

Minutes of the Meeting of Othery Parish Council
Monday 11th July 2022 7:30 pm in Othery Village Hall

- 1 **Apologies:** No apologies but present were Unitary Cllr Harry Munt: members of the public: Anne Nelson: Pauline Cole: Mike Bonne: Alex Graham:
- 2 **Declarations of Interest:** These will always be declared at the agenda item when appropriate.
- 3 **Certifying the minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2022:** Agreed as a true record of the meeting.
- 4 **Public question time and Neighbourhood Watch/Crime report and an update from Cllr Matthew Martin or Harry Munt:** Updates emailed: Cllr Harry Munt had submitted a written report but advised the meeting that nothing has been decided regarding funding or how the new authority will work. The new Chief Executive has been appointed and will be officially introduced soon. Taunton will remain the hub for the new authority even though it does not have a room large enough to hold full council meetings which up to now have been held at Oak Manor Golf Club and The Canalside Huntworth. Anthony wants an assurance that local council offices will be open for the public like Bridgwater as many older people do not use the internet, but Harry could not say what was going to happen with providing local face to face contact. Othery still has very limited contact with the PCSOs especially since Georgia has been promoted to cover for an absent colleague. The clerk will try and find out who is covering her role as one PCSO for half the Sedgemoor rural area is not acceptable. Othery may be a low crime area but contact is necessary to provide assurance from the police. It was apparent from the public present that some do not know that Othery is the only village in Somerset with a complete village Neighbourhood watch scheme. That needs to be promoted with a leaflet later in the year and on Facebook. Harry was asked when the road works in Taunton on the A38 would finish and he has not been given an end date. The parking issues were discussed and acknowledged but without PCSOs doing their job there is little that the Parish Council can do other than raise it time and again with the police. One issue is that the school staff and parents are not parking responsibly often too close to driveways or junctions making exiting from drives or side roads dangerous. Once the status of the ZigZag is changed more enforcement is available but again only by the PCSOs when they are in the village. There are problems for the undertakers who have to park in the main road if there is a church service and care has to be observed as it is a busy main road. There are concerns that the school which is the heart of the village is only kept open because students travel to the school so making it too difficult for parents could indirectly result in the closure of the school. A meeting between the head of the school, highways and the police should be arranged but that will not now happen until September.
- 5 **Matters Arising:**
 - Cemetery expansion:** All in hand for the autumn.
 - Highways Issues: Crift Ramps:** SCC highways are going to mend the ramps. There are missing signs throughout Othery and SCC should be asked to undertake an audit and replace the missing signs. The response from highways about vegetation not being cut was not helpful as at junctions it is a hazard. There is a hedge on the main road which is causing the public to walk in the road again a difficult issue because the path is not adopted. **The clerk will still try to get SCC highways involved.** Damaged road areas needing attention have been marked in the village.
 - Community Speed Watch:** Seems to be moving slowly forward after a meeting between Christina Lora and Jason where other suitable sites were looked at. The police could fund another SID and Christina has the details.

Playing Field CCTV: The clerk provided details and the problems and at the moment this is on hold pending some assistance from the police.

Jubilee expenses: Accepted.

Parking Issues in Othery: Dealt with under public question time.

Consultation for Charity Street Collections: Noted by the meeting.

Playing Field safety report: To the next meeting so everyone has a chance to read the report and visit the playing field to look at the minor problems.

6 **Playing Field:** Nothing other than the report to look at.

7 **Cemetery:** All in order.

8 **Planning notice:**

9 **Financial Matters:**

<u>Expenditure:</u>	Salary	£ 255.46
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Income:

10 **Correspondence:**

11 **Correspondence for Circulation:** Already circulated by email:

12 **Urgent Matters at the discretion of the Chairman:** A drain in Rye Lane was causing problems and was eventually sorted but the issue was a build up of fat which should not be put down the drains.

Date and time of the next meeting: Monday 8th August 2022 7:30 Parish Council Meeting.