

Minutes of the Meeting of Othery Parish Council
Monday 11th March 2024 7:30 pm in Othery Village Hall

- 1 **Apologies:** All present:
- 2 **Present:** Cllrs: Tizzard: Jennings: Jones: Selway: Atherton: Betty: Wright: Unity Cllrs Martin & Revans attended the meeting. 20 members of the community attended 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 14th January 2024:** Cllr Wright wishes his opposition to the vote of no confidence in Unity Cllr Munt to be recorded.
- 5 **Public question time and Neighbourhood Watch/Crime report and an update from Cllr Matthew Martin or Harry Munt:** Cllr Martin asked if his emailed update had been received and the clerk confirmed that it has and that it was circulated to all councillors. Cllr Martin also reported that the resurfacing of the main road through the village is scheduled for this year. Cllr Tizzard added that the signage at Townsend has now been agreed and will also happen this year. Cllr Revans the leader of the Somerset Council reported that the council tax had to be increased and the authority downsized to avoid a 114 order being put on Somerset. This is the last thing that Somerset want, and he is in contact with other authorities in similar situations.
- 6 **Matters Arising:**
 - Highways Issues:** Potholes and manhole covers are the main issues which members of the public present were shown how to report these issues on line as the Parish Council do. Cllr Betty informed the members of the public that following a earlier walk around the village with Cllr Martin. Somerset Council highways team have responded with that the main road through the village will be resurfaced in the 2024/2025 year. The signage at Pathe onto the main road needs attention so this will be reported. Parked cars on the footway not only restrict members of the public especially with buggies but they restrict visibility with Westlake Close being given as an example. **This is a national problem so the Clerk will alert the PCSOs for our area and ask them for assistance.**
 - 20mph project:** This project has been agreed and is being funded with CIL money the delivery is scheduled for some time this year.
 - Garden of Remembrance:** The idea to extend it towards the car park was agreed in principle and Cllrs Tizzard and Betty would have a closer look before the next meeting.
 - Southlake Moor Reservoir works:** The basic issues revolve around the movement of soil stockpile on Oliver's Road by the Environment Agency. This variation is to alter the route that the soil will take to be hauled from the stockpile to the Southlake Reservoir. In summary the change seems to be to NOT use Stathe Road (as they have realised that this is the wrong side of the river to access the Southlake Reservoir). In its place they are recommending that the soil is hauled down Pathe Road from Othery but acknowledge that Pathe Road is listed as 'not suitable for HGVs'. There seems no reference to its use as a quiet route for cyclists heading up from Aller and pedestrians as this is a well-used walking route with no passing space even for a cyclist or pedestrians let alone other vehicles if confronted head on by an HGV. **Othery Parish Council should have been notified as the village will be massively affected Thanks to Middlezoy Parish Council for getting in contact with Cllr Betty on this planning to notify us and Cllr Martin will take this up with**

planners on Tuesday with the clerk also asking the question. The feeling of the public and Parish Council is that 50 lorry loads a day would mean that a return route would have to be put in place for the lorries and it is likely that Rye Lane will be used and that also is totally unsuitable for lorries. One resident on the route stated that the walls around his property are listed and even with the occasional tractor going past the walls shake but with this volume they could be damaged so would the EA pay for that damage? The Bridge at the corner of Pathe Road has been damaged many times but as they are likely to go straight on the bridge that they will use will need modification to take the lorries. Cllr Betty as Vice Chair of the Parrett Drainage Board stated he asked the drainage board who was liable for the bridge into Southlake moor. The response he got was any damages to the bridge would have to be put right by the EA **The question was asked why cannot they go into the Burrowbridge car park and from there they have a direct route to the site but if the EA had dredged the river the spoil could have been directly stored there for this project The Parish Council acknowledge that there is a need to support the EA in their bid to prevent further flooding but this route is unsuitable.**

- 7 **Playing Field:** New seats: There is some confusion over the fixing kits ordered as the clerk has been informed that the company only fit them to their benches. Othery will get a refund for two but only one of the delivered seats has the extended legs fitted which the clerk will investigate and get a resolution.
- 8 **Cemetery:** **Cemetery wall damage:** Cllr Betty met with Luke from Towns who have agreed to repair the wall and pillar but are in discussions over this with Tim Burbidge before getting the work started.
- 9 **Planning notice:** **Planning application number:** 38/24/00003/POA: **Proposal:** Erection of an agricultural building: **Location:** Land to the West of, Summerhedge Road, Othery, Bridgwater, TA7: The applicant was present and advised the meeting that he intends to work the land mainly with his two Shire horses and that they will buy in 6 to 9 weaned pigs and bring them on before selling then and repeating the process. He lives locally in Keens Lane. They will have limited access to the outside and the only noisy time is when they are given supplement food. He states that the lean to is for storing the dung for compost to keep it dry and prevent smell or run off into the local ditches. He also will be harvesting as much of the grey water from the building to use. He was asked if he had all the necessary documents to run this business and is he compliant with the DEFRA regulations. The emphatic answer was yes. He answered questions from the members of the community present. The main objections from the members of the community present were that it was too close to the roadside and local houses, and that it could cause more traffic, contamination of the ditches, smell and noise. The councillors felt that as Othery is a farming community more smallholdings like this should be encouraged. He has all the documents needed to run this business and should be supported but the Parish Council would like to see more information related to the environmental issues raised noise and odour report and hope that the planners would defer this application and ask for the environmental issues to be addressed.

Planning application number: 38/24/00002/POA: **Proposal:** Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed use of residential dwelling as a residential care home for children: **Location:** The Bungalow, North Lane Farm, North Lane, Othery, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA7 0QG: **Already granted.**

10	<u>Financial Matters:</u>	Dog Bin Issue again.	
	<u>Expenditure:</u>	Salary	£ 268.24
		ICO	£ 40.00

Both agreed.

Income:

Prostrate Cancer is this month's charity.

11 Correspondence:

12 Correspondence for Circulation: Already circulated by email:

13 Urgent Matters at the discretion of the Chairman: The bin in Aller drove car park is always full and encouraging vermin. Cllr Betty has contacted the Chair of Aller Parish Council and is awaiting a response to whether they are now responsible or if it still lies with Somerset Council. Aller Parish Council have been informed and are supposed to be taking action.

The Summerhedge Crescent sign has gone missing. Cllr Martin would find out why and get it replaced.

The planning application for the Shepherds Huts has been amended and yet no new consultation. The clerk will email the details to Cllr Martin who will find out what is happening,

Date and time of the next meeting: Monday 15th April 2024 7:30 Parish Council Meeting. PLEASE NOTE ONE WEEK LATER THAN NORMAL