appropriate.
- 3 **Certifying the minutes of the meeting held on 9th August 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:
 - 5 **Matters Arising:**
 - Cemetery expansion:** The clerk will email Loui to see if he has found the correct line of the fence and had time to prepare a quote.
 - Highways Issues:** The solution for the Load Pool corner was felt to be a sensible idea as changes cannot easily be made without a traffic order.
 - Community Speed Watch:** Cllr C Jones is waiting for clearance from the police before the scheme can start. **The Clerk will contact PCSO Sharon Baker for an update.** Cllr Jones wanted to know what was the status of the painted footways through the village. The clerk stated that he had been told that they were advisory only and that the community speed watch could use them if required.
 - WebSite:** Cllr V Jones will find interested companies who would like to quote for the business and then convene a meeting to finalise the company and find out what information they require from the Parish Council.
 - The Crift:** Quote accepted by email and one cut has been undertaken.
 - Parking on pavements:** The law used to be that the offence was driving on pavements and the driver had to be caught in the act of driving on the pavement. It is believed that this has now changed. **The Clerk will ask his contacts in the police for an update.**
- 6 **Highway matters:** The sign at Load Pool is badly damaged and cannot be seen but Cllr Huxtable thought that it would be sensible not to replace it until the hedge trimming had been undertaken. The direction signs from Middlezoy towards Townsend junction are missing and members of the public are going the wrong way, so it needs replacing. The warning signs for dangerous bends between 7 bends and the Townsend junction are only in one direction so the missing sign needs to be reinstated. **Cllr Huxtable is aware of these issues, but the Clerk will email County Highways.**
- 7 **Playing Field:** All in order
- 8 **Cemetery:** All in order but Cllr C Jones would like permission to strim graves near where her gran is to be buried to make it look tidy for the funeral. The Clerk felt that this was appropriate, so she was given permission.
- 9 **Planning notice:** Cllr Betty declared a prejudicial interest as a member of the SDC development Control Committee and left the room. Cllrs V Jones and Jennings declared personal interests. **Planning application number:** 38/21/00013/DT **Proposal:** Erection of a agricultural workers dwelling. **Location:** Orchard Farm, Bedwell Lane, Othery, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA7 0QJ. Cllr Tizzard opened the debate stating that all the necessary information was not available with the main problem being no agricultural

appraisal, also there were inaccuracies in the declaration saying that Mr Jennings owned the plot but no reference to all the other members of the community who have right of access to their fields across the site. He also felt that the size scale and positioning of the property was not in keeping with the area and the design was not in line with the Village Design statement. All the Parish Councillors agreed with his statement and the applicant, and his advisor were left in no doubt that they needed to take action to rectify these issues quickly. One think that was agreed is that the property must be linked to agricultural use only. The Parish Council therefore said that they would not support the application in its current state for the reasons given above and felt that the application should be deferred. We are not sure if this can be done by SDC or if the applicant should withdraw the application and submit it again when all the information is available and correct. We leave it to SDC to have a conversation with the applicants' agents.

10 Financial Matters:

<u>Expenditure:</u>	Salary	£ 255.46
	G Wagen James	£ 585.00
<u>Income:</u>		

11 Correspondence:

12 Correspondence for Circulation: Already circulated by email:

13 Urgent Matters at the discretion of the Chairman: Mervyn had contacted Cllr Tizzard asking what if anything the Parish Council would be doing to celebrate the platinum jubilee. Cllr Tizzard said that it had been mentioned before but because of Covid 19 no action taken but now he felt that the Parish Council should lead on this with interested members of the community invited to assist. Mervyn also is reminding the Parish Council that the Harvest Supper is on Monday 27th in the Village Hall with proceeds from the auction going to the food bank which has been used by a few residents. The Parish Council agreed to fund produce for the raffle to about £10.

The access path by Drakes House through to Little England looks in poor condition and is another of these paths that have no known ownership. The Parish Council have taken it upon themselves to clear that up.

Cllr C Jones reported that the owner of a tree which has a TPO on it was cutting branches off it. The SDC TPO officer was alerted and is satisfied that this was necessary pruning of dead and other branches.

Criminal damage to a structure at the front of a property in Othery has been reported to the Parish Council but not the police. We the Parish Council; cannot make a third-party report and the owners must themselves make that report after which we can assist the police with their enquiries.

Weston Zoyland Parish Council are interested in our SID, which is proving to be a success and would like details. The clerk will email the details to them.

An extra planning meeting will be held next Monday the 20th at 19:30 details of which will be on the noticeboard tomorrow Wednesday.

14 Date and time of the next meeting: Monday 11th October 2021 7:30 Parish Council Meeting.