

CIVIL PARISH OF OOTHERY

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

MONDAY 8th MAY 2023 9-30 pm

The Village Hall Oothery

Minutes

- 1. Apologies.**
- 2. Certification of the minutes of the meeting of Monday 9th May 2022:** Agreed as a true record of the meeting
- 3. Clerk's Annual Report:** During the Municipal Year 2021-2022 Oothery Parish Council held twelve Monthly Meetings in addition to the Annual Parish Meeting and extra short planning meetings as the time scale for a response to planning applications is now three weeks. Either or both District Cllr Betty or Perry were at all our meeting but only once did we have one of our two Unitary Cllrs present at a meeting which is unacceptable.
MEMBERSHIP: The Parish Council has had several changes during the year but today we have interviewed 7 members of the community for two co-option places which shows that the Oothery community are willing to take on responsibilities unlike some other Parish Councils who struggle to fill vacancies.
AUDIT: The accounts for the for each financial year have gone through with no comments after going through the internal audit by Alex Brown.
PRECEPT: The precept was set at £10,500.00 with an on-paper increase of 6.9% but part of that increase is because tax base increased by 6.22%
PLANNING: Fourteen planning applications, that include the double applications necessary for listed buildings, were considered during the year. Sedgemoor District Council no longer send out paper copies of the plans but by moving to the village hall when necessary, using their WiFi we can project the drawing on their screen which will; assist the debate.
PARISH CEMETERY: Mr Martin Pring of Middlezoy has been awarded the contract for the grass and hedge cutting as it was considered that his work during the last contract year was undertaken to a very good standard. He also undertakes at the Parish Council's expense other work around the village which in the past was undertaken by either Sedgemoor District Council or Somerset County Council but because of the cuts they no longer undertake these works including the playing field.
NORTH LANE PLAYING FIELD: The Playing Field Committee has continued to maintain North Lane Playing Field to a very high standard as was shown in the inspection report and the disabled access is a great asset to the field. Martin Pring now also looks after the grass cutting of the playing field.
ROAD SAFETY: The Council has continued to be vigilant in highlighting issues of road safety. Cllr V Jones has had a good response from the Highways Contractor when problems with road maintenance have been reported. The Parish Council are waiting for SCC to undertake a speed survey through the village to give us the information needed to decide if we need to buy our own SID which members believe has helped slow vehicles down but the restart the Community Speed Watch is now very close to reality.
OTHER INITIATIVES: Neighbourhood Watch and public order in the village. The Village Neighbourhood Watch scheme is still the envy of other villages. The village still rarely see the police which in itself is a good thing as it shows that Oothery is a low crime area.

4. **Public Question Time;** No public present.

Election of Officers and Representatives for the Municipal Year 2023/2024

1. **Chairman:** Andrew Tizzard

2. **Vice Chairman:** Ella Jennings

3. **Internal auditor:** Alex Brown

4. **Other signatory for cheques** (in addition to Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk): No change

5. **Cemetery Officer:** Anthony Betty:

6. **Highway's liaison councillor:** Vicki Jones

7. **Representative on North Lane Playing Field Management Committee:** Rachael Selway

9. **Public rights of way Councillor:** All Councillors

10. **Representative on Othery Village Hall Committee:** Andrew Wright

11. **Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator:** Philip Atherton