

Minutes of the Meeting of Othery Parish Council
Monday 10th January 2022 7:30 pm in Othery Village Hall

- 1 **Apologies:** Cllr C Jones and Cllr Soutar: Cllr Huxtable attended but 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 13th December 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: Cllr Huxtable told the meeting that staff from SCC have been assisting with the vaccination program which is going well. Most of their meetings have had to be partially virtual as there is a limit on the number of members who can safely be in the room. There will be the Unitary election in May but not the Unitary that Othery voted for and they will be in “shadow” mode for 12 months. He believes that more money will come down to Parish Councils but with it more work. The waste partnership will have to be re-constituted because there will no longer be any District Councils but that is the sort of work the shadow board will be doing.
The Clerk informed the meeting that he had had two meetings recently one with the new Chief Constable and the other with the new PCC. At both the feelings of the rural communities were voiced which are that they never see any police and have no contact with the police mainly because the PCSOs are moved around so much there is no continuity. The Chief Constable stated that all PCSOs are told that they should stay in that role for at least 3 years before applying to be a police officer, but she could not comment on the continuity issue which was down to the local commander. Likewise, the PCC echoed her comments but on the issue of police vetting for the community speed watch he had ordered a review of that process because he did not feel that it was fit for purpose. The Chief Inspector was present and has passed the concerns onto the new Inspector as Inspector Andy Pritchard has moved for promotion to South Somerset. We will wait and see what happens now.
- 5 **Matters Arising:**
 - Cemetery expansion:** Second quote for the fence should be with Andrew next week.
 - Highways Issues:** Vicky has found the website is a quicker and better way of reporting problems.
 - Community Speed Watch:** Still waiting for Christina’s clearance.
 - WebSite:** Vicky has to undertake training, but the Website is live and looks great.
 - Village Hall Grant:** There is a village hall committee meeting next week when the details of the project will be finalised.
 - Jubilee celebrations:** A meeting is scheduled for next week, but the community must realise that it is a community event which the Parish Council on their own cannot organise.
- 6 **Highway matters:** All reported on line.
- 7 **Playing Field:** No problems.
- 8 **Cemetery:** Waiting for the expansion to start.

- 9 **Planning notice:** Middlezoy are asking if the Parish Council would support an objection on the back road to Middlezoy. The feeling was yes but the Parish Council need to see the detail.
- 10 **Financial Matters:**
Expenditure: Salary £ 255.46
Income:
- 11 **Correspondence:** **Free Trees:** The Clerk will put in a bid for some to be in the cemetery expansion.
Wedge for a grave: Agreed.
Recycling blue bag: Cllr Jennings request will be sent to Sedgemoor.
Pavement parking: Once the Parish Council have engaged with a PCSO some progress could now be made on the problem.
- 12 **Correspondence for Circulation:** Already circulated by email:
- 13 **Urgent Matters at the discretion of the Chairman:**
- 14 **Date and time of the next meeting: Monday 14th February 2022 7:30 Parish Council Meeting.**