

Minutes of the Meeting of Othery Parish Council
Monday 10th July 2023 7:30 pm in Othery Village Hall

- 1 **Apologies:** Cllr E Jennings:
- 2 **Present:** Cllrs A Tizzard: V Jones: R Selway: A Betty: A Wright: P Atherton: Unity Cllr M Martin attended the meeting: Four members of the public present Chris and Christine Court and Nigel and Kate Croucher.
- 3 **Declarations of Interest:** These will always be declared at the agenda item when appropriate.
- 4 **Certifying the minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2023:** Agreed as a true record of the meeting.
- 5 **Public question time and Neighbourhood Watch/Crime report and an update from Cllr Matthew Martin or Harry Munt:** Updates emailed:
- 6 **Matters Arising:**
 - Highways Issues:** Cllr Martin is concerned that officers are making decisions without consulting members which in his opinion has to change. He agrees that the road needs to be resurfaced but it is not in this year's budget but he is still pushing for that to change. The clerk made Cllr Martin aware of his email and concerns over the footway not being adopted because it was too difficult.
 - Community Speed Watch:** All moving forward very well now just waiting for the list of names from PCSO supervisor S Baker and the clearance for two other members of the community then the training can be organised. Cllr Atherton would like the data from the SID and he will contact the supplier and ask for the instructions.
 - Cemetery boundary:** Still waiting for the contractor to undertake the work.
 - LCN Update:** Members were pleased to hear that Cllr Betty was elected as vice chair and Richard Wilkins chair of the LCN. With the Police and NHS representatives being from Yeovil it made it difficult for members from the Bridgwater area on the LCN to get any answers. Much was discussed about working together on common issues with flooding being the main issue.
 - Somerset 20 mph proposal:** To be debated at the extra planning meeting next Monday. With the North Lane application for a 20 mph being turned down it is not a good starting point.
- 7 **Playing Field:** The report has been received and there is one moderate concern and five minor concerns. These can easily be resolved with signs, the catches changed, and the basketball hoop changed. Cllr Selway will get a quote for the work. There was concern regarding the broken glass that was deliberately put in the children's play area, but it was cleared up quickly. Cllr Selway feels that the walnut tree should have a survey. Whilst this is a street fayre issue the Parish Council state that during the fayre the toilets should be lockable and that there should be no private cars on site whilst the public are in attendance.
- 8 **Cemetery:** Waiting for the boundary to be put up.
- 8 **Planning notice:** 38/23/00010/AGE **Proposal:** Application for the Prior Approval of the proposed change of use of Agricultural Buildings to 5no. dwellings and

associated operational development. **Location:** Westfield Farm, Paynes Lane, Othery, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA7 0QB: **The four members of the community were present to voice their concern regarding this application on many grounds which included traffic issue with it being a single-track road with no passing points. Is the boundary the fence or the hedge. There is asbestos on the site. Over development of the site and not in keeping with the street scene. Traffic issues getting out of Paynes Lane onto the main road is not easy and the traffic generated by the development would be more than the farm traffic generated and no comment from highways. By far the most disturbing complaint was that no letters regarding the development had been received by neighbouring dwellings. Cllr Martin said that he had been made aware of this complaint and even though he was assured that they were sent he had instructed that they be sent again. All members of the Parish Council were made aware that this is a Prior Approval application of existing buildings but they still have concerns regarding traffic issues, access onto the main road, no passing points along Paynes Lane, is there a wildlife survey, why not use the existing access, concerns that highways had not picked up on the traffic issues along a lane with no footpath, and all felt that residents should be given extra time to comment because the notices did not arrive. The Parish Council felt that they could not support this application.**38/23/00002/CM: **Proposal:** Erection of an agricultural building for storage of machinery and fodder. **Location:** Land At, North Lane Farm, North Lane, Othery, Bridgwater, Somerset. **As the changes are minimal the Council will still support the planning application. Cllr Betty withdrew from the discussions as it is his father's farm.**

9	<u>Financial Matters:</u>	Accept financial statement 2022/23. All agreed.
	<u>Expenditure:</u>	Salary £ 268.24
		SlashdotDash £ 18.00
		G Wagen James £ 443.70
		St Margaret's Hospice £ 25.00
		Village Hall £ 10.00
	<u>Income:</u>	A B Memorials £ 140.00
		CIL Payment £ 57.16

All agreed.

10 **Correspondence:**

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

12 **Urgent Matters at the discretion of the Chairman: The charity is Marie Curie.**

Cllr Wright asked if the Parish Council could help the village hall fund first aid and DeFib training. He was advised to get a quote and it will be considered.

The Battle of Sedgemoor Board could be replaced but not without funding from the Parish Council. The clerk would ask Alan Hurford for costs as Westonzoyland have already done theirs.

Middlezoy would like support from Othery over a planning appeal where the applicant has listed facilities in Othery as being available when they no longer exist. The Clerk would formally write to Cllr Martin who would inform the inspector.

Chris from the Othery Society informed the meeting that as the Othery Society had disbanded their funds have been divided between The Village Hall, The Street Fayre, The Church Room and The Othery and Middlezoy PTA. Cheques were at the meeting and will be delivered to the recipients this week.

Planning meeting Monday 17th.

Date and time of the next meeting: Monday 14th August 2023 7:30 Parish Council Meeting.