

**Minutes of the Meeting of Othery Parish Council
Monday 9th October 2023 7:30 pm in Othery Village Hall**

- 1 **Apologies:** Cllr Wright:
- 2 **Present:** Cllrs Tizzard: Jennings: Jones: Selway: Atherton: Betty:
- 3 **Declarations of Interest:** These will always be declared at the agenda item when appropriate.
- 4 **Certifying the minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 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: **Helen Lazenby of Clive Miller Associates** came to the meeting believing that Somerset South had asked for Othery's comments on an application in Aller but on land adjoining the parish and as such more relevant to Othery. This is a self build for a sibling so he can stay in the area, the site is well screened and there will be a new access. Apparently, the EA are concerned about a flood risk and have advised that the floor levels should be raised so there is likely to be an amended plan coming soon.
- 6 **38/23/00013/EC:** An objector to this application attended the meeting and spoke against the proposal. The field in question overlooks his property and would be a substantial change to a quiet area of the village especially as the applicant does not live anywhere near to supervise the site. The transformer supplying the area is at capacity so a change in transformer would be required if the local residents are not to be affected. The proposal would cause extra traffic, privacy noise and possibly ASB. There is no footpath to connect to the village and no streetlights so there are safety concerns. Any sewerage work would have to be carefully constructed as the ground is blue lias-and the question was asked if there was going to be an ecological study. The objector feels that there should be 24/7 supervision of the site by the owners.
- 7 **Matters Arising:**
 - Highways Issues:** Nothing new to report.
 - Community Speed Watch:** Very disappointing to hear that there was abuse from a resident.
 - Cemetery boundary trees and hedge:** All finished, and the invoice will be sent to the clerk for payment.
 - Battle of Sedgemoor Board:** Paid for by the Parish Council to be delivered to the Village Hall to be put in place.
 - New SID:** Although a suitable position had not been identified at this stage it was unanimously agreed that Cllr Atherton should order the new device and ask for the invoice to be sent to the clerk for payment.
 - Affordable Housing:** Awaits results of review by SCC
- 8 **Playing Field:** Cllr Selway to give the clerk the size of the chain required to secure the vehicle access gate so that he can obtain a chain and padlock. The handrail on the disabled access is loose and needs attention.
- 9 **Cemetery:** Nothing to report.
- 8 **Planning notice:**

38/23/00013/EC **Proposal:** Change of use of land for the siting of 2no. shepherd huts to provide holiday accommodation. **Location:** Land East of, Pathe Road, Othery, Bridgwater. Having listened to an objector to the project in public question time the Councillors had the following comments: The lack of supervision as the applicants do not live close and the impact on an SSI must be of concern and the application needs a heritage statement. The position of the huts is not for the area or the visitors: The site is next to a listed building which has not been taken into consideration and a self build in the area was turned down at appeal: The applicant has listed other sites as an example to back up their proposal but it is felt that they are not good comparisons. The electrics in the area might not support more power being needed as locals have had problems and the sewerage on Blue Lias is not good: There is a heritage issue and the hedges do not shield the huts from the nearest house which will be overlooked by this proposal. The Parish Council do not support this application as in their opinion it does not comply with policies: CO1: D17: D24: D25: D31 and D14.

38/22/00011/ACN **Location:** Land to the West of, Townsend, Othery, Bridgwater: Confirm the Parish Council's support of this application. This new application includes a footpath and overall is an improvement so it continues to have the full support of the Parish Council.

9	<u>Financial Matters:</u>	Consider precept for next financial year
	<u>Expenditure:</u>	
		Salary £ 268.24
		G Wagen James £ 482.10
		Village Hall £ 30.00
		Ken Marsh £3180.00
		Parkinsons £ 25.00

Income:

10 **Correspondence:**

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

12 **Urgent Matters at the discretion of the Chairman:** The enforcement issue has been suspended. For the next agenda Community Review. The major application relating to flood defence which affects Middlezoy but the traffic generated affects Othery is 34/23/00007 but Othery were not consulted which is of concern. The charity for this month is Josephine Star and next month the Royal British Legion and the Parish Council will lay the wreath.

Date and time of the next meeting: Monday 13th November 2023 7:30 Parish Council Meeting.