

**Minutes of the Meeting of Othery Parish Council
Monday 13th November 2023 7:30 pm in Othery Village Hall**

- 1 **Apologies:** Cllrs Betty & Jennings plus Somerset Cllr Martin.
- 2 **Declarations of Interest:** These will always be declared at the agenda item when appropriate.
- 3 **Certifying the minutes of the meeting held on 9th October 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:

- 5 **Matters Arising:**
Highways Issues: Cllr Wright reported potholes, but the team only did one side of the road even though the potholes were on both sides of the road at the location. Cllr Tizzard reports that the potholes where his wife fell and damaged her ankle still have not been repaired and were reported correctly. Gary from Somerset Council has taken on board the need for signage at Townsend.

20mph project and possible joint approach with Burrowbridge for a speed reduction from Othery to Burrowbridge.

The meeting about the 20mph project in Othery was constructive and the likely outcome was a 20-mph zone starting at the Taunton end of North Lane and including North Lane and ending at Maiseys. The school flashing 20-mph signs are to remain and Summerhedge is being considered. Othery are now in the second stage of the process. The clerk reported on the project initiated by Burrowbridge but at the moment there is no support from Othery.

Community Speed Watch and new SID: The speed watch now has two new members and will be reporting three motorists from their last speed watch. The SID is ready to go but Ella has to be in the team to put it in place because we are using existing street furniture.

Cemetery boundary trees and hedge: The clerk will see if he can get more hedge plants.

CIL Funds: If the 20-mph zone goes through Othery should be able to use the funds for that project.

34/23/00007 - Committee 10/10/2023: Cllr Liz Parfitt from Westonzoyland Parish Council attended the meeting to update Othery on this application. Westonzoyland airfield is going to be used to stockpile soil which could be used to defend against flooding, and it could contribute to 120 lorry movements a day with the route being through Othery on the A361. This could last for 2 years and to get to the airfield they would use the A372 and Olivers Road. With the state of the roads being under scrutiny from Othery Parish Council due to a certain extent to the Towens lorry movements down Holloway Road to Middlezoy the Parish Council have real concerns. With Towens already using a site nearby without the full permissions it makes it a very worrying situation. Towens site is adjacent to a SSSI and a heritage site and it would seem that Somerset are doing nothing about this or linking the two sites before going to a planning committee. Liz advised us that the application would be heard on the afternoon of Thursday 16th November. The clerk was asked to register Cllr Tizzard to speak against this application.

Planning Application 23/02166/FUL: Clive Miller and Mr & Mrs Higgs attended the meeting and appreciated that their property although on the border of Othery was not in our Parish and Othery are not a statutory respondent to the

application as that is Aller Parish Council. So far only one change is to be made because of the change in flood risk by the EA now at 1 in 200 years prompting a required change in the flood risk assessment. No objections from the neighbors or Aller Parish Council. The chair asked if any of the Othery Parish Councilors had any comments or objections and there were none. It is regrettable that had not Aller Parish Clerk sent the clerk an email Othery would not have known about the application.

Affordable Housing: To the next meeting.

- 6 **Playing Field:** The handrail has still to be fixed and Louis is undertaking that task but there is a concern that the fixings he is replacing are not fit for purpose.
- 7 **Cemetery:** Cllr Betty to be asked to contact Tim Burbidge to find out when he is going to undertake the repair work to the cemetery wall and pillar.

8 **Planning notice:**

- 9 **Financial Matters:** Set precept for next financial year: With all the concerns over the financial future of the new Somerset authority this was moved to next month.

<u>Expenditure:</u>	Salary	£ 268.24
	G Wagen James	£ 922.20
	Stocksigns	£3810.00
	Royal British Legion	£ 25.00
	Slashdotdash	£ 252.00

Income:

All financial matters agreed.

10 **Correspondence:**

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

- 12 **Urgent Matters at the discretion of the Chairman:** 11th May 2024 is the 80th anniversary of D Day and Cllr Tizzard has booked the hall and entertainment for a village celebration and asks that next month it is on the agenda for possible funding from the Parish Council.

Cllr Selway will lead and register for the Community Review Project.

Cllr Atherton noted that the list of Parish Councillors on the noticeboard was out of date. The clerk will email the list to Cllr Tizzard.

Cllr Betty is at an LCN meeting which should never have been arranged for a Monday when most councils hold their meeting. There is a real concern regarding Somerset Council's financial future and all councillors should be prepared for an interim meeting if things get worse because of the suggestions in a letter to all Parish and Town Councils suggesting that they take over some of the services.

Date and time of the next meeting: Monday 11th December 2023 7:30 Parish Council Meeting.