

**Minutes of the Meeting of Othery Parish Council
Monday 13th February 2023 7:30 pm in Othery Village Hall**

- 1 **Apologies:** Cllr C Jones: 8 members of the public present. No Unitary Cllrs present even though they were made aware of the meeting and had asked for a meeting with the Parish Council to discuss issues that the Parish Council had with highways and planning.
- 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 January 2023:** 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: No reports sent to the clerk for the meeting.

Before this public speaking time Cllr Betty withdrew from the meeting as both issues directly and indirectly have planning implications. Catherine Niedojadlo spoke about her problems living in Kingston Lane which have been ongoing for some considerable time. Mr Dennehy's agricultural land backs onto her garden and up to the time that he put in for two large houses on the land as a self-build and then withdrew the application there were few problems but since then problems have escalated. The latest in 2021 was a static caravan and a long-articulated trailer put onto the site the latter next to her boundary. Even though she has requested that Sedgemoor take action to have the caravan and trailer removed it is still dragging on with excuse after excuse as to why there has been no action. Lately Sedgemoor do not reply to emails. There are chicken on the site which are covered but wild bird droppings can get through. The chicken have encouraged rats which the owner did partially deal with. The intimidation is ongoing, and he even set fire to her beehive. Her driveway has been damaged as he drives over it and other residents present backed up her complaint saying they are all affected by the noise and him driving far too fast down to his land. **The Clerk will contact the police over the intimidation and contact Sedgemoor requesting immediate action.**

Mr and Mrs Howard and Gill Brill spoke to the planning application 38/23/0001/EC because the proposed extension backs onto their boundary as well as two other neighbours and yet none of them have had notification from Sedgemoor. They have contacted Sedgemoor but not had an apology or an update. The proposed buildings attached to the property by a long walkway and include a garage, gym, very large dog grooming room and are 3 meters from the boundary of 3 properties which is unacceptable. The original self-build property on green field land had a garage which has been incorporated into the property. This proposed development substantially increases the footprint of the property. The original planning permission 38/19/00008 placed restrictions on the development which Mr and Mrs Brill believe are still very relevant to the site and should still be in force. Cllrs noted that Sedgemoor have a poor record of fully consulting in the village which is of concern. **The Parish Council noted these concerns and will consider them when determining their response to the planning application.**

- 5 **Matters Arising:** **Highways Issues:** Othery 20mph zone: Road signs: **The clerk will update the officer with the details requested and include the missing Main Road sign.**

Somerset Statement of Community Involvement: To the next meeting.

Coronation: Celebrations are taking shape with an evening disco already booked. Cllr V Jones asked if we should supply coronation medals to the children in the village and this was agreed.

Community Speed Watch: The original training date was not convenient so a new date is being arranged and Cllr C Jones will attend the meeting for all Speed watch groups on behalf of the village.

Cemetery boundary: This needs to be undertaken and after concerns from Cllr Soutar about the distances given Cllr Tizzard rechecked the distances and following a meeting with Mr Davis who farms the rest of the field the fence line has now been agreed.

- 6 **Playing Field:** The Parish Council are only responsible for cutting their side of a screen hedge but will cut the top. The request for the Parish Council to cut the hedge on the householders side was declined. Cllr V Jones reported that the litter yesterday was terrible and she picked up most. Cllr Soutar advised the meeting that the fence posts in the corner of the children's play area are rotten and need replacing. If it is our fence that needs to be repaired.

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- 8 **Cemetery:** Nothing to report.

- 8 **Planning notice:** 38/23/00001/EC: Erection of single storey extension to the East elevation: DANVIA HOUSE, North Lane, Othery, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA7 0QG: **After a debate and consideration of the objections to the proposed application by members of the public present during public question time at the meeting the Parish Council will not support this application on the following grounds. It is too close to the properties which back onto the site being within 3 mtrs of their properties. The footprint of this proposed is very large with a large garage, gym and very large dog grooming room certainly increasing the overall footprint substantially and the long walkway to these buildings is puzzling. The Parish Council also believe that the conditions that were in place for the original build 38/19/00008 are still very relevant to this site and should still prevent this extension being built. The Parish Council have concerns that the properties, which back onto the proposed development, and are considerably affected were not notified. The Parish Council would like to know why these properties were not notified by Sedgemoor as this is not the first time that we have raised these concerns.**

38/23/00002/CM: Erection of a general purpose agricultural building: Land At, North Lane Farm, North Lane, Othery, Bridgwater, Somerset. **This is an agricultural building for an active farm in North Lane and had minimal impact on neighbours so the Parish Council support the application.**

Cllr Betty had withdrawn from the meeting for these two applications as well as his withdrawing from public question time as noted above.

- 9 **Financial Matters:** PAYE Accept the quote from Sun It Up accountancy circulated by email.

Expenditure: Salary £ 255.46

Income:

- 10 **Correspondence:**

11 Correspondence for Circulation: Already circulated by email:

12 Urgent Matters at the discretion of the Chairman: The charity this month is the RNLI.

The village needs a road sweep which is supposed to happen each month. **The clerk will ask clean surroundings when it was last undertaken.**

When Cllr Betty's term of office on Sedgemoor District Council finishes on 31st March 2023 as the new Unitary Authority take over on the 1st April 2023 it was agreed that he takes on planning matters for the Parish Council. He deserves the thanks not only of the Parish Council but the Othery community for his tireless work on their behalf.

Now Mr Jennings has managed to get planning permission for his barn he should be reminded that it is for agricultural use. **The clerk will ask Sedgemoor to take up this issue with Mr Jennings.**

The Development Control Committee were told at their last meeting that the latest idea for planning across the new Somerset authority is to retain the existing planning areas and committees and look carefully at the political make up of each committee.

Cllr V Jones would like to organise a litter pick an idea that was fully supported. **The clerk will ask clean surroundings if there are any litter pickers bags and gloves available.**

Date and time of the next meeting: Monday 13th March 2023 7:30 Parish Council Meeting.