

**Minutes of the Meeting of Othery Parish Council  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 7:30 pm in Othery Village Hall**

- 1 **Apologies:** Cllr Soutar: Cllr C Jones has resigned as her work commitments prevent her from attending meetings. Neither of our Unitory Cllrs were in attendance with no apologies tendered nor have they given any updates for the meeting.  
**Present:** Cllrs Tizzard, Jennings, V Jones, Betty and Wright: PCSO Georgia Coles attended the meeting and 6 members of the public.
- 2 **Declarations of Interest:** These will always be declared at the agenda item when appropriate.
- 3 **Certifying the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 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: Our PCSO Georgia Coles spoke to the meeting telling us that she is back in a supervisory role and therefore her opportunity to be out and about are limited. Over her extensive beat area over the past month there were various reported crimes but the one that could affect Othery, where there were no crime issues in the last month, is the non-dwelling burglaries in neighbouring villages. She advised all that where possible they do not store valuables in sheds or outbuildings. She has also attended some coffee mornings in the Church Room and is looking forward to the Othery Speed Watch starting soon. Georgia was asked about the Othery fixed camera at Townsend and the possibility of mobile units by members of the community present. She said that the fixed camera was operational and that the mobile unit had been to the village but once the speed watch is up and running that could trigger more visits if there is proven to be a speeding problem. Members of the public present were disappointed that neither of our Unitory Cllrs were present and disgusted to hear that only one of them had attended one meeting in the last year.
- 5 **Matters Arising:**
  - Highways Issues:** No updates as yet to report.
  - Somerset Statement of Community Involvement:** Little to add as no more information has been provided to Othery.
  - Community Speed Watch:** Cllr C Jones has resigned from the Parish council and in the short-term Cllr Tizzard will be the nominated lead for the Parish Council for the speed watch with Tina still wishing to be involved.
  - Cemetery boundary:** The cemetery boundary is now measured out and agreed with Mr Davis ready for the fence to be put up as Cllr V Jones has trees to plant and the clerk will be receiving the hedging material this week.
  - Code of conduct:** The Clerk sent the existing code of conduct to the officer concerned but has had no response so one must assume that our document is in order.
  - Coronation celebrations:** All the necessary bookings have been made to have a celebration of the coronation in the village hall and it will be announced to the village soon. Villagers will be encouraged to put up bunting and Cllr V Jones has ordered celebration “coins” for the youngsters of the village.
  - Quote from James Pring:** The meeting feel that we should not cut the Crift anymore as the landowners have now been made aware of their responsibilities. Other wise happy to accept the quote but ask County Highways for a contribution as part of the Crift and all of the Twist should be maintained by them.

6 **Playing Field:** Nothing more to report

7 **Cemetery:** Nothing more to report

8 **Planning notice:** Amended application 38/23/00001/EC: Erection of single storey extension to the East elevation: DANVIA HOUSE, North Lane, Othery, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA7 0QG: **The Parish Council appreciate that the applicant has taken on board the concerns of the neighbours and moved the extension much closer to the existing property, but the Parish Council still have concerns relating to D2 and D25 of the Sedgemoor Local Plan and also that the Village Design Statement has not fully been taken into consideration. The supporting information which is normally provided by the architect is not available which has not helped the consideration of this application. The Parish Council feel that a barrier hedge to shield the extension from the three properties which back onto the extension would have been useful and the concerns over size and scale still remain. Therefore the Parish Council cannot support this application.**

38/23/00003/AGE: Erection of a single storey rear (SW) extension at Cart Barn Fore Street Othery: **Cllr Wright declared a personal interest as a neighbour. The Parish Council are concerned about the rather large chimney and its close proximity to a grade 2 listed building. The Parish Council would support the application if the heritage officer is happy with the application taking into consideration the comments from the Parish Council.**

38/23/00005/EC: Erection of a two storey to the south west elevation (onsite of existing) with first floor single storey extension to the NE elevation. 4 no new dormer windows to the NE elevation at Pathe Cottage Summerhedge Road Othery: **The Parish Council have no issues with the extension but have concerns about installing PVC windows in a heritage building in Othery which perhaps should have some form of listed status. The Parish Council therefore will not support the application.**

38/23/00004/AGE: Erection of a wraparound rear (NW) & side (SW) extension on site of existing garage (to be demolished), raising of roof height and installation of dormer windows to front (SE) and rear (NW) elevations at The Restings, North Lane, Othery: **The Parish Council like this proposal but have one concern and that is to be sure that the property has 3 parking spaces on site which is slightly over the 2.5 recommended for such a property as there is no facility for on street parking in North Lane. If that on site parking can be confirmed the Parish Council would support the application.**

9 **Financial Matters:**

**Expenditure:**

Salary £ 255.46

SlashdotDash £ 25.20

ICO £ 40.00

BHF £ 25.00

**Income:**

VAT £3306.56

All agreed.

10 **Correspondence:**

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

12 **Urgent Matters at the discretion of the Chairman:** Tina Jones having resigned has been communicated to Sedgemoor District Council and the notice to be put onto the noticeboard was given to the Chair by the Clerk.

Cllr V Jones asked how many litter pickers we might get from SDC. The Clerk will ask the question.

It was reported that after the email to clean surroundings by the clerk the road sweeper has been through the village.

The chair wishes the meeting to adopt the following protocol for future planning meetings. Complainants and the applicant will have opportunity at the start of each application to address the Parish Council for three minutes only by suspending standing orders to facilitate this and would bring us in line with the Unitary protocol. This was agreed by the Parish Council.

The Clerk was asked to immediately apply to the new Unitary Council for the footpath below the once Council Houses to be adopted having had the letter from Mrs Calder read to the meeting. The Clerk will also reply to Mrs Calder explaining the history of the problem and the way forward.

**Date and time of the next meeting: Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2023 7:30 Parish Council Meeting.**