

Minutes of the Meeting of Othery Parish Council
Monday 12th February 2024 7:30 pm in Othery Village Hall

- 1 **Apologies:** None all present
- 2 **Present:** Cllrs Tizzard: Jennings: Jones: Selway: Atherton: Betty: Wright: Somerset Cllr M Martin:
- 3 **Declarations of Interest:** These will always be declared at the agenda item when appropriate.
- 4 **Certifying the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January 2024:** Two changes one of the wording to reflect that the road is breaking up not the pothole and Cllr Atherton stated that he gave his apologies for this meeting but was down as attending. Then 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:** Members of the public in attendance were there for the planning at Load Pool. Simon Parkinson was against the development as he feels that it is too close to his property and there are too many on the site. He asks how many more applications are we going to have for this site? Katie Watkins also against the development and is confused as to how many permissions have been granted for this site if any. Overlooking adjacent properties and increased traffic on an already busy Road.

Cllr Matt Martin said that he had little to say other than it appears now that Somerset will avoid having to invoke a section 114 but it may only be for the next 12 months.

- 6 **Matters Arising:** **Highways Issues:** Cllr Tizzard reported that when speaking with Somerset he spoke to Katherine Tyson who is now looking into the issue of the missing sign and assured Cllr Tizzard that it would be resolved and she also agreed to move others forward as they are being obscured by vegetation. Cllr Tizzard also told her that this problem had been reported many times before. Cllr Selway said that there were blocked drains on the main road which need cleaning out properly which she believes could be just surface dirt. **She will poke a stick into the mud in the drain to see if her theory is correct but the Clerk will still notify County Highways.**

20mph project: Cllr Tizzard has had assurance that the 20 mph project will be undertaken this year. Cllrs asked if the existing 30 mph roundels in the 20mph zone could be changed to 20 in the short term.

Update/vote on Munt: The clerk told the meeting that he had not written to Cllr Munt specifically about his total lack of communication with Othery but that he had sent him the meeting dates for the year and the agenda for this evenings meeting and felt he should have responded to both emails but he did not. Cllr Tizzard Proposed the motion that was previously circulated and Cllr Betty seconded the motion. The motion was as follows 1)That Othery Parish Council have no confidence in Cllr Harry Munt fulfilling his duties as Othery's representative on Somerset Council; and if passed, a letter is written stating, 2) that this council write to the leader and Chief Executive of Somerset Council stating that Othery Parish Council have passed a vote of no confidence in Cllr Harry Munt and respectfully ask for his resignation. Having the motion duly proposed and seconded the chair asked for a show of hands with the majority voting in favour of the motion.

7 **Playing Field:** New seats: **Ready to be ordered and be delivered to Cllr Selway.** Cllr Selway is concerned about the gates which do not close properly and could not have a latch fitted which could be operated on both sides to assist any person with a disability. She was asked to get a quote to have the gates replaced with suitable gates for the playing field. **The clerk was asked to contact Richard Young about the inspection as Othery do not get a chance to be present at the inspection as has happened in the past.**

8 **Cemetery:** Cemetery wall damage: Cllr Betty still awaiting a response from Mr Burbridge in regards to Towens. **The Clerk will email the contractor and ask when the wall will be repaired. New Garden of remembrance to be on the next agenda.**

9 **Planning notice:** **Planning application number: 38/24/00001/POA: Proposal:** Outline planning permission with some matters reserved for erection of 7No. dwellings and associated works: **Location:** Land (2) To the North Of, Load Pool, Othery, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA7: **Yet another application where the neighbours have not been notified and there are no notices on the site about the planning application possibly because this application has not been allocated to an officer yet. The Parish Council members agreed with the comments of the public and added that there needs to be a contaminated land and noise survey. The application stated that it was a housing need for Othery which is totally incorrect as Othery have asked for a new housing needs survey to be undertaken but as yet it has not started but it would not suggest large four bedroom houses but more likely affordable housing to keep young families in the village. It was noted that the last application for this site was for 8 houses which included affordable housing but now having changed to 7 properties they do not have to include affordable housing. No suggestion that all should have solar panels or the widening of the footpath from the site which would be essential. It is outside the planning line and like the last time in 2019 should not be granted. Somerset has no 5 year plan for housing developments and thus gives a chance for speculative applications. The Parish Council voted not to support this application by a majority vote. The reasons are very similar to 38/19/00003. In that it does not comply with planning policies D2, D20, D25 and D34 and also that the following should be addressed by T4, CO3 or D9 of the local plan and the proposal is therefore contrary to policies S2, T4 and CO1 of the Sedgemoor District Local Plan 2011 to 2032.**

Planning application Number: 38/23/00014: Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness existing use of existing use of home office / laboratory / workshop building as ancillary residential accommodation. **Location:** Shride Barn, Glastonbury Road, Othery, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA7 0QL: **This should have been for information only and was granted yesterday. Cllr Martin agreed that this should have been made clear on the notification.**

10 **Financial Matters:**

Expenditure:

Salary	£ 268.24
Air Ambulance	£ 25.00
Blood bikes	£ 25.00

Income:

All agreed.

11 **Correspondence:**

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

13 **Urgent Matters at the discretion of the Chairman:**

Date and time of the next meeting: Monday 11th March 2024 7:30 Parish Council Meeting.