

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

- 1 **Apologies:** Cllr Soutar has resigned from the Parish council and the position is advertised. The Parish Council now with two vacancies will delay the co-option until the May meeting. Cllr Jennings tendered her apologies.
- 2 **Present:** Cllrs Tizzard, V Jones, Betty and Wright. There was one member of the community present for the meeting.
- 3 **Declarations of Interest:** These will always be declared at the agenda item when appropriate.
- 4 **Certifying the minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2023:** The charitable donation was not on the expenditure list the clerk will amend and add this to the minutes.
- 5 **Public question time and Neighbourhood Watch/Crime report and an update from Cllr Matthew Martin or Harry Munt:** No updates Received: Cllrs Munt and Martin have contacted the clerk asking for a meeting and to contact them by phone. The Clerk and the Councillors present are not happy with that request as the New Unitary Cllrs have been invited to the Parish Council meetings and failed to attend but also phone calls cannot be validated whereas an email can be validated so the request was declined.
- 6 **Matters Arising:**
 - Highways Issues:** The Parish council feel that just a surface dressing is not suitable for the road through Othery and that it needs the top surface removing and new tarmac laid. The junction at Townesend is still flooding even though the owners of the ditches have had them cleared correctly as highways requested so remedial work by County Highways is required. The Clerk will pass this to County Highways.
 - Community Speed Watch:** The clerk will contact Ben and Georgia to organise a training day.
 - Cemetery boundary:** Cllr Tizzard is seeing the contractor this week and will get a firm date for the fence to be erected so that the trees and the hedging wips can be planted.
- 7 **Playing Field:** All in order.
- 8 **Cemetery:** The sign on the gate post designated that the cemetery contains war graves is in place.
- 8 **Planning notice:** 38/23/00007/AGE and 38/23/00008/AGE planning and listed building consent The Old Bakery Fore Street Othery. Replacement of ground and first floor windows to the East and South elevations, with the replacement of 1no. ground floor window to the North elevation. The property is Grade 2 listed and there is nothing online from South West Heritage Trust or the listed building officer. All that is provided by the window installer and a cut and paste exercise not really taking into consideration advice notice 11 from Historic England. The Parish Council accept that the property does need the windows replaced but without seeing that extra documentation they are reluctant to support the application. If the listed building officer in consultation with the Southwest Heritage Trust is able to support the application the Parish council would retract their objection.

9 Financial Matters:

<u>Expenditure:</u>	Salary	£ 268.24
<u>Income:</u>	Citizens Advice Bureau	£ 25.00

Financial matters agreed and the charity is Citizens Advice Bureau.

10 Correspondence:

11 Correspondence for Circulation: Already circulated by email:

12 Urgent Matters at the discretion of the Chairman: Middlezoy Primary School is likely to close with no consultation with the reasoning being that there are only 15 pupils in Middlezoy of primary school age and they can be taken by minibus to Othery. The County Education Department have not taken into consideration the likely building of affordable houses in Middlezoy and the likely impact that could have on primary aged pupils in Middlezoy. Primary schools are an important part of any community and where possible need to be kept open. Othery Parish council support Middlezoy Parish Council in their quest to keep the school open. This should be an agenda item for the next agenda and if required the clerk will write to the trust in support of Middlezoy Parish Council with Cllr Betty being in contact with Middlezoy.

Date and time of the next meeting: Monday 8th May 2023 7:30 Parish Council Meeting.